

***LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY  
STUDY  
AUGUST 2013***

Prepared for the  
**Northumberland AONB Partnership**

By  
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with  
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# SUMMARY

## Introduction

The Northumberland Coast AONB is a nationally important landscape. It is under considerable pressure from development, environmental change, tourism and the dynamic economic climate. The linear nature of the area coupled with an extensive seaward boundary dictates that changes to the natural, built and historic environment can have considerable visual and physical impact.

The *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment (NLCA)*, August 2010, provides an up to date baseline against which landscape change can be assessed. It defines key principles and includes guidelines for protecting the character of the AONB landscape, and recommends that a more detailed landscape assessment is required to inform decision making within the AONB.

Bayou Bluenvironment and The Planning and Environment Studio are commissioned by Northumberland County Council and the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership to carry out a landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment for the Northumberland Coast AONB in order to inform decision making, shape forward planning and ultimately enable sensitive and appropriate developments in the future. The study will facilitate organisations in achieving the primary statutory purpose of the Northumberland Coast AONB – to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, and help deliver the recommendations contained within the NLCA.

The study assesses the sensitivity and capacity of the landscapes within the AONB and the wider study area (see below) in relation to the following specific development types:

- Camping/caravan/chalet parks
- Housing development
- Domestic / farm-scale wind turbines
- Commercial wind farms outside the AONB

In so doing the study identifies features that are of importance in landscape terms. It identifies constraints for development and opportunities for landscape enhancement of the AONB that could strengthen landscape character. It includes a study of key views of the AONB, identifying especially important/iconic features, views and vistas, and zones of visual sensitivity around them considered to be areas of the highest sensitivity where there would be a presumption against development.

## Study Area

The study area for the sensitivity and capacity assessment of camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and domestic/farm-scale wind energy developments is the AONB itself. Seascape is considered as an integral part of the assessment, which adopts the same study area out to sea as the NLCA, extending 2 kilometres beyond the coastline. This will enable the AONB Partnership to provide informed and robust advice on these land use planning issues currently affecting the AONB.

The desk study exercise and initial field survey enabled definition of a wider study area beyond the AONB where there is the potential for significant impact on the special qualities of the AONB from large scale development, including commercial scale wind turbines. Views looking out from the AONB and views from viewpoints outside the AONB looking back into it, in particular from within the hills, escarpments and moorland beyond the coastal plain inland to the west, were analysed. These

form an important backdrop to the AONB and are included within the study area shown in **Figure 1** which extends beyond the AONB boundary.

## Methodology

The assessment follows best practice methodology for judging sensitivity and capacity in accordance with the techniques and criteria described in The Countryside Agency's and Scottish Natural Heritage's joint *Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland*, 2002, Topic Paper 6. The study is also consistent with the impact assessment methodology advocated by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in their *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 2002.

An appropriate method was developed from the consultant's experience in undertaking sensitivity and capacity assessments in England and Scotland, including assessment of built development, settlement expansion and wind energy proposals (local and strategic). This follows a process of desk study review of published material, field work, and the generation and application of appropriate criteria to assess landscape sensitivity and visual sensitivity to specific types of development and to enable judgements on the capacity of the landscape to accommodate the specified development.

The NLCA *Part A: Landscape Classification* includes landscape descriptions of the four landscape character types (LCT) within the AONB, distilled into a series of 'key characteristics' summing up the fundamental components of each landscape type. A matrix records the main characteristic features, divided into five criteria (landscape, visual, cultural, perceptual and qualitative) of each of the ten landscape character areas (LCA) within the AONB, together with the additional six LCTs and eight LCAs falling within the wider study area. The intention within the NLCA is that the matrices will assist, for example, in the consideration of relative sensitivity of different landscape character areas to development, and for this reason they have been adopted, and modified where appropriate, in this study. This provides a consistency in approach between similar studies and is discussed further in **Section 3**. **Figure 2** shows the landscape character types within the AONB study area.

**Appendix 1** reproduces the descriptions within the NLCA of the LCTs and LCAs within the AONB. **Appendix 2** reproduces the descriptions within the NLCA of the LCTs and LCAs within the wider study area. **Appendix 3** reproduces the matrices from the NLCA which record the key landscape characteristics of each LCA within the wider study area (by a dark shaded box) and the assessment in this study where it differs from the NLCA assessment (shown by a blue shaded box).

The NLCA *Part B: The Changing Landscape* identifies the key qualities and the forces for change within each LCT, and includes principles and guidelines for land management and development within the four LCTs lying within the AONB which seek to maintain and enhance the special qualities inherent within each area. The guiding principle for the two LCTs lying entirely within the AONB (LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* and LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline*) is to *protect* the landscape. The guiding principle for the two other LCTs lying partly within the AONB (LCT 2: *Coastal Incised Valley* and LCT 3: *Farmed Coastal Plain*) is to *manage* the landscape. This is also discussed further in **Section 3**.

The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, September 2010, applies the findings of the NLCA to a range of land use issues currently affecting the County, including landscape sensitivity to development at settlement edges and the sensitivity of the Northumberland landscape to small-scale and large-scale wind energy developments. That document is intended as a guide to the management of changes which may be the result of economic or social pressure, whilst seeking to maintain the inherent properties which are the most valued aspects of the landscape. It provides useful up to date data for the assessment of landscape sensitivity of the AONB and consequently the

methodology in that study has been largely adopted in this assessment. Again this provides a consistent approach between similar studies. This is discussed further in **Section 4**.

### ***Approach to Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity***

The County-wide NLCA and landscape sensitivity analysis within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* was adopted as the basis for assessing sensitivity and capacity of the AONB, supplemented with a more detailed assessment within the AONB and consideration of how the landscape there is valued. This requires more detailed assessment of the special landscape features and landscape qualities of the AONB and how these could be affected by wind energy development, housing and camping/caravan/chalet parks.

Making a judgement on the capacity of the AONB to accommodate development requires, amongst other things, a detailed assessment of visual sensitivity. The character descriptions in the NLCA include visual criteria, in particular consideration of skylines, views and landmarks, intervisibility and receptors. These provide valuable data for this study and are supplemented with a more detailed visual sensitivity assessment.

**Section 5** describes detailed visual analysis undertaken within the AONB and the wider study area which has identified a number of 'iconic' features, 'important' viewpoints and other 'key' views, including views from sensitive routes. These are listed in **Appendix 4**. Local features affecting visibility, such as localised ridges and other landform undulations, distinctive Whin Sill intrusions and localised heugh outcrops, areas of woodland, plantation and shelterbelts, were also noted. The findings of the visual analysis are shown in **Figure 3**, **Figure 4** and **Figure 5**.

Careful consideration has been given to the appropriateness of defining any landscape feature as 'iconic' or as a special feature, and where appropriate the essential area needed to protect the integrity and / or context of the feature (i.e. its zone of visual sensitivity), without imposing unreasonable constraints to development. The zones of visual sensitivity around four identified 'iconic' features, namely Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ruins; Bamburgh Castle; Dunstanburgh Castle; and Warkworth Castle, are shown in **Figure 6**. **Figure 7** shows the key views from 'important' viewpoints.

### ***Assessment of Potential Capacity***

Making judgements on the ability of the AONB to accommodate change requires an understanding of the interaction between the sensitivity of the landscape to a specific type of development, the type and amount of change, and the way that the landscape is valued. A combination of objective and less quantifiable, subjective professional judgement has been adopted in this study to assess overall potential capacity of the landscape character areas within the AONB to accommodate camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and domestic/farm-scale wind energy development.

A more strategic approach is taken in assessing the capacity of the wider study area to accommodate larger commercial scale wind energy development. This follows the approach in the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* to assess sensitivity and to evaluate landscape value by adopting criteria selected from the NLCA as being contributory to landscape value. Similar criteria are used in this study to define areas of the highest sensitivity which are unlikely to have capacity to accommodate large-scale wind turbines. Weighting factors to reflect landscape value are adopted, reflecting the methodology within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*.

## **Sensitivity and Capacity to Accommodate Commercial-Scale Wind Energy Development outside the AONB (Section 6)**

In this study 'commercial-scale wind energy development' is defined as comprising one or more large-scale turbine(s) that are 100 metres+ tall (to the tip of the turbine blades). The approach taken in this study is that turbine height is the key characteristic likely to impact on the character of the landscape and views. Hence 1 or 2 turbines, 100 metres+ tall will have similar potential landscape and visual effects as 5 or more turbines of the same height.

At the time of undertaking this assessment two wind farms were under construction within the study area (Middlemoor and Wandylaw). There are also a number of operational wind farms visible from the AONB and others approved but not yet constructed that are also likely to be seen in views from the AONB.

### ***Assessing Landscape Sensitivity***

To assess the landscape sensitivity of landscape character areas within the wider study area to commercial-scale wind energy development, an approach adopted in previous wind energy sensitivity and capacity studies was followed which entailed, firstly, identifying criteria from those used in the NLCA which are considered to indicate the highest sensitivity to commercial-scale wind energy development. The criteria are shown in **Table 8 on page 27** as L1 – L5. Significant protection from such development is required in these 'Areas of Highest Sensitivity' (AHS).

The second step was to assess the sensitivity of all other landscape character areas where criteria L1 – L5 do not apply, using a five-point scale to assess sensitivity on a range from *high*, *moderate-high*, *moderate*, *low-moderate* and *low* to reflect potential sensitivity to large-scale turbines. **Table 9 on page 28** indicates the assessment criteria.

**Table 10 on page 30** shows the results of the assessment using the five-point scale in the NLCA to assess sensitivity (as reproduced in **Appendix 3**).

To assess overall sensitivity of each landscape character area, in accordance with the definitions of *high*, *moderate* and *low* taken from Table C1.1 in Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, a scoring system was used where *high*=5, *moderate-high* =4, *moderate*=3, *low-moderate*=2 and *low*=1. This gives a scoring range of 17-85, with a mid-range score of 68. A total score of 23 or less is evaluated as *low* sensitivity, a score of 24-45 is evaluated as *moderate* sensitivity, and a score of 46 or more is evaluated as *high* sensitivity. The results of the scoring assessment are shown in **Table 11 on page 32** and illustrated in **Figure 8**. A 'traffic light' colour coding has been used to enable cross-referencing between Table 11 and Figure 8, where red is *high* sensitivity, orange is *moderate* sensitivity and green is *low* sensitivity.

### ***Assessing Landscape Capacity***

Weighting factors to reflect landscape value have been applied to enable a judgement on the capacity of the wider study area to accommodate large-scale turbines, which reflects the approach taken in Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*. Part D adopts the 'guiding principle' for each character area from the NLCA, defined as *protect*, *manage* or *plan*, as a weighting factor to reflect the likely value of each character area. Thus landscapes identified for *protection* have a weighting of 5, those for *management* have a weighting of 3 and those for *planning* have a weighting of 1. The use of the weighting factor in Part D has been adopted in this study to reflect the nature of the guiding principle, in that those areas identified for landscape *planning* are more likely

to be of lower quality, or value, at present, and therefore subject to change, than those identified for *protection*.

A further weighting factor is applied in this study to reflect the added value of those character areas located within the designated AONB, which are assigned an additional value of 1, whilst those character areas outside the AONB have no additional weighting. This reflects the methodology within Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* in which greater weight is given to those character areas which lie close to protected landscapes.

Applying the weighting factors increases the scoring range to 18-91, with a mid-range score of 73. A total score of 24 or less is evaluated as *high* capacity, a score of 25-49 is evaluated as *medium* capacity, and a score of 50 or more is evaluated as *low* capacity.

### **Findings of Section 6**

**Table 12 on page 35** shows the assessment of landscape capacity of the wider study area to accommodate commercial-scale wind energy development. This is illustrated in **Figure 9**, with a similar ‘traffic light’ colour coding being adopted to enable easy cross-referencing with Table 12 where red is *low* capacity, orange is *medium* capacity and green is *high* capacity.

Four LCAs are assessed as Areas of Highest Sensitivity with *low* capacity. These are LCA 1a Tweed River Mouth; LCA 4b Farne Islands Coast; LCA5a Holy Island Coast; and LCA 7a Hulne Park.

All ten character areas with *high* sensitivity have *low* capacity except LCA 10b Alnwick Moor which has *high* sensitivity but *medium* capacity. This is largely due to its location outside the AONB which lowers its score to 49 instead of 50 which would have resulted in *low* capacity. All four character areas with *medium* sensitivity also have *medium* capacity, but the weighted scores for these are very close to 50 which would put them in the *low* capacity category. No landscape character areas are assessed as having high capacity.

### **Comparison with the Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010**

The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* assesses the sensitivity of the Northumberland landscape to small-scale wind power development, defined as five or fewer turbines, and large-scale wind power development of five turbines or more. No turbine height is given, although the report refers to ‘commercially available wind turbines’ and that the ‘typology is not intended to include small domestic and community turbines’. No attempt is made to define the capacity of the landscape in that study.

**Table 13 on page 37** shows that there is very close correlation between the findings of this study and the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*. The table suggests that LCA10a Rosebrough Moor and LCA 10b Alnwick Moor have the least sensitivity (i.e. *low*) and greatest capacity (i.e. *medium*) for commercial-scale wind turbines. The visual analysis identifies that this character area lies within views to the coast and the AONB from a number of important viewpoints. The landscape contains some prominent masts, and the two wind farms under construction, Middlemoor and Wandylaw, lie within this character area. Cumulative impact of additional wind turbines is a significant concern and should be a key consideration in any wind farm proposals.

Three other LCAs have *moderate* sensitivity and *medium* capacity. These are LCA 3b Lucker, LCA 3c Rock and LCA 38a Longframlington. Commercial-scale wind energy proposals are unlikely to be

acceptable within these three LCAs due mainly to likely impact on key landscape and visual sensitivities.

## **Sensitivity and Capacity to Accommodate Domestic / Farm-Scale Wind Energy Development (Section 7)**

In this study 'domestic / farm-scale wind turbines' refers to one or more small-scale turbine(s) with a height of between 15-50 metres (to the tip of the turbine blades). Most small-scale wind turbines of this size typically produce an output of 2.5 – 50kW. Micro-scale turbines, typically below 2.5kW, are usually sited on buildings or within their proximity and do not require planning permission, as long as specified limits and conditions are met. Consequently they are not specifically included in this study.

### ***Assessing Landscape Sensitivity***

Similar methodology as that used for assessing commercial-scale wind turbine development as described in Section 6 was followed, using the landscape character areas and criteria developed within the NLCA as the basis for assessing landscape sensitivity. To assess the landscape sensitivity of landscape character areas within the AONB, criteria were selected from the list in the NLCA which are considered to indicate the range of sensitivity to small domestic / farm-scale wind turbines.

Since landscape and visual impacts of small-scale turbines are likely to be more complex and more localised than large-scale commercial wind energy developments, all the criteria were used to assess sensitivity without firstly identifying criteria to indicate the highest sensitivity. **Table 14 on page 40** indicates the criteria adopted to assess sensitivity of the landscape character areas in the AONB, using a three point scale of *high* (red), *moderate* (orange) and *low* (green) sensitivity.

**Table 15 on page 42** records the sensitivity assessment for each character area within the AONB as *high*, *moderate* or *low* in accordance with the definitions taken from the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*.

To assess overall sensitivity, a three-point scoring range was used (considered more appropriate to the likely scale of impact on the AONB than the five-point range used in the assessment of large-scale turbines) where *high*=5, *moderate*=3 and *low*=1. This gives a scoring range of 18-90, with a mid-range score of 36. A total score of 24 or less is evaluated as *low* sensitivity, a score of 25-47 is evaluated as *moderate* sensitivity, and a score of 48 or more is evaluated as *high* sensitivity. The results of the scoring assessment are shown in **Table 16 on page 43** and illustrated in **Figure 10**. A 'traffic light' colour coding is used again to enable cross-referencing between Table 16 and Figure 10, where red is *high* sensitivity, orange is *moderate* sensitivity and green is *low* sensitivity.

### ***Assessing Landscape Capacity***

The same approach to assessing the capacity to accommodate commercial-scale wind farm development described above was used to assess the capacity of each landscape character area to accommodate domestic / farm-scale wind turbines. The same weighting factors were used to reflect landscape value. Applying the weighting factors increases the scoring range to 19-96, with a mid-range score of 77. A total score of 26 or less is evaluated as *high* capacity, a score of 27-51 is evaluated as *medium* capacity, and a score of 52 or more is evaluated as *low* capacity.

## **Findings of Section 7**

**Table 17 on page 45** shows the assessment of landscape capacity of the AONB to accommodate domestic / farm-scale wind turbines. This is illustrated in **Figure 11**, with a similar ‘traffic light’ colour coding being adopted to enable easy cross-referencing with Table 17 where red is *low* capacity, orange is *medium* capacity and green represents *high* capacity.

No landscape character areas are assessed as having high capacity. Three character areas have *low* capacity where small-scale wind turbines would be inappropriate in LCA 4b Farne Islands Coast, LCA 5a Holy Island Coast and LCA 5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries. The remaining 7 areas have *medium* capacity, but the weighted scores for three of these are very close to 52 which would put them in the *low* capacity category.

There may be some opportunity for small-scale domestic wind turbines within the four remaining LCAs with medium capacity, namely LCA 2a Lower Aln, LCA 2b Lower Coquet, LCA 3b Lucker and LCA 3c Rock, which all lie largely outside the AONB where the guiding principle is ‘management’ of the landscape rather than ‘protection’. Significant impact on the key landscape characteristics and important views should be avoided. Landform and vegetation can be important in screening small-scale wind turbines.

## **Sensitivity and Capacity of Settlements within the AONB to Housing Development (Section 8)**

The objective of this part of the assessment is to assist in guiding future housing development within the AONB, following the spatial strategy set out in the Northumberland Local Development Plan, Core Strategy, Preferred Options (February 2013).

In this emerging policy context the assessment has been undertaken on the assumption that new housing development across the AONB will be limited as follows:

- a. Development of new housing which serves to meet more than the identified needs of the settlement itself will only be permitted in Seahouses (including North Sunderland);
- b. Housing development across the other settlements of the AONB will be limited (in most circumstances) to small scale schemes on the edge of settlements which are of a scale to reflect local need for new housing. This means development which is clearly modest in scale for the main villages of (listed from north to south):
  - i. Lindisfarne;
  - ii. Bamburgh;
  - iii. Beadnell;
  - iv. Embleton;
  - v. Craster;
  - vi. Longhoughton;
  - vii. Boulmer;
  - viii. Lesbury and Hipsburn
  - ix. Alnmouth; and
  - x. Warkworth.

**Pages 50 to 116** provide a comprehensive analysis of the 10 selected settlements in the AONB to assess the relative sensitivities of their landscape surroundings. Each settlement was analysed and assessed based on a combination of desk study and fieldwork, considering settlement character, boundaries and the character and sensitivity of the surrounding landscape to potential housing development. The assessment provides guidance at the strategic scale but does not provide a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of each settlement. A map is provided for each settlement at the end of the assessment to accompany the text; **Figures 12 – 22**.

Methodology within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, September 2010; *Part A Landscape Sensitivity at Settlement Edges* was followed, which itself draws on the NLCA. Relative landscape sensitivity was assessed based on a range of criteria. Judgements of sensitivity have not been explicitly recorded, but areas of higher or lower sensitivity to housing development are described and illustrated on accompanying sketch maps for each settlement.

For each settlement questions were posed in order to meet the requirements of the brief to consider constraints to development, opportunities for landscape enhancement / mitigation, and delivery of the recommendations within the NLCA Part B.

### **Sensitivity of Existing Camping/Caravan/Chalet Parks within the AONB (Section 9)**

The emerging development plan sets the policy context for new or extended sites for tourist related development. It seeks to resist development in isolated locations in the open countryside, unless these can be seen to be essential to support an existing business in that location. It sets a sequential approach for tourism related proposals seeking to locate development as close as possible to settlements. However, it supports proposals for new (and extension of) chalets, caravans and camping sites in 'accessible locations' subject to having regard to visual prominence and the effectiveness of year-round screening. It goes on to clarify that any tourism related development should not adversely impact upon the purpose and special qualities of the Northumberland Coast AONB.

This study addresses this potential by considering the sensitivity and capacity of the landscapes of the AONB in relation to camping, caravan and chalet sites in two parts: firstly an assessment is made of the overall sensitivity of landscape character types within the AONB and capacity to accommodate caravan and camping development in principle, by considering potential effects on key characteristics, as set out in **Table 18 on page 120**; secondly, assessment of current landscape and visual prominence of existing sites and their capacity for extension is made, based upon a combination of desk study and field survey, as set out in **Table 19 on page 127**. Visual prominence draws on the visual analysis in Chapter 5 of this study to assess potential impacts on 'iconic' features, 'important' viewpoints and other 'key' views, including views from sensitive routes. Existing camping, caravan and chalet sites referred to in the tables are shown in **Figure 23** at the end of the report.

Judgements of sensitivity have not been explicitly recorded, but areas of higher or lower sensitivity to camping/caravan/chalet parks are described. The summary capacity assessments are made based on the key characteristics that could be particularly vulnerable to intrusive caravan and camping development.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Background

**1-1** The Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in March 1958. The Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership, (comprising the County Council, Parish Councils, statutory environmental agencies, Community Development Trusts, NFU and others), is supported by an AONB staff unit and a steering group to ensure delivery of its statutory duties and other management aspirations. Management of the AONB is required to ensure the distinct identity of the coastal area and local variations of the land and seascape character are conserved and enhanced. This requires sensitive management of the natural landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB to protect it from development that would have significant effect on its special qualities.

**1-2** The Northumberland Coast AONB is an area steeped in history, with dramatic natural scenery and a great variety of wildlife and protected habitats. The area is probably best known for its sweeping sandy beaches, rolling dunes, high rocky cliffs and diverse islands. In the north of the AONB, cliffs contrast with beaches and the extensive mudflats and saltmarshes of Lindisfarne and Budle Bay. The flat, open coastal plain allows dramatic views inland to the Cheviot Hills. High Whinstone Crags, Lindisfarne and Bamburgh castles, the Whin Sill and Farne Islands provide extremely special features in the landscape. From Bamburgh to Seahouses the broad sandy beach is backed by impressive yet fragile and dynamic sand dune systems, whilst further south the reefs and low cliffs lead to a succession of long sweeping bays punctuated by rocky headlands to Beadnell, overlooked from the south by Dunstanburgh Castle. Rocky reefs and picturesque coves continue to Seaton Point, whilst at its southern end the AONB opens out once more as the wide sandy beach backed by dunes sweeps from Alnmouth to the Coquet Estuary at Amble.

**1-3** The AONB is also a place where people live, work and visit. There are localised pressures for retirement and tourism (particularly in the summer months) and for new forms of development associated with climate change and renewable energy, alongside the decline in traditional industries such as the mineral, fishing and other coastal trades. The social and economic needs of communities must be considered alongside conserving and enhancing the distinct identity of settlements within the AONB, and their unique 'landscape fit' along the dramatic open coastline.

**1-4** In 2009 the newly formed unitary Northumberland County Council commissioned a comprehensive *Landscape Character Assessment*<sup>1</sup> of the whole county bringing together and standardising the information held by the various local authorities. The Northumberland LCA (NLCA) provides an up to date description of the character of the landscapes of Northumberland, and a baseline against which change can be assessed.

**1-5** The AONB lies wholly within National Character Area 1: *North Northumberland Coastal Plain*<sup>2</sup>, which is further divided in the NLCA into four distinct landscape character types (LCT). Two of

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<sup>1</sup> Land Use Consultants (August 2010); *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part A Landscape Classification and Part B The Changing Landscape*  
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=11872>

<sup>2</sup> Natural England is currently revising its National Character Area profiles as part of its responsibilities in delivering the Natural Environment White Paper, Biodiversity 2020 and the European Landscape Convention. National Character Area 1 profile has not yet been updated (revised profiles for all 159 Character Areas covering England are due to be published by April 2014) therefore the previously published Joint Character

these lie entirely within the AONB, namely LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* and LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline*. The eastern sides of two other landscape character types lie within the AONB, which are LCT 2: *Coastal Incised Valley* and LCT 3: *Farmed Coastal Plain*. Each of the LCTs are further divided into smaller landscape units, or landscape character areas, which share the same elements as the LCT but also have their own individual character and identity. There are a total of ten landscape character areas identified in the NLCA lying either wholly or partially within the AONB. This is discussed further in Section 3.

## Purpose and Objectives of the Study

**1-6** The NLCA is part of the evidence base taken into consideration by the Council through the preparation of the LDF Core Strategy. However, it is recognised that due to the unique and sensitive nature of the linear coastal strip, development pressure can bring significant visual, physical and perceptual impacts on the natural, built and historic environment of the AONB, together with further landscape impact of development outside the AONB but within its wider setting. Guidelines within the NLCA recommend that a more detailed landscape assessment is required to inform decision making within the AONB. Consequently this landscape sensitivity and capacity study has been commissioned by Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership to:

- identify the sensitivity and capacity by rating from high to low each landscape character area within the AONB to accommodate camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development (domestic/farm-scale wind turbines and commercial scale wind farms outside of the AONB);
- identify features that are of importance in landscape terms;
- identify constraints for development in landscape terms; and
- identify opportunities for landscape enhancement of the AONB that could strengthen landscape character.

**1-7** The project brief envisages that the assessment will enable the following:

- to facilitate organisations in achieving the primary purpose of the Northumberland Coast AONB – to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape;
- to deliver the recommendations contained within the *Landscape Character Assessment Part B: The Changing Landscape*<sup>3</sup> to protect the current landscape character; and
- to enable the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership to provide informed and robust advice in relation to forward planning, planning applications and other consultations.

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Area and Countryside Character Area descriptions (1998-1999 by the Countryside Agency) are still relevant <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> Land Use Consultants (August 2010); *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part B The Changing Landscape* <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=11872>

**1-8** It is important to recognise that this report only considers landscape and visual issues. The County Council and the AONB Partnership will take a number of other issues into consideration during land use planning deliberations.

**1-9** It is also important to note that the study is an AONB-wide strategic assessment of landscape sensitivity that makes judgements on the capacity of the landscapes within the AONB and the wider study area (as described in Section 2 and illustrated in Figure 1) to accommodate specific development types. The judgements should be taken as indicative, to meet the purpose and objectives of the study which is not a substitute for detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of local development proposals or as part of wider environmental impact assessment. The study provides guidance for consideration of specific sites or planning applications but is not a substitute for detailed site-specific analysis. The impacts of development proposals on the AONB should be assessed on a case by case basis.

**1-10** Furthermore, sensitivity assessments and judgements on landscape capacity to specific development types are made to compare landscapes within the study area. They should therefore not be read alongside or compared with other sensitivity and capacity studies.

**1-11** The study uses the up to date NLCA as a basis for the assessment of sensitivity and capacity. It is important to note that the boundaries to the LCTs and landscape character areas are to some extent notional, as recognised in the NLCA, since landscape character rarely stops at abrupt boundaries but tends to change gradually across the landscape. Landscape character boundaries should be considered as transitional from one landscape type or area to another. Landscape sensitivity and capacity should therefore also be considered as transitional in the same way.

### **Key Views Study**

**1-12** The project brief also requires a Key Views Study. This should identify especially important/iconic views and vistas, and identify the zone of sensitivity<sup>4</sup> for each of them, within which even relatively small developments or landscape changes could adversely affect the key view/vista. In accordance with best practice methodology, as described in Section 2, the assessment considers landscape character sensitivity and visual sensitivity to enable judgements on overall landscape sensitivity and capacity. A study of key views is considered an integral part of the landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment and thus is included within this report rather than within a separate Key Views Study.

### **Consultation**

**1-13** The project brief does not require any consultation on the assessment, thus this aspect of work is not included in the study. The AONB Partnership recognises that consultation is an important process in managing the area, to meet requirements laid down in the Management Plan and as recognised by the European Landscape Convention and the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **Format of the Report**

**1-14** Following this introductory section, Section 2 describes the approach and method used to ensure that the study meets the requirements of the project brief as described above. Section 3 provides a review of the Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment, August 2010. The

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<sup>4</sup> Please refer to **Appendix 6** for an explanation of 'zone of sensitivity'

Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010, is reviewed in Section 4. Section 5 describes the visual analysis undertaken to inform the sensitivity and capacity assessments.

**1-15** The sensitivity and capacity assessments of the various land use developments considered in this study are described in Sections 6 – 9. Assessment of commercial-scale wind energy development is provided in Section 6; domestic / farm-scale wind turbines are assessed in Section 7; the sensitivity and capacity of settlements within the AONB to housing development is assessed in Section 8; and an assessment of camping/caravan/chalet parks within the AONB is provided in Section 9.

**1-16** Throughout the report various terms and acronyms are used which may not be familiar to the reader. These are explained in **Appendix 6**. Mapping has been prepared using Geographic Information System (GIS) MapInfo software, with **Figures** generally found at the back of the report, although Figures 12 – 22 are found within Section 8.

## 2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

### Introduction to Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

**2-1** The assessment follows best practice methodology for judging sensitivity and capacity in accordance with the techniques and criteria described in The Countryside Agency's and Scottish Natural Heritage's joint *Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland*, 2002, Topic Paper 6<sup>5</sup>. The study is also consistent with the impact assessment methodology advocated by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in their *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 2002<sup>6</sup>.

**2-2** This body of good practice guidance has been extended to include an appropriate method, developed from the consultant's experience in undertaking sensitivity and capacity assessments in England and Scotland, including assessment of built development, settlement expansion and wind energy proposals (local and strategic). This follows a process of desk study review of published material, field work, and the generation and application of appropriate criteria to assess *landscape sensitivity and visual sensitivity* to specific types of development and to enable judgements on the *capacity* of the landscape to accommodate the specified development. It is important that the process is simple and easily understood whilst being robust, transparent and defensible.

**2-3** *Landscape sensitivity* refers to the extent to which a particular landscape character type or area is vulnerable to change due to potentially significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type. Landscape sensitivity is a professional judgement reflecting the particular landscape characteristics and features of a given area, for example landscapes which are rare or unusual landscape types are likely to be more sensitive to change. Sensitivity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed, and in this study refers to the sensitivity of the AONB landscape to camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development.

**2-4** *Visual sensitivity* refers to the extent to which views of the AONB and from the AONB are vulnerable to changes in the appearance of the landscape. Visual sensitivity is a professional judgement of the likely visual effect of camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development on the special landscape features and qualities of the AONB.

**2-5** *Landscape capacity* refers to the degree to which the AONB is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type, or its special landscape features and qualities. Landscape capacity is a professional judgement of the amount of development possible or desirable, reflecting the particular landscape characteristics and features of a given area, and is likely to vary according to the type and nature of the change being proposed. This study refers to the capacity of the AONB to accommodate camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development.

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<sup>5</sup> The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002); *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland. Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity*; [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/lcatopicpaper6\\_tcm6-8179.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/lcatopicpaper6_tcm6-8179.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> The Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (Second Edition 2002); *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA)*

**2-6** The approach adopted in this study for assessing landscape sensitivity and capacity is to assume from the outset that even though the AONB is a designated, protected landscape it does not automatically have high landscape and visual sensitivity. Furthermore, even some sensitive areas may not automatically have no or low capacity to accept change. The assessment provides guidance on the most sensitive parts of the AONB and its special landscape features and qualities that could potentially be adversely affected by specific land use development proposals, taking into consideration constraints for development and opportunities for landscape enhancement. The identification of areas of high sensitivity does not necessarily mean that all development would be unacceptable. Similarly, areas of low or medium sensitivity will not necessarily be able to accommodate any or all types of development. Local conditions, site and development detailed design, mitigation and cumulative impacts must also be considered.

**2-7** The assessment is limited to consideration of landscape and visual issues, and thus provides only one 'layer' of information and guidance to the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership on forward planning, planning applications and other consultations within the AONB. The study should *not* be used in isolation or to 'test' proposed wind farm developments, for example.

### **Desk Study and Field Work**

**2-8** A desk study exercise and initial field work was undertaken at the start of the assessment, to gather relevant data and to gain an understanding of the landscapes of the AONB, pressures for change, and views to and from the AONB. A bibliography of documents consulted to inform the study is included in **Appendix 5**. To meet the requirements of the brief, the most relevant up to date documents consulted were the 2010 *Northumberland LCA Part A and Part B*,<sup>7</sup> and the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, September 2010, which draws on the LCA and was prepared at the same time by the same consultants.<sup>8</sup>

**2-9** The NLCA Part A includes landscape descriptions for each LCT, distilled into a series of 'key characteristics' summing up the fundamental components of each landscape type. A matrix enables the recording of the main characteristic features of each smaller landscape character area to enable direct comparison. The intention within the NLCA is that the matrices will assist, for example, in the consideration of relative sensitivity of different landscape character areas to development. The NLCA Part B offers guidance on the changing nature of the landscape to assist in maintaining the key qualities of the Northumberland landscape and associated seascapes. This is discussed further in Section 3.

**2-10** The NLCA sets the context for decisions relating to policy and development using landscape character assessment at the broad county-wide scale. It acknowledges that it cannot provide in full the detail required for consideration of specific sites or planning applications, and cannot be a substitute for detailed site-specific analysis. The key landscape characteristics of each character area in the AONB were confirmed during early field survey work as providing useful background for this study.

**2-11** The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* applies the findings of the NLCA to a range of land use issues currently affecting the County, including landscape sensitivity to development at

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<sup>7</sup> Land Use Consultants (August 2010); *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part A Landscape Classification and Part B The Changing Landscape*  
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=11872>

<sup>8</sup> Land Use Consultants (September 2010); *Northumberland Key land Use Impact Study*;  
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=11876>

settlement edges, including land around Seahouses and North Sunderland within the AONB, and Amble adjoining its southern end. It also addresses the sensitivity of the Northumberland landscape to small-scale and large-scale wind energy developments. That document is intended as a guide to the management of changes which may be the result of economic or social pressure, whilst seeking to maintain the inherent properties which are the most valued aspects of the landscape. Consequently it provides useful, up to date data for the assessment of landscape sensitivity of the AONB. This is discussed further in Section 4.

**2-12** Although currently being reviewed, the joint Northumberland Coast AONB & Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS Management Plan 2009-2014 provides useful background data on the AONB and special features, including landscape, visual and sensory, natural and cultural, and environmental and recreational features. It provides a useful basis for the landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment, although the NLCA and the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* are more up to date.

### **Approach to Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity**

**2-13** The criteria developed in the NLCA for developing and recording key landscape characteristics, to assess sensitivity and to guide landscape change follows the same current best practice guidance as used in this assessment<sup>9</sup>. The method of describing key characteristics and developing appropriate criteria are considered appropriate for use as the basis in this assessment for identifying important landscape features and qualities, and landscape sensitivity of the Northumberland Coast AONB. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3.

**2-14** The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* uses the same guidance within the Countryside Agency/SNH Topic Paper 6<sup>10</sup> as used in this assessment to assess sensitivity to specific types of development, based on landscape character areas and criteria developed within the NLCA. The same method and criteria have been adopted in this assessment to provide a consistent approach at meeting the requirements of the brief to identify the sensitivity of landscapes within the AONB to camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and domestic/farm scale wind energy development, and commercial scale wind farms outside of the AONB. This is discussed in more detail in Section 4.

**2-15** The County-wide NLCA and landscape sensitivity analysis within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* was adopted as the basis for assessing sensitivity and capacity of the AONB, supplemented with a more detailed assessment within the AONB and consideration of how the landscape there is valued. This requires more detailed assessment of the special 'iconic' landscape features and landscape qualities of the AONB and how these could be affected by camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development. It is recognised that whether or not a development proposal is perceived as a positive or negative contribution to landscape character, there may be some 'iconic' or special landscape features which ought not to be affected by development in ways that would alter the special qualities of the AONB.

**2-16** Commercial scale wind energy development, and indeed any other large scale, uncharacteristic form of built development has the potential to significantly affect sensitive

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<sup>9</sup> The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002); *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland*.

<sup>10</sup> The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002); *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland. Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity*; [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/lcatopicpaper6\\_tcm6-8179.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/lcatopicpaper6_tcm6-8179.pdf)

landscapes. However, well designed and sited development may be accommodated where there is no significant impact on the landscape and visual amenity. The approach taken is firstly to identify the iconic features and the key setting of the feature (i.e. its zone of visual sensitivity) which should be protected to ensure it is not adversely affected by development. The shape and extent of any zone of visual sensitivity will vary according to the feature and its setting, but careful consideration has been given to the appropriateness of defining any landscape feature as 'iconic' or as a special feature, and where appropriate the essential area needed to protect the integrity and / or context of the feature, without imposing unreasonable constraints on development.

**2-17** Making a judgement on the capacity of the AONB to accommodate development requires, amongst other things, a detailed assessment of visual sensitivity. The character descriptions in the NLCA include visual criteria, in particular consideration of skylines, views and landmarks, intervisibility and receptors. These provide valuable data for this study and are supplemented with a more detailed visual sensitivity assessment. The next step in the approach involved the identification of 'important' viewpoints and the extent of key views from the viewpoint to the AONB. Again, the shape and extent of the key view from an important viewpoint varies according to the characteristics of the viewpoint, but careful consideration has been given to the appropriateness of defining the extent of the view as the essential area needed to protect the special features and qualities of the AONB, but again without imposing unreasonable constraints on development.

**2-18** Field surveys also identified that there are some other 'key' views within the wider study area which although not meeting the status of being 'iconic' or 'important', and thus cannot easily have sensitive visual cones assigned to them, should nonetheless be taken into consideration in the visual sensitivity assessment. The visual impact on these key views should be taken into consideration when considering proposed developments in the AONB.

**2-19** Field surveys also identified that there are a number of sensitive routes within the wider study area, from which there are attractive views of the AONB and from which visual amenity should be safeguarded. The routes have been chosen to provide a range of views without imposing unreasonable constraints on development.

**2-20** **Appendix 4** lists the 'iconic' features, 'important' viewpoints, other 'key' views and the sensitive routes which have been taken into consideration in this assessment. Grid references and a description of each view is given. This is discussed further in Section 5.

## **Assessment of Potential Capacity**

**2-21** Making judgements on the ability of the AONB to accommodate change requires an understanding of the interaction between the sensitivity of the landscape to a specific type of development, the type and amount of change, and the way that the landscape is valued. A combination of objective and less quantifiable, subjective professional judgement has been adopted in this study to assess overall potential capacity of the landscape character areas within the AONB to accommodate camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and domestic/farm-scale wind energy development.

**2-22** A more strategic approach is taken in assessing the capacity of the wider study area to accommodate larger commercial scale wind energy development. This follows the approach in the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* Parts C and D to assess sensitivity and to evaluate landscape value by adopting criteria selected from the NLCA as being contributory to landscape value. Similar criteria are used in this study to define areas of the highest sensitivity which are unlikely to have capacity to accommodate large-scale wind turbines. Weighting factors to reflect

landscape value are adopted, reflecting the methodology within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*.

**2-23** The capacity study includes the assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects, which consider the combined effects that may occur as a result of more than one development, giving rise to changes in the character and the appearance of the AONB. There is a wealth of policy and guidance in particular on the assessment of the cumulative effects of wind farm development<sup>11</sup>. At the time of undertaking this assessment two wind farms were under construction and two further wind farms were being consulted on within the wider study area. Cumulative effects can occur when two or more wind farms are visible in combination, in succession or sequentially. The cumulative effect of inappropriately sited multiple wind farm development could be to create the perception of a landscape dominated by wind farms, where the NLCA and Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study indicate the landscape is unable to accept such a level of change.

## Study Area

**2-24** The desk study exercise and initial field survey enabled definition of an appropriate study area beyond the AONB where there is the potential for significant impact on the special qualities of the AONB from large scale development (such as commercial scale wind turbines). Views looking out from the AONB and views from viewpoints outside the AONB looking back into it, in particular from within the hills, escarpments and moorland beyond the coastal plain inland to the west, were analysed. These form an important backdrop to the AONB and are included within the study area which extends beyond the AONB boundary.

**2-25** The AONB has a long coastline to the North Sea, approximately 40 miles long, and includes beaches and inter-tidal mudflats and saltmarshes. The Holy Island of Lindisfarne and the rocky Farne Islands lie within the AONB, and its diverse coastline allows dramatic views of iconic castles. Seascape is considered as an integral part of the assessment, which adopts the same study area out to sea as the NLCA, extending 2 kilometres beyond the coastline.

**2-26** The study area for the sensitivity and capacity assessment of camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and domestic/farm-scale wind energy developments is the AONB itself, to enable the AONB Partnership to provide informed and robust advice on these land use planning issues currently affecting the AONB.

**2-27** The study area is shown in **Figure 1**. High ground to the west defines the study area in this direction, as the approximate limit of views out from iconic features within the AONB, and from where there are a number of important viewpoints allowing views of the AONB. The study area is described below, from north to south:

*The study area extends northwards beyond Berwick upon Tweed to include Halidon Hill (trig point at 165m Above Ordnance Datum [AOD]) and the nearby viewpoint shown on Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, from where there are panoramic views along the coast, including the Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle. Views extend westwards to the Kyloe Hills. An interpretation board with map describes features in the view from the OS viewpoint.*

*The study area boundary continues southwards and roughly follows the transition between the farmed coastal plain and the open rolling farmland further west. The open, medium to large scale farmed landscape here has a regular landform and land use giving a coherence*

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<sup>11</sup> For example Scottish Natural Heritage, March 2012, *Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments*. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A675503.pdf>

*and consistency, but the subtleties of the low lying landscape due to glaciation and deposition of rock debris means views in many locations are restricted.*

*A arc of approximately 10km from Lindisfarne Castle and Priory defines the study area boundary where it cuts through the Kyloe Hills and from where there are panoramic views eastwards to Holy Island from Greensheen Hill (trig point at 205m) and the junction of St. Cuthbert's Way and St. Oswald's Way on the Northumberland Coastal Path.*

*The study area continues through the outcrop hills and escarpments and through the middle of Rosebrough Moor where elevation reaches approximately 250m AOD, in a 12.5km arc from Bamburgh Castle. It extends further out to approximately 14km from Bamburgh Castle to Ros Castle OS viewpoint at 315m AOD, which lies on a section of the Reivers Way long distance footpath between Wooler and Belford (commemorating infamous 'raiders' through the Borders between England and Scotland). At the highest point there are two memorial plaques and a topograph describing and illustrating the 360 degree views, including panoramic coastal views stretching from north of Holy Island to south of Dunstanburgh Castle.*

*The study area boundary continues southwards through open access moorland peaking to a height of 267m AOD at Cateran Hill from where there are views across the AONB and the coastline between the Farne Islands and Dunstanburgh Castle.*

*A 10.5km arc from Dunstanburgh Castle to Crag Hill defines the study area boundary through the Charlton Ridge (trig point 169m AOD) and along the northern edge of Hulne Park. A 12.5km arc from Warkworth Castle extends to Hulne Park including the Brizlee folly tower, Brizlee Hill and nearby Cloudy Crags trig point at 250m AOD.*

*The study area continues through Alnwick Moor and along the eastern edge of Rothbury Forest and then follows the steeply falling topography across the lowland rolling farmland north of Swarland. Here the undulating, relatively high ground is punctuated by large coniferous plantations which limit views, but there are expansive views towards the coast close to the coastal plain and the Aln valley. The study area continues across the Coquet valley north of Acklington where views are limited by riparian woodland, lower topography and in places steep valley sides.*

*It then continues in an arc through the northern edge of the relatively flat coalfield farmland south of Amble, where the low elevation and extensive coniferous planted blocks and roadside belts limit views to the coast, to Coquet Island which is visible from many locations within and beyond the AONB.*

### 3 REVIEW OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 2010

#### Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment, Part A: Landscape Classification

**3-1** The NLCA provides landscape descriptions for the 44 LCTs identified within the County. These take the form of written descriptions, focusing on geology and landform, land use and land cover, settlement and human features, perceptual characteristics, and historical and recreational aspects.

**3-2** The NLCA adopts and refines National Character Areas (NCA) as originally described by the Countryside Agency in Joint Character Area and Countryside Character Area descriptions, 1998-1999. (Natural England is currently revising the NCA profiles for all 159 Character Areas, due to be published by April 2014). Detailed descriptions of each LCT and landscape character area are given, arranged by the NCA into which they fall. For consistency this study uses the same numbering as used in the NLCA.

**3-3** The Northumberland Coast AONB lies within the North Northumberland Coastal Plain NCA. There are 4 LCTs and 10 landscape character areas within the AONB, as given in **Table 1** below and shown in **Figure 2**. The detailed descriptions of these are reproduced from the NLCA at **Appendix 1**.

**Table 1: Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the Northumberland Coast AONB**

Landscape Character Types within the AONB	Landscape Character Areas within the AONB
LCT 2: Coastal Incised Valley	2a: Lower Aln 2b: Lower Coquet
LCT 3: Farmed Coastal Plain	3a: Haggerston 3b: Lucker 3c: Rock
LCT 4: Rocky Coastline	4b: Farne Island Coast 4c: Craster Coast [nb 4a: North Tweed Coast lies beyond the AONB]
LCT 5: Sandy Coastline	5a: Holy Island Coast 5b: Beadnell and Embleton Bays 5c: Aln and Coquet Estuaries

**3-4** There are a further 6 LCTs and 8 landscape character areas within the wider study area beyond the AONB defined in this study, where there is the potential for significant impact on the special qualities of the AONB from large scale development such as commercial scale wind turbines. These are shown in **Table 2** and in **Figure 2**. The detailed descriptions of these are reproduced from the NLCA at **Appendix 2**.

**Table 2: Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area**

Landscape Character Types within the wider Study Area	Landscape Character Areas within the wider Study Area
LCT 1: Broad River Mouth	1a: Tweed River Mouth
LCT 7: Estate Valley	7a: Hulne Park
LCT 8: Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8b: Kyloe and Chillingham Hills 8c: Charlton Ridge
LCT 10: Smooth Moorland	10a: Rosebrough Moor 10b: Alnwick Moor
LCT 11: Sandstone Fringe Farmland	11a: Belford Hills
LCT 38: Lowland Rolling Farmland	38a: Longframlington

**3-5** Where there is only a small part of an LCT within the wider study area, such that the descriptions of the corresponding landscape character area are considered unrepresentative of the landscape within the study area, these are not included within the sensitivity and capacity study. For the avoidance of any doubt, these are given in **Table 3**:

**Table 3: Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area but excluded from this study**

Landscape Character Types within the wider study area excluded from this study	Landscape Character Areas within the wider study area excluded from this study
LCT 4: Rocky Coastline	4a: North Tweed Coast
LCT 8: Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8e: Rothbury Forest
LCT 16: Open Rolling Farmland	16a: Halidon 16b: Duddo and Lowick
LCT 35: Broad Lowland Valleys	35a: Coquet Valley
LCT 39: Coalfield Farmland	39a: Coastal Coalfields
LCT 40: Broad Bays and Dunes	40a: Druridge Bay

**3-6** The NLCA includes a matrix to record a standardised set of characteristics for each LCT, chosen to represent the main features of each smaller landscape character area, which facilitates direct comparison with other character areas. The characteristics are divided into five criteria: landscape (landform, land cover, scale and enclosure), visual (skylines, views and landmarks, intervisibility and receptors), cultural (settlement, industry, vertical features, linear features, historic features and recreation), perceptual (movement and remoteness) and qualitative aspects (condition, distinctiveness and rarity).

**3-7** For each criteria a five-point scale is used against which each landscape is assessed. The assessment is represented by a shaded box on each scale, using the findings of the NLCA and professional judgement to decide the exact placement on the scale. The relevant matrices for the 10 landscape character areas within the AONB (from Table 1) and the further 8 landscape character areas within the wider study area beyond the AONB (from Table 2) are reproduced from the NLCA at **Appendix 3**.

**3-8** The criteria used in the NLCA have been reviewed and in the interests of consistency have been adopted in this sensitivity and capacity study. The assessment of each character area has been

reviewed following detailed fieldwork and assessment within the AONB and the wider AONB study area, following the visual analysis methodology as set out in Section 5. In some instances this has led to a different assessment of visual criteria, in particular *views and landmarks*. The new assessment is shown in the matrices in **Appendix 3** by a different shaded box, for example:

#### Landscape Character Area 4c: Craster Coast

VISUAL CRITERIA					
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Views to Dunstanburgh Castle				

where:

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment

Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment, Part B: The Changing Landscape

**3-9** A key requirement of the brief is to deliver the recommendations contained within the NLCA *Part B: The Changing Landscape*. For each of the 44 LCTs within the County, the NLCA identifies their key qualities and the forces for change. It includes principles and guidelines for land management and development within the 4 LCTs lying within the AONB (shown in Table 1) which seek to maintain and enhance the special qualities inherent within each area.

**3-10** The principal aims for each LCT as defined in the NLCA are to *protect, manage or plan*. These terms are derived from the European Landscape Convention which defines these terms as follows<sup>12</sup>:

- *Protect* means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape.
- *Manage* means action from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.
- *Plan* means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

**3-11** Current landscape character assessment guidance<sup>13</sup> uses the terms *conserve, enhance, restore*, which are widely recognised, and are broadly equivalent to *protect, manage and plan* as used in the NLCA.

<sup>12</sup> Natural England (2009); *Guidelines for Implementing The European Landscape Convention, Part 2*.

<sup>13</sup> The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002); *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland*.

**3-12** As mentioned in the introduction above, two LCTs lie entirely within the AONB; these are LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* and LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline*. **Figure 2** shows the LCTs in the AONB and study area. The guiding principle for both these LCTs as defined in the NLC is to **protect** the landscape. The NLCA provides a Vision Statement for achieving this in **LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline*** as follows:

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to arrest the erosion of character and loss of condition of landscape elements where this has occurred, and in so doing raise the general quality of the landscape. The coastal landscape and adjacent seascape is a key element of Northumberland's tourist economy, and requires a degree of protection.*

**3-13** A different Vision Statement is given in the NLCA to **protect** the landscape in **LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline***, as follows:

*The principal aims for this landscape should be to conserve and enhance the key qualities of the landscape and adjacent seascape, and make the on-going custodianship sustainable. The landscape should be managed to integrate conservation of the natural and cultural resource, with sensitive development of infrastructure for tourism, and good freedom of access and preservation of the open sea and coastal views.*

**3-14** As mentioned in the introduction above, the eastern sides of two other LCTs lie within the AONB; these are LCT 2: *Coastal Incised Valley* and LCT 3: *Farmed Coastal Plain*. The guiding principle for both these LCTs as defined in the NLCA is to **manage** the landscape. The NLCA provides a Vision Statement for achieving this in **LCT 2: *Coastal Incised Valley*** as follows:

*This landscape is generally well maintained, and the approach should therefore be to encourage the on-going custodianship, and to manage the pressures for expansion of Alnwick. New development should be guided to less sensitive locations, while maintenance should focus on the existing habitats such as riparian woodlands, hedgerows and flood plain meadows.*

**3-15** A different Vision Statement is given in the NLCA to **manage** the landscape in **LCT 3: *Farmed Coastal Plain***, as follows:

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to encourage improved custodianship of a landscape that has declined in quality as a result of agricultural intensification. The areas of the LCT are located between the A1 and the popular coastal strip, and have scope to accommodate on-farm tourism.*

**3-16** The purpose of this study is to help Northumberland County Council and the Northumberland AONB Partnership to meet the recommendations within the NLCA: Part B, to **protect** the AONB landscape within LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* and LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline*, and to **manage** the landscape of those parts of LCT 2: *Coastal Incised Valley* and LCT 3: *Farmed Coastal Plain* that fall within the AONB.

## **4 REVIEW OF THE KEY LAND USE IMPACT STUDY, SEPTEMBER 2010**

### **Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part A Landscape Sensitivity at Settlement Edges**

**4-1** Part A of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010*, provides a strategic analysis of selected settlements within Northumberland in order to assess the relative sensitivities of their landscape surroundings and to assist in guiding future development to the most appropriate locations. The study includes Seahouses in the AONB and Amble at the southern end of the AONB.

**4-2** To provide consistency of approach, similar methodology has been adopted in this study to assess the sensitivity and capacity of the AONB to accommodate housing development, in this case limited in accordance with emerging policy within the *Northumberland Local Development Plan, Core Strategy, Preferred Options* (February 2013), to:

- a. Development of new housing which serves to meet more than the identified needs of the settlement itself will only be permitted in Seahouses (including North Sunderland);
- b. Housing development across the other settlements of the AONB will be limited (in most circumstances) to small scale schemes on the edge of settlements which are of a scale to reflect local need for new housing.

**4-3** Section 8 provides the assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the AONB to accommodate new housing development. Seahouses and 10 other settlement were analysed and assessed based on a combination of desk study and fieldwork, considering settlement character, boundaries, views and the character and sensitivity of the surrounding landscape to potential housing development. The assessment provides guidance at the strategic scale but does not provide a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of each settlement.

**4-4** The study draws on the NLCA and field survey. It follows the methodology within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part A Landscape Sensitivity at Settlement Edges*, which itself draws on the LCA. Relative landscape sensitivity was assessed based on a range of criteria. Judgements of sensitivity have not been explicitly recorded, but areas of higher or lower sensitivity to housing development are described and illustrated on accompanying sketch maps for each settlement.

**4-5** Settlement character and identity is addressed by considering the scale, form and pattern of the settlement, building character, key features and transport routes, settlement setting, boundaries, approaches and views. The character of the surrounding landscape, features and qualities are considered by reference to the record of key landscape characteristics in the NLCA Part A and the descriptions of key qualities of relevant LCTs in the NLCA Part B.

**4-6** Section 9 provides assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the AONB to accommodate camping/caravan/chalet parks. Similar methodology to that used within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, Part A Landscape Sensitivity at Settlement Edges* has been used to assess the character and sensitivity of the AONB, not just at settlement edges, by reference to key landscape characteristics and qualities as recorded in the NLCA. Judgements of relative sensitivity are recorded in tabular form based on a range of criteria, and illustrated on accompanying sketch maps.

## Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part C Landscape Sensitivity to key Land Uses

**4-7** Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, September 2010, assesses the sensitivity of landscape character areas identified in the NLCA and evaluates their sensitivity to a range of key land uses and development types, including small-scale wind power development (defined in Part C as being any wind farm with five or fewer turbines) and large-scale wind power development (defined in Part C as being any wind farm with more than five turbines, with no upper limit set).

**4-8** Sensitivity is assessed for each of the landscape character areas defined in the NLCA on a range of criteria, developed to highlight specific landscape and visual characteristics which are most likely to be affected by specific development types. The criteria are based on current good practice described in *Topic Paper 6* and similar to those adopted in a number of other good practice guidance documents (for example by Scottish Natural Heritage) and recently completed landscape sensitivity and capacity studies, which relate to the physical landscape, visual amenity, cultural features and perceptual characteristics.

**4-9** Consequently this study adopts the criteria used in Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, as identified in the NLCA, to assess the sensitivity and capacity for domestic/farm-scale wind turbines within the AONB and commercial scale wind farms outside of the AONB, but assesses sensitivity in a slightly different way to enable capacity judgements to be made (the step of changing the sensitivity assessment to a capacity study is not made in Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*). The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* identifies indicators of sensitivity to specific development, including wind energy, represented by a range of variables within each of the criteria, and compares these with the character area descriptions and key characteristics from the NLCA. A judgement is made on the relative importance of the criteria, and greater weight given to these. Greater weight is also given where character areas lie close to protected landscapes (including the Northumberland Coast AONB), with the balance of sensitivity applied by making professional judgements. Sensitivity to specific development is then given for each character area as *high*, *moderate* or *low* in accordance with the following definitions taken from Table C1.1 in Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*:

<b>High sensitivity</b>	This landscape has limited ability to absorb this particular development type without significant detriment to its key characteristics. There may be some scope for development, although it would need to be sensitively sited and designed, and mitigation measures implemented. Scope for effective mitigation is likely to be more limited.
<b>Moderate sensitivity</b>	This landscape has some ability to absorb this particular development type without significant detriment to its key characteristics. There is scope for sensitively sited development to be accommodated within this landscape. A greater range of mitigation measures are likely to be effective.
<b>Low sensitivity</b>	This landscape can readily absorb this particular development type without significant detriment to its key characteristics. Development is likely to relate well to this landscape, although consideration must still be given to the key characteristics in the detailed siting and design of proposals. There is likely to be greater scope for effective mitigation measures.

**4-10** Applying weighting to protected landscapes would not be appropriate when assessing the sensitivity of landscape character areas which lie within the AONB. This study applies a similar range

of sensitivity as defined above, either *high*, *moderate* or *low*, to each criterion in the NLCA consistently across each landscape character area in the AONB, to indicate which landscape, visual, perceptual, cultural and qualitative criteria are more or less sensitive to small-scale wind power development. Section 7 describes the assessment of overall sensitivity of each character area, *high*, *moderate* or *low*, by adopting a simple scoring system where *high*=5, *moderate*=3 and *low*=1. This provides a more robust assessment than by simply applying professional judgement, and reflects the approach taken in Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* as described below. Part D has also been followed in making judgements on landscape capacity to accommodate wind energy development by applying weighting factors to reflect landscape value.

**4-11** For the assessment of commercial-scale wind power development beyond the AONB, this study adopts a similar approach to that described above for assessing sensitivity to domestic/farm-scale wind turbines within the AONB, but the range of sensitivity of each criterion within each landscape character area is widened to *high*, *moderate-high*, *moderate*, *low-moderate* and *low* to reflect potential sensitivity to large-scale turbines. An important first step has been added before this assessment, to identify landscape of the highest sensitivity where commercial-scale wind farms (and indeed any other large scale development) are likely to be unacceptable. This is discussed in more detail in Section 6, which describes the assessment of overall sensitivity of landscape character areas within the wider study area to commercial-scale wind power development by the use of a scoring system where *high*=5, *moderate-high* =4, *moderate*=3, *low-moderate*=2 and *low*=1. Similar weighting factors to reflect landscape value have been applied to enable a judgement on the capacity of the wider study area to accommodate large turbines, which reflects the approach taken in Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* as described below.

#### **Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part D Landscapes Potentially Requiring Additional Protection**

**4-12** Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*, September 2010, explores the relative value of Northumberland's landscapes, based on evaluation of the landscape character areas defined in the NLCA. A series of criteria is used to determine the relative landscape value of each landscape character area based on the characteristics set out in the NLCA and as used in Part A and Part C as described above. The criteria selected from the NLCA as being contributory to landscape value are views and landmarks, remoteness, historic features, recreation, condition, distinctiveness and rarity. One additional criterion was included with the incorporation of natural heritage value.

**4-13** Similar criteria have been used in this study to identify landscapes of the highest sensitivity where commercial-scale wind farms are likely to be unacceptable, as referred to in paragraph 4-11 above. The 5 criteria are movement, remoteness, land use and change, distinctiveness and rarity. These are taken directly from the criteria in the NLCA with the exception of 'land use and change' which is an amalgamation of the 'settlement' and 'industry' criteria in NLCA. The remaining criteria in the NLCA (with the exception of the 'condition' criterion which is not considered applicable to an assessment of sensitivity to wind energy development) are used to assess sensitivity to large scale turbines of those landscapes within the wider study area where the 5 criteria above do not apply.

**4-14** Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* adopts the 'guiding principle' for each character area from Part B of the NLCA, defined as *protect*, *manage* or *plan* (as described in paragraphs 3-10 to 3-16) as a weighting factor to reflect the likely value of each character area. Thus landscapes identified for *protection* have a weighting of 5, those for *management* have a weighting of 3 and those for *planning* have a weighting of 1. The use of the weighting factor in Part D reflects the nature of the guiding principle, in that those areas identified for landscape *planning* are more

likely to be of lower quality at present, and therefore subject to change, than those identified for *protection*.

**4-15** A similar process has been adopted in this study to evaluate the capacity of the landscapes within the wider study area to accommodate large-scale wind turbines, by adding a weighting factor to reflect the likely value of each character area. Thus a 'guiding principle' of *protect* is assigned a weighting value of 5, *manage* is assigned 3 whilst *plan* is assigned a weighting value of 1.

**4-16** A further weighting factor is applied in this study to reflect the added value of those character areas located within the designated AONB, which are assigned an additional value of 1, whilst those character areas outside the AONB have no additional weighting. This reflects the methodology within Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* in which greater weight is given to those character areas which lie close to protected landscapes.

## 5 VISUAL ANALYSIS

### Introduction

**5-1** The County-wide NLCA and landscape sensitivity analysis within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* provide the basis for assessing sensitivity and capacity of the AONB. They have been supplemented with more detailed landscape and visual assessment within the AONB and the wider study area to evaluate how the landscape is valued and to identify the special qualities of the AONB which require protection, and thus which ought not to be affected by development in ways that would alter their special qualities.

**5-2** Detailed visual analysis within the AONB and the wider study area has identified a number of 'iconic' features, 'important' viewpoints and other 'key' views, including views from sensitive routes. These are described below and are shown in **Figure 3: Visual Analysis – North Area**, **Figure 4: Visual Analysis – Central Area**, and **Figure 5: Visual Analysis – Southern Area**.

**5-3** Figures 3, 4 and 5 also indicate the location of features identified during the detailed visual analysis that are likely to affect local visibility. These include localised ridges and other landform undulations, distinctive Whin Sill intrusions and localised heugh outcrops, together with areas of woodland, plantation and shelterbelts. The scale of the study prevents inclusion of all landscape features that may provide a screen to views to or from the AONB, but those identified are considered to be the key features that could affect visual sensitivity and which have been taken into consideration in the study.

**5-4** The detailed visual analysis helped define the study area, as the approximate limit of views out from iconic features within the AONB, and from where there are a number of important viewpoints allowing views of the AONB. The study area is described in paragraph 2-27.

### 'Iconic' Features

**5-5** To assess landscape sensitivity and make judgements on the capacity of the AONB to accommodate development, the approach taken is firstly to identify any iconic features and the key setting of the feature (i.e. its zone of visual sensitivity) which should be protected to ensure it is not adversely affected by development. The shape and extent of any zone of visual sensitivity varies according to the feature and its setting, but careful consideration has been given to the appropriateness of defining any feature as an 'iconic' feature in the landscape, and where appropriate the essential area needed to protect the integrity and / or context of the feature, without imposing unreasonable constraints on development.

**5-6** Three criteria were applied to assist in the selection of features considered to be so significant that they should be protected without imposing unreasonable constraints on development:

- (i) the feature should be considered to be of 'national' status, a feature within the Northumberland Coast AONB recognised nationally, or at least well beyond the AONB;
- (ii) the feature should be a major 'destination' in its own right, bringing visitors from beyond Northumberland, and where views to and from the feature are a significant part of the visitor experience;

- (iii) the view from the feature should be representative of the landscape within the Northumberland Coast AONB, a ‘post-card’ type view with distinctive scenic qualities.

**5-7** To be selected as ‘iconic’ the feature had to meet all three criteria. Following field survey and discussion with the Steering Group it was decided that 4 features within the Northumberland Coast AONB meet all three criteria. These are:

- Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ruins;
- Bamburgh Castle;
- Dunstanburgh Castle; and
- Warkworth Castle.

**5-8** The special scenic qualities of the castles are due primarily to their dramatic coastal and, in the case of Warkworth Castle, its riverside, setting. Lindisfarne, Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh castles are outstanding landmark features sitting prominently on isolated outcrops of Whin Sill right on the edge of the sea. Bamburgh Castle is built on an impressive outcrop of dolerite rock which dominates the adjacent sands and the settlement. They create dramatic vertical focal points in an otherwise largely horizontal landscape. The impressive medieval castle at Warkworth, cutting off a promontory created by a meander in the River Coquet, is also a major local landmark and tourist attraction.

**5-9** Views from the castles are extensive and panoramic and it would be inappropriate to attempt to restrict development from within the entire extent of the view. Clearly, land within views from the iconic features, as defined by the wider study area boundary, includes settlement and other buildings, roads and many other land uses. Consequently field validation included identification of a zone of visual sensitivity around the features, defined by the area from which there are significant views of the feature from surrounding land which should thus be protected. The extent of each zone is considered to be appropriate in the context of each iconic feature and views of them, without imposing unreasonable constraints on developments. Zones of visual sensitivity around each of the 4 iconic features are shown in **Figure 6** and described in **Table 4** (numbers in the table refer to numbers on the figures):

**Table 4: Description of Zones of Visual Sensitivity around Iconic Features**

No.	Iconic Feature	Zone of Visual Sensitivity (ZVS)
1	Lindisfarne Castle and Priory	Views north from the iconic feature extend along the coast to high ground beyond Berwick on Tweed, but the ZVS has been limited to include views along the coast from Cocklawburn Beach. The ZVS continues east of Scremerston, beyond the AONB, following a minor ridge and plantations to Cheswick and continuing to Haggerston where woodland screens the holiday park. Plantations west of the A1 define the ZVS which continues to higher ground and woodland below the Kyloe Hills, following the National Cycle Network Route No. 1 along the minor road to Belford. The ZVS continues along this route as it falls back to the AONB boundary at Waren Mill, following the northern edge of the wooded Whin Sill outcrop and localised ridge to Bamburgh. The ZVS includes the Farne Islands.

2	Bamburgh Castle	Views from Cocklawburn Beach define the northern edge of the ZVS, from where it continues east of Scremerston, beyond the AONB, following a minor ridge and plantations to Cheswick and continuing to Haggerston where woodland screens the holiday park. From here it follows the railway and AONB boundary along a localised ridge to the west of Beal and east of Fenhamhill. From here the ZVS has been continued in a straight line across Holy Island Sands to the plantations at Ross Links, from where it continues across Budle Bay to high ground north of Bamburgh. Galliheugh Bank provides the first dramatic view of Bamburgh Castle and the coast when travelling east on the B1342 Coastal Route. South of Bamburgh the ZVS continues to the raised Whin Sill outcrop and localised ridge through Elford and across the dismantled railway line to plantations north of Southfield Farm. From here the ZVS returns to the coast, south of Seahouses/North Sunderland.
3	Dunstanburgh Castle	The ZVS extends northwards to Beadnell, follows the AONB boundary along the B1340 through Embleton, and the minor road to Dunstan. From here the ZVS continues southwards, defined by the eastern edge of the wooded parkland at Howick Hall, to Boulmer.
4	Warkworth Castle	The ZVS extends north to Alnmouth and west along the route of a power line through the wooded rolling farmland between Shilbottle and Guyzance. The ZVS continues across the railway and the wooded valley of the River Coquet to higher ground defining the study area boundary south of Amble.

**5-10** The zones of visual sensitivity around iconic features are considered to be areas of the highest sensitivity where there would be a presumption against development. Applications for development within the ZVS should demonstrate via detailed landscape and visual impact assessment the likely effects on iconic features.

### **‘Important’ Viewpoints**

**5-11** Field validation also confirmed that there are other, ‘important’ viewpoints which, although they do not meet the above criteria for ‘iconic’ status, are important in the context of the special features and qualities of the AONB. Three criteria were applied to assist in the selection of viewpoints where there are considered to be important views which increases the sensitivity of the area within the view, and which consequently has been taken into consideration in the sensitivity and capacity study without imposing unreasonable constraints on development:

- (i) the viewpoint is a recognised viewpoint, marked as such on Ordnance Survey maps, and/or is readily accessible from public rights of way, from where there are significant views of the coast and special features of the AONB;
- (ii) the view of the coast and special features of the AONB is a major reason for visiting the viewpoint;
- (iii) the viewpoint is visited by people from beyond the local area, in order to experience the view.

**5-12** Twelve 'important' viewpoints have been identified and agreed with the Steering Group as meeting the three criteria. Principle views from the viewpoints are shown in **Figure 7** and described in **Table 5** (numbers in the table refer to numbers on the figures):

**Table 5: Description of Principal Views from Important Viewpoints**

No.	Important Viewpoint	Principal View
5	Halidon Hill / OS viewpoint	There are extensive panoramic views from the elevated viewpoint (including interpretation board) south-eastwards along the AONB. The principal view extends to the Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle and westwards to the Kyloe Hills
6	Cocklawburn Beach	Views extend southwards along the coast and westwards to the Cheviot Hills. The principal view is defined as the dramatic view along the AONB boundary and along the coast including Holy Island, the Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle.
7	Greensheen Hill and junction of St. Cuthbert's Way and St. Oswald's Way Coast Path	The principal elevated view from high ground in the Kyloe Hills extends in an arc along the coast and out to sea from Cheswick Sands to Bamburgh Castle. It includes Holy Island and Budle Bay.
8	Galliheugh Bank	There are panoramic 360° views from the hill top coastal path west of Bamburgh. The principal view has been limited to a radius of 8.5 kilometres from the viewpoint, extending out to Lindisfarne Priory, the Farne Islands, Beadnell and the Kyloe Hills to the west.
9	Farne Islands	There are extensive panoramic views along the coast and westwards towards the Cheviot Hills. The most sensitive principal view extends from the islands in an arc between Holy Island and Dunstanburgh Castle, and westwards to the Belford Hills, Rosebrough Moor and through the coastal plain from where there are views of the Farne Islands.
10	Preston Tower	There are extensive 360° views into and away from the AONB and towards the coast from the publically accessible tower ramparts. The most sensitive view is over mixed farmland and woodlands to the distant Dunstanburgh Castle. The crowns of mature trees in the immediate vicinity screen views to Bamburgh to the north.
11	Ros Castle OS viewpoint	There are extensive panoramic views north-eastwards from the recognised viewpoint. The most sensitive principal view extends to the AONB and includes Bamburgh Castle, the Farne Islands and the distant Dunstanburgh Castle.
12	Cateran Hill	There are extensive panoramic views north-eastwards to the AONB. The most sensitive principal view extends to Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands, with Dunstanburgh Castle in the distance.
13	Crag Hill	There are extensive views eastwards to the AONB. The most sensitive principal view extends to Dunstanburgh Castle.
14	Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park	There are distant views eastwards to the AONB from the tower. The principal view includes Dunstanburgh and Warkworth castles.
15	Cloudy Crag	There are distant views eastwards to the AONB from high ground above Alnwick, on a public footpath near the reservoir.

		The principal view extends to Dunstanburgh and Warkworth castles.
16	Bracken Hill, Alnmouth	Views from the popular ridge of high ground above Alnmouth extend northwards to Alnmouth Bay and Seaton Point and southwards to Warkworth Castle, Amble and Coquet Island.

### Other 'Key' Views

**5-13** Field validation also identified that there are some other 'key' views within the wider study area, which although not meeting the status of being 'iconic' or 'important' should nonetheless be taken into consideration in the visual sensitivity assessment. These are locations from where there are views of the coast and/or the iconic castles, often the first view when travelling (driving/walking/cycling/riding) in the area. The visual impact on these key views should be taken into consideration when considering development proposals in the study area but cannot be easily used as strategic constraints at this scale of study. Thirty one locations have been identified in the wider study area where there are other 'key' views of the AONB. These are listed in **Appendix 4** and show in **Figures 3, 4 and 5**.

### Key Views from Sensitive Routes

**5-14** Field validation also identified that there are some other key views of the AONB from linear routes through the wider study area. These can be important in giving travellers (drivers/passengers/walkers/cyclists/riders) an impression of the AONB as they travel through the area, and have thus been taken into consideration in the visual sensitivity assessment. For example, views of the coast and other special qualities and features of the AONB, especially the iconic castles, are more sensitive where the view is not significantly adversely affected by development, and where new development would significantly affect views of the AONB.

**5-15** A description of the views from sensitive routes which have been taken into consideration in this study, and their grid references, is provided in **Appendix 4**. The routes were agreed with the Steering Group. **Figures 3, 4 and 5** show where there are key views from these routes. Clearly there will be other views of the AONB from routes within the wider study area, but the scale of the study prevents inclusion of them all. Those identified and listed below are considered to be the key views from the most popular routes through the study area, where visual amenity could be significantly affected and which consequently have been taken into consideration in the study:

- East Coast Mainline Railway
- A1
- A1068, B1339, B1340 and B1342 Coast Routes
- B6353 between West Kylee and Fenwick
- B6349 between Sionside and Belford
- Minor road between Smeafield and Waren Mill
- Minor road between Embleton and Dunstan
- Northumberland Coast Path National Trail / North Sea European Long Distance Trail
- St. Oswald's Way National Trail (where not part of the Coast Path)
- National Cycle Network Route No. 1 / North Sea Long Distance Cycle Route

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## 6 SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE COMMERCIAL-SCALE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE THE AONB

### Introduction

**6-1** In this study 'commercial-scale wind energy development' is defined as comprising one or more large-scale turbine(s) that are 100 metres+ tall (to the tip of the turbine blades). Most large, commercial onshore wind turbines of this size typically produce an output of 1-3 Megawatt (MW) (in terms of installed capacity) but height, rather than output, is considered the key characteristic in terms of potential landscape and visual impact.

**6-2** Commercial-scale wind turbines of this height typically use a horizontal axis three blade rotor system, mounted on a steel mast. Two blade horizontal turbines are also available, as well as vertical axis structures, but these tend to be more commonly used on smaller domestic-scale turbines (these are considered in Section 7).

**6-3** At the time of undertaking this assessment two wind farms were under construction and two further wind farms were being consulted on within the wider study area. There are also a number of operational wind farms visible from the AONB and others approved but not yet constructed that are also likely to be seen in views from the AONB. The operational wind farms and those under construction have been taken into consideration in this assessment. **Tables 6 and 7** below summarise the position, indicating the range of applications for commercial-scale turbines:

**Table 6: Wind Farms within the Study Area**

Wind Farm	No. Turbines / Ht. to blade tip	Status
Middlemoor	18 No. / 125m	Under construction
Wandylaw	10 No. / 125m	Under construction
Belford Burn	9 No. / 100m	Pre-application consultation
Middleton Burn	16 No. / 125m	Pre-application consultation

**Table 7: Wind Farms Visible from the AONB**

Wind Farm	No. Turbines / Ht. to blade tip	Status
Lynemouth	13 No. / 121m	Operational
Blyth Offshore	2 No. / 95m	Operational
Barmoor	6 No. / 110m	Consented, not constructed
Blue Skies Forest	9 No. / 126m	Consented, not constructed
Blyth Harbour	7 No. / 130m	Constructed
Sisters	3 No. / 126m	Consented, not constructed

### Methodology

**6-4** As discussed earlier in this report, a strategic approach is taken in assessing the capacity of the wider study area to accommodate larger commercial-scale wind energy development. This follows the approach in the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* Parts C and D to assess

sensitivity and to evaluate landscape value by adopting criteria selected from the NLCA as being contributory to landscape value.

**6-5** The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* uses the landscape character areas and criteria developed within the NLCA as the basis for assessing landscape sensitivity. The NLCA includes a matrix to record a standardised set of characteristics to represent the main features of each landscape character area, which facilitates direct comparison with other character areas. The characteristics are divided into five criteria: landscape (landform, land cover, scale and enclosure), visual (skylines, views and landmarks, intervisibility and receptors), cultural (settlement, industry, vertical features, linear features, historic features and recreation), perceptual (movement and remoteness) and qualitative aspects (condition, distinctiveness and rarity). Table A1 in the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment, Annexe A, Landscape Characteristics*, August 2010, provides a definition for each characteristic as shown below:

<b>LANDSCAPE CRITERIA</b>	
Landform	The nature of the underlying geography, whether simple and consistent, such as a moorland plateau or coastal plain, or more complex, such as rocky outcrops.
Land cover	The pattern of land uses within a landscape, from the continuous monoculture of the largest plantation forests, to intricate assemblages of small fields and woodlands.
Scale	The relative size of landforms, ranging from the most intimate valleys, to extensive open moorlands, and, to a lesser extent, the relative scale of land cover patterns.
Enclosure	The way in which landforms enclose the landscape, or opens out into other landscapes, is closely related to scale. Woodlands and forestry may also create enclosure.
<b>VISUAL CRITERIA</b>	
Skylines	Visual horizons can be very simple and predictable generally in areas of simple landform and landcover, or more complex where woodland and other features interrupt the view.
Views and landmarks	Can include views from popular viewpoints, or views to landmark cultural and natural features.
Intervisibility	Depending largely on enclosure, landscapes may be visible across a wide area, or may be secluded and difficult to see from the outside.
Receptors	The presence of visual receptors is indicated by settlement, and by the popularity of areas for recreational purposes, as well as roads used by tourists, and main roads with large numbers of potential receptors.
<b>PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA</b>	
Movement	Visible movement in the landscape may include vehicle traffic, aircraft, shipping, tidal movements, or moving structures such as wind turbines.
Remoteness	Tranquillity, an indication of the general level of human influence, depending on factors such as noise, and views to man-made features.
<b>CULTURAL CRITERIA</b>	
Settlement	The relative density of settlement, from scattered farmsteads to urban areas.
Industry	The relative presence or absence of industrial or commercial buildings and infrastructure, including brownfield land.
Vertical features	The presence of tall vertical features, such as communications masts, pylons, and wind turbines.
Linear features	The presence of linear features including transport routes, power lines, and rivers.
Historic features	The influence of cultural heritage features, including built structures, designed landscapes, and visible earthworks, on the landscape. It should be noted that some historical features, such as buried archaeology, have little overt influence on the landscape.
Recreation	Evidence of regular recreational use of a landscape, such as long-distance footpaths, visitor facilities, and landscape-based tourist attractions.
<b>QUALITATIVE CRITERIA</b>	

Condition	The physical state of the landscape, and its visual and functional intactness.
Distinctiveness	The extent to which a landscape is representative of the Northumberland landscape, or contributes to a sense of place.
Rarity	The relative frequency of a landscape's general type, within the study area.

**6-6** For each criteria a five-point scale is used against which each landscape is assessed. The assessment in the NLCA Annexe A is represented by a black shaded box on each scale, using the findings of the NLCA and professional judgement to decide the exact placement on the scale. As described in Section 3, the assessment of each character area in the NLCA has been reviewed following detailed fieldwork and assessment within the study area, using the visual analysis methodology as set out in Section 5. In some instances this has led to a different assessment, the new assessment being shown in the matrices in **Appendix 3** by a blue shaded box.

**6-7** To assess the landscape sensitivity of landscape character areas within the wider study area, an approach adopted in previous wind energy sensitivity and capacity studies was followed which entailed, firstly, identifying criteria from the above list which are considered to indicate the highest sensitivity to commercial-scale wind energy development. These are shown in **Table 8**, defined in accordance with how they have been used in this study. Landscape criteria L3 'Land Use and Change' is an amalgamation of the cultural criteria 'settlement' and 'industry' used in the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment*.

**Table 8: Identifying Landscape of the Highest Sensitivity to Commercial Wind Farms**

Landscape Criteria	Areas of Highest Sensitivity (AHS)
<b>L1 Movement</b>	Landscapes with very little or no movement and a particularly strong sense of stillness or calmness apart from natural movements such as wind, waves and clouds
<b>L2 Remoteness</b>	Landscapes where people are likely to experience a particularly strong sense of remoteness, solitude, tranquillity or peacefulness where there is little or no human activity or noise
<b>L3 Land Use and Change</b>	Landscapes with no or extremely limited evidence of modern settlement, buildings and industry, main transport corridors and other infrastructure
<b>L4 Distinctiveness</b>	Landscapes which are distinctive to Northumberland and which exhibit a strong 'sense of place'
<b>L5 Rarity</b>	Landscapes with rare or unusual characteristics and which merit protection in the interests of sustaining good representative examples of the Northumberland landscape

**6-8** Commercial-scale wind energy development, or indeed any other large scale, uncharacteristic form of built development, is considered inappropriate within any landscape character area assessed as an 'Area of Highest Sensitivity' (AHS) in accordance with the above criteria. Significant protection from such development is required in these areas.

**6-9** For example, from the matrices in **Appendix 3** for landscape character area 4b 'Farne Islands Coast', the following assessment of qualitative criteria is recorded by the shaded box, indicating that large-scale turbines would be inappropriate due to potential significant effects on characteristics of distinctiveness and rarity:

### Landscape Character Area 4b Farne Islands Coast

<b>Distinctive-ness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
Bamburgh Castle, coast and islands distinctive					
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
Combination of castle, coast and islands is unique					

**6-10** The second step was to assess the sensitivity of all other landscape character areas not assessed as AHS in the first step, using the five-point scale to assess sensitivity on a range from *high*, *moderate-high*, *moderate*, *low-moderate* and *low* to reflect potential sensitivity to large-scale turbines. **Table 9** indicates the assessment criteria:

**Table 9: Assessing Landscape Sensitivity to Commercial-Scale Wind Farms of all other Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB Study Area**

Landscape Criteria	Low Sensitivity	Low-Moderate Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	Moderate-High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity
<b>L6 Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
<b>L7 Land Cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in Landover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
<b>L8 Scale</b>	Large	Medium-Large	Medium	Medium-Small	Small
<b>L9 Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
<b>L10 Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
<b>L11 Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
<b>L12 Intervisibility</b>	Self-contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
<b>L13 Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes

Landscape Criteria	Low Sensitivity	Low-Moderate Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	Moderate-High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity
L14 Vertical Features	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
L15 Linear Features	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
L16 Historic features	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
L17 Recreation	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction

## Sensitivity Assessment

**6-11** Table 10 shows the results of the assessment using the five-point scale in the NLCA as shown in Appendix 3 to assess sensitivity on the range given above in Table 9.

**6-12** To assess overall sensitivity of each landscape character area, in accordance with the definitions of *high*, *moderate* and *low* taken from Table C1.1 in Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* (see paragraph 4-9) a scoring system was used where *high*=5, *moderate-high*=4, *moderate*=3, *low-moderate*=2 and *low*=1. This gives a scoring range of 17-85, with a mid-range score of 68. A total score of 23 or less is evaluated as *low* sensitivity, a score of 24-45 is evaluated as *moderate* sensitivity, and a score of 46 or more is evaluated as *high* sensitivity. The results of the scoring assessment are shown in Table 11 and illustrated in Figure 8. A 'traffic light' colour coding has been used to enable cross-referencing between Table 11 and Figure 8, where red is *high* sensitivity, orange is *moderate* sensitivity and green is *low* sensitivity.

**Table 10: Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Commercial-Scale Wind Farms within the wider AONB Study Area**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Criteria																
	L1 Movement	L2 Remoteness	L3 Land Use / Change	L4 Distinctiveness	L5 Rarity	L6 Landform	L7 Land Cover	L8 Scale	L9 Enclosure	L10 Skylines	L11 Views & landmarks	L12 Intervisibility	L13 Receptors	L14 Vertical Features	L15 Linear Features	L16 Historic Features	L17 Recreation
<b>1 Broad River Mouth LCT:</b>																	
1a Tweed River Mouth	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>																	
2a Lower Aln	L-M	L-M	L-M	M-H	M-H	M	M	M	M-H	M-H	M	L	M	L-M	L-M	M	M
2b Lower Coquet	M	M	L-M	M-H	M-H	M	M	M-H	M	L-M	M-H	M	L-M	M	M	M	M
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>																	
3a Haggerston	L-M	M	M	M-H	L	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	M-H	M-H	M	M-H	M	M	M
3b Lucker	M	M	M	M-H	L	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	M-H	L-M	M	L-M	M	H	L-M
3c Rock	M	M	M	M-H	L	L-M	M	L-M	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	M	M	M	M
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>																	
4b Farne Islands Coast				AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4c Craster Coast	M-H	M	M	M	M	M	M	M-H	M	M	H	M	M	M-H	M-H	M-H	M-H
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>																	
5a Holy Island Coast	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	M-H	M-H	M-H	M	M	M-H	M	M	M	M	M-H	M	L-M	H	M-H	M-H	M
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	L-M	L-M	M-H	M-H	M-H	L-M	M	M	L-M	L-M	H	M	H	M-H	M-H	M-H	M-H

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Criteria																
	L1 Movement	L2 Remoteness	L3 Land Use / Change	L4 Distinctiveness	L5 Rarity	L6 Landform	L7 Land Cover	L8 Scale	L9 Enclosure	L10 Skylines	L11 Views & landmarks	L12 Intervisibility	L13 Receptors	L14 Vertical Features	L15 Linear Features	L16 Historic Features	L17 Recreation
<b>7 Estate Valley LCT:</b>																	
7a Hulne Park	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>8 Outcrop Hills and Escarpments LCT:</b>																	
8b Kylee and Chillingham Hills	M-H	M	M	M-H	M	M	M-H	L-M	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	L-M	H	M-H	M-H	M-H
8c Charlton Ridge	M	M	M-H	L	L-M	M	L-M	M-H	M	L-M	M-H	M	M	H	M-H	L	L-M
<b>10 Smooth Moorland LCT:</b>																	
10a Rosebrough Moor	M-H	M	M-H	L-M	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M	M-H	L-M	L-M	L-M	M-H	L-M	L-M
10b Alwick Moor	M	M	M-H	L-M	M	L-M	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	M-H	H	M	L-M	M	L	L-M
<b>11 Sandstone Fringe Farmland LCT:</b>																	
11a Belford Hills	M	L-M	M-H	M	M	L-M	L-M	M	M	M	M-H	H	M-H	L-M	L-M	M-H	M
<b>38 Lowland Rolling Farmland LCT:</b>																	
38a Longframlington	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	L	M-H	M	L-M	L-M	L-M	M	M-H	M	L-M	M	M	L-M

**Table 11: Scoring of Landscape Sensitivity to Commercial Wind Farms within the wider AONB Study Area**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Criteria																	Score	Sensitivity
	L1 Movement	L2 Remoteness	L3 Land Use / Change	L4 Distinctiveness	L5 Rarity	L6 Landform	L7 Land Cover	L8 Scale	L9 Enclosure	L10 Skylines	L11 Views & landmarks	L12 Intervisibility	L13 Receptors	L14 Vertical Features	L15 Linear Features	L16 Historic Features	L17 Recreation		
<b>1 Broad River Mouth LCT:</b>																			
1a Tweed River Mouth	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>AHS</b>	
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>																			
2a Lower Aln	2	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	<b>48</b>	<b>H</b>
2b Lower Coquet	3	3	2	4	4	3	3	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	<b>52</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>																			
3a Haggerston	2	3	3	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	<b>47</b>	<b>H</b>
3b Lucker	3	3	3	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	5	2	<b>45</b>	<b>M</b>
3c Rock	3	3	3	4	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	<b>44</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>																			
4b Farne Islands Coast	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>AHS</b>	
4c Craster Coast	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	<b>59</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>																			
5a Holy Island Coast	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>AHS</b>	
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	2	5	4	4	3	<b>59</b>	<b>H</b>
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	2	2	4	4	4	2	3	3	2	2	5	3	5	4	4	4	4	<b>57</b>	<b>H</b>

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Criteria																	Score	Sensitivity	
	L1 Movement	L2 Remoteness	L3 Land Use / Change	L4 Distinctiveness	L5 Rarity	L6 Landform	L7 Land Cover	L8 Scale	L9 Enclosure	L10 Skylines	L11 Views & landmarks	L12 Intervisibility	L13 Receptors	L14 Vertical Features	L15 Linear Features	L16 Historic Features	L17 Recreation			
<b>7 Estate Valley LCT:</b>																				
7a Hulne Park	-	-	-	AHS	AHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>AHS</b>	
<b>8 Outcrop Hills and Escarpments LCT:</b>																				
8b Kylee and Chillingham Hills	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	2	2	3	4	4	2	5	4	4	4	4	<b>58</b>	<b>H</b>
8c Charlton Ridge	3	3	4	1	2	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	5	4	1	2	2	<b>49</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>10 Smooth Moorland LCT:</b>																				
10a Rosebrough Moor	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	<b>44</b>	<b>M</b>
10b Alwick Moor	3	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	5	3	2	3	1	2	2	<b>46</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>11 Sandstone Fringe Farmland LCT:</b>																				
11a Belford Hills	3	2	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	4	2	2	4	3	3	<b>52</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>38 Lowland Rolling Farmland LCT:</b>																				
38a Longframlington	3	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	<b>43</b>	<b>M</b>

Character Area Sensitivity Scoring: Low=1; Low-Moderate=2; Moderate=3; Moderate-High=4; High=5

Overall Sensitivity Scoring: 23 or less=Low; 24-45=Moderate; 46 or more=High

## Capacity Assessment

**6-13** As discussed in paragraph 4-11, weighting factors to reflect landscape value have been applied to enable a judgement on the capacity of the wider study area to accommodate large-scale turbines, which reflects the approach taken in Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study*. Part D adopts the 'guiding principle' for each character area from Part B of the NLCA, defined as *protect*, *manage* or *plan* (as described in paragraphs 3-10 to 3-16) as a weighting factor to reflect the likely value of each character area. Thus landscapes identified for *protection* have a weighting of 5, those for *management* have a weighting of 3 and those for *planning* have a weighting of 1. The use of the weighting factor in Part D has been adopted in this study to reflect the nature of the guiding principle, in that those areas identified for landscape *planning* are more likely to be of lower quality, or value, at present, and therefore subject to change, than those identified for *protection*.

**6-14** As discussed in paragraph 4-16, a further weighting factor is applied in this study to reflect the added value of those character areas located within the designated AONB, which are assigned an additional value of 1, whilst those character areas outside the AONB have no additional weighting. This reflects the methodology within Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* in which greater weight is given to those character areas which lie close to protected landscapes.

**6-15** Applying the weighting factors increases the scoring range to 18-91, with a mid-range score of 73. A total score of 24 or less is evaluated as *high* capacity, a score of 25-49 is evaluated as *medium* capacity, and a score of 50 or more is evaluated as *low* capacity.

**6-16** **Table 12** shows the assessment of landscape capacity of the wider study area to accommodate commercial-scale wind energy development. This is illustrated in **Figure 9**, with a similar 'traffic light' colour coding being adopted to enable easy cross-referencing with Table 12 where red is *low* capacity, orange is *medium* capacity and green is *high* capacity.

**6-17** From Table 12 it can be seen that no landscape character areas are assessed as having *high* capacity. Five areas have *medium* capacity, but the weighted scores for these are very close to 50 which would put them in the *low* capacity category.

**6-18** Comparison with the un-weighted assessment score shown in column 2 in Table 12 shows that those character areas with *moderate* sensitivity also have *medium* capacity. All character areas with *high* sensitivity have *low* capacity except landscape character area 10b Alnwick Moor which has *high* sensitivity but *medium* capacity. This is largely due to its location outside the AONB which lowers its score to 49 instead of 50 which would have resulted in *low* capacity.

**Table 12: Assessing Landscape Capacity to Accommodate Commercial-Scale Wind Farms within the wider AONB Study Area**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area	Sensitivity / Score from Table 11	Weighting to reflect added value		Weighted Score	Capacity
		Located within the AONB	'Guiding principle' from NLCA		
<b>1 Broad River Mouth LCT:</b>					
1a Tweed River Mouth	AHS	-	-	-	L
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>					
2a Lower Aln	H / 48	No + 0	Manage + 3	51	L
2b Lower Coquet	H / 52	No + 0	Manage + 3	55	L
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>					
3a Haggerston	H / 47	No + 0	Manage + 3	50	L
3b Lucker	M / 45	No + 0	Manage + 3	48	M
3c Rock	M / 44	No + 0	Manage + 3	47	M
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>					
4b Farne Islands Coast	AHS	-	-	-	L
4c Craster Coast	H / 59	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	65	L
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>					
5a Holy Island Coast	AHS	-	-	-	L
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	H / 59	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	65	L
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	H / 57	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	63	L
<b>7 Estate Valley LCT:</b>					
7a Hulne Park	AHS	-	-	-	L
<b>8 Outcrop Hills and Escarpments LCT:</b>					
8b Kyle and Chillingham Hills	H / 58	No + 0	Manage + 3	61	L
8c Charlton Ridge	H / 49	No + 0	Manage + 3	52	L
<b>10 Smooth Moorland LCT:</b>					
10a Rosebrough Moor	M / 44	No + 0	Manage + 3	47	M
10b Alnwick Moor	H / 46	No + 0	Manage + 3	49	M
<b>11 Sandstone Fringe Farmland LCT:</b>					
11a Belford Hills	H / 52	No + 0	Manage + 3	55	L
<b>38 Lowland Rolling Farmland LCT:</b>					
38a Longframlington	M / 43	No + 0	Manage + 3	46	M

**Total Weighted Capacity Scoring:** 24 or less = *High*; 25-49 = *Medium*; 50 or more = *Low*

## **Comparison with the Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part C Landscape Sensitivity to key Land Uses**

**6-19** The *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* assesses the sensitivity of the Northumberland landscape to small-scale wind power development, defined as five or fewer turbines, and large-scale wind power development of five turbines or more. No turbine height is given, although the report refers to ‘commercially available wind turbines’ and that the ‘typology is not intended to include small domestic and community turbines’. No attempt is made to define the capacity of the landscape in the Part C report.

**6-20** Unlike Part C, the approach taken in this study is that turbine height is the key characteristic likely to impact on the character of the landscape and views. Hence 1 or 2 turbines, 100 metres+ tall will have similar potential landscape and visual effects as 5 or more turbines of the same height. Effects will potentially be less with smaller turbines (in height), as discussed in Section 7.

**6-21** Comparing the sensitivity assessment in Part C with the sensitivity assessment in this study shows there is very close correlation between the two, as shown in **Table 13** below. The results of the capacity assessment from Table 12 are included in the final column as further comparison.

**6-22** With regard to the sensitivity of the coastal incised valley, Part C recognises that the enclosed valley landscape and importance of visual features, views and landmarks suggest increased sensitivity in character areas 2a Lower Aln and 2b Lower Coquet. Any proposals should be steered away from the valleys towards the more open coastal farmland that flanks it.

**6-23** With regard to character area 3b Lucker, Part C recognises that views from the coastal strip are more likely to be affected by large scale schemes, although the large scale of this character area does indicate some potential. Key sensitivities are the presence of some important landscape features and significance in views, in particular historic features which are a prominent aspect of the landscape. The visual analysis identifies that this character area lies partly within the zones of visual sensitivity from Bamburgh Castle and Dunstanburgh Castle, and within views from a number of important viewpoints and other key views, including views from sensitive routes. Consequently commercial scale wind energy proposals are unlikely to be acceptable within landscape character area 3b Lucker.

**6-24** With regard to character area 3c Rock, Part C recognises that views from the coastal strip are more likely to be affected by large scale schemes, although the more varied, wooded land cover suggests higher sensitivity. A small part at the eastern edge of this character area lies within the zone of visual sensitivity from Dunstanburgh Castle, and it lies within views from a number of important viewpoints. Consequently commercial scale wind energy proposals are unlikely to be acceptable within landscape character area 3c Rock.

**6-25** The medium to small scale landscape of the Charlton Ridge, its largely unsettled nature with no vertical features and few linear features, suggests little or no capacity to accept commercial-scale wind turbines.

**6-26** The sensitivity and capacity assessments suggest that character areas 10a Rosebrough Moor and 10b Alnwick Moor have the least sensitivity and greatest capacity for commercial-scale wind turbines. Part C recognises that most indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, in particular the simple landform and land cover, and medium-large scale landscape, but that there are also some indicators of increased sensitivity including higher tranquillity and lack of linear features. Part C also recognises that the greater impacts associated with larger-scale proposals increase the sensitivity. The visual

analysis identifies that this character area lies within views to the coast and the AONB from a number of important viewpoints. The landscape contains some prominent masts, and the two wind farms under construction, Middlemoor and Wandylaw, lie within this character area. Cumulative impact of additional wind turbines is a significant concern and should be a key consideration in any wind farm proposals.

**Table 13: Sensitivity and Capacity for Large-scale Turbines; Comparison with the Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study (NKLUIS) Part C**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the wider AONB study area	Sensitivity from NKLUIS Part C		Sensitivity from Table 11 this study	Capacity From Table 12 this study
	Small-scale	Large-scale		
<b>1 Broad River Mouth LCT:</b>				
1a Tweed River Mouth	H	H	AHS	L
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>				
2a Lower Aln	M	H	H	L
2b Lower Coquet	M	H	H	L
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>				
3a Haggerston	H	H	H	L
3b Lucker	M	H	M	M
3c Rock	M	H	M	M
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>				
4b Farne Islands Coast	H	H	AHS	L
4c Craster Coast	H	H	H	L
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>				
5a Holy Island Coast	H	H	AHS	L
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	H	H	H	L
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	H	H	H	L
<b>7 Estate Valley LCT:</b>				
7a Hulne Park	H	H	AHS	L
<b>8 Outcrop Hills and Escarpments LCT:</b>				
8b Kyle and Chillingham Hills	H	H	H	L
8c Charlton Ridge	M	H	H	L
<b>10 Smooth Moorland LCT:</b>				
10a Rosebrough Moor	L	M	M	M
10b Alnwick Moor	L	M	H	M
<b>11 Sandstone Fringe Farmland LCT:</b>				
11a Belford Hills	H	H	H	L
<b>38 Lowland Rolling Farmland LCT:</b>				
38a Longframlington	M	H	M	M

**6-27** Despite Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* indicating a *low* sensitivity of character area 10b Alnwick Moor to small-scale wind power development of five or fewer turbines, it recognises the relative importance of views, and the extensive visibility from farmland to the east and from the coast which suggest some sensitivity. A key sensitivity is its sparsely settled

nature. It just falls within the *high* sensitivity category in accordance with the scoring in Table 11, and only one point off a score of 50 which would put it in the *low* capacity category (the score of *medium* capacity is due to the reduced value and hence increased capacity of being located beyond the AONB and within a landscape where the guiding principle is *manage*, as opposed to protection which offers a greater 'value'). Consequently there is little capacity for commercial-scale wind energy proposals within landscape character area 10b Alnwick Moor.

**6-28** With regard to character area 38a Longframlington, Part C recognises that the variety of land cover, intervisibility with strong links to neighbouring landscapes, and the visibility from transport routes indicate greater sensitivity. It partly lies within views from an important viewpoint, although it is generally a well-settled landscape with prominent masts and pylon lines which tend to reduce sensitivity. Overall the combination of landscape and visual sensitivity is likely to mean that commercial-scale wind energy proposals are unlikely to be acceptable within landscape character area 38a Longframlington.

## 7 SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE DOMESTIC / FARM-SCALE WIND TURBINES

### Introduction

**7-1** In this study 'domestic / farm-scale wind turbines' refers to one or more small-scale turbine(s) with a height of between 15-50 metres (to the tip of the turbine blades). Most small-scale wind turbines of this size typically produce an output of 2.5 – 50 Kilowatt (kW) (in terms of installed capacity) but height, rather than output, is considered the key characteristic in terms of potential landscape and visual impact.

**7-2** Micro-scale turbines, typically below 2.5kW, are usually sited on buildings or within their proximity and do not require planning permission, as long as specified limits and conditions are met.<sup>14</sup> Consequently they are not specifically included in this study.

**7-3** Small domestic-scale turbines are most commonly deployed as single free standing units supplying specific buildings or developments (e.g. farm buildings, schools, small businesses, etc.) although they can also be connected to the national grid. Towards the upper end of this scale, the taller turbines can comprise a horizontal axis three blade rotor system, mounted on a steel mast. However, two blade horizontal turbines and vertical axis structures are more commonly used on smaller domestic-scale turbines.

### Methodology

**7-4** Similar methodology as that used for assessing commercial-scale wind turbine development as described in Section 6 was followed, using the landscape character areas and criteria developed within the NLCA as the basis for assessing landscape sensitivity. To assess the landscape sensitivity of landscape character areas within the AONB, criteria were selected from the list in the NLCA which are considered to indicate the range of sensitivity to small domestic / farm-scale wind turbines.

**7-5** The landscape and visual impacts of small-scale turbines are likely to be more complex and more localised than large-scale commercial wind energy developments. Key landscape characteristics are landform, elevation, land cover and the presence of built elements and other scale indicators in the landscape. Tranquil landscapes with little movement will be affected by the increased rotation of smaller turbine blades.

**7-6** Turbine height should seek to compliment the landscape and be appropriate in scale. Even small turbines can dominate a landscape characterised by small-scale topography, landform and elevation. Turbines could be overbearing on complex or intricate landforms, whilst simple, distinctive ridges and skylines can also be affected if turbines are too dominant. Furthermore, small-scale turbines are likely to be sited closer to settlement or industrial or commercial buildings and infrastructure where scale indicators can affect the level of impact.

**7-7** **Table 14** indicates the criteria adopted to assess sensitivity of the landscape character areas in the AONB, using a three point scale of *high* (red), *moderate* (orange) and *low* (green) sensitivity.

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<sup>14</sup> See The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2011 <http://legislation.gov.uk/uk/2011/2056/ade>

**Table 14: Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Small Domestic/Farm-Scale Wind Turbines**

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
<b>Land Cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-Large	Medium	Medium-Small	Small
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self-contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban area	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties e.g. farmsteads
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None

<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
<b>QUALITATIVE CRITERIA</b>					
<b>Condition</b>	Not a key characteristic				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape, with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area

Key	
Low sensitivity	
Moderate sensitivity	
High sensitivity	

## Sensitivity Assessment

**7-8** Table 15 records the sensitivity assessment for each character area within the AONB as *high*, *moderate* or *low* in accordance with the definitions taken from Table C1.1 in Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* as described in paragraph 4-9.

**7-9** Overall sensitivity of each landscape character area was assessed in a similar way as the assessment of overall sensitivity of character areas in the wider study area to commercial-scale wind farm development. A three-point scoring range was used (considered more appropriate to the likely scale of impact on the AONB than the five-point range used in the assessment of large-scale turbines) where *high*=5, *moderate*=3 and *low*=1. This gives a scoring range of 18-90, with a mid-range score of 36. A total score of 24 or less is evaluated as *low* sensitivity, a score of 25-47 is evaluated as *moderate* sensitivity, and a score of 48 or more is evaluated as *high* sensitivity. The results of the scoring assessment are shown in **Table 16** and illustrated in **Figure 10**. A 'traffic light' colour coding is used again to enable cross-referencing between Table 16 and Figure 10, where red is *high* sensitivity, orange is *moderate* sensitivity and green is *low* sensitivity.

**Table 15: Assessing Landscape Sensitivity to Small Domestic/Farm-Scale Wind Turbines using Characteristics from the NLCA**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within or adjacent to the AONB	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Criteria																	
	L1 Landform	L2 Land cover	L3 Scale	L4 Enclosure	L5 Skylines	L6 Views & landmarks	L7 Intervisibility	L8 Receptors	L9 Movement	L10 Remoteness	L11 Settlement	L12 Industry	L13 Vertical Features	L14 Linear Features	L15 Historic Features	L16 Recreation	L17 Distinctiveness	L18 Rarity
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>																		
2a Lower Aln	L	L	M	L	L	M	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	H	M
2b Lower Coquet	L	L	L	L	M	H	M	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	M	M	H	H
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>																		
3a Haggerston	M	M	H	M	M	H	M	M	L	M	L	L	M	L	M	M	H	L
3b Lucker	M	M	H	M	M	H	L	M	L	M	L	L	L	L	H	L	H	L
3c Rock	M	L	H	L	M	M	L	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	M	M	H	L
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>																		
4b Farne Islands Coast	H	L	M	L	L	H	M	H	L	M	L	L	M	L	H	H	H	H
4c Craster Coast	L	L	L	L	L	H	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	L	H	H	M	M
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>																		
5a Holy Island Coast	L	M	H	M	M	H	M	H	M	M	L	L	H	L	H	H	H	H
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	L	L	M	L	L	H	M	L	M	M	L	L	H	L	H	M	M	M
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	M	L	M	M	M	H	M	H	L	L	L	L	M	L	H	H	H	H

**Table 16: Assessing Landscape Sensitivity to Small Domestic/Farm-Scale Wind Turbines**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within or adjacent to the AONB	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Criteria																		Score	Sensitivity
	L1 Landform	L2 Land cover	L3 Scale	L4 Enclosure	L5 Skylines	L6 Views & landmarks	L7 Intervisibility	L8 Receptors	L9 Movement	L10 Remoteness	L11 Settlement	L12 Industry	L13 Vertical Features	L14 Linear Features	L15 Historic Features	L16 Recreation	L17 Distinctiveness	L18 Rarity		
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>																				
2a Lower Aln	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	5	3	36	M
2b Lower Coquet	1	1	1	1	3	5	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	5	5	40	M
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>																				
3a Haggerston	3	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	3	5	1	50	H
3b Lucker	3	3	5	3	3	5	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	5	1	5	1	46	M
3c Rock	3	1	5	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	5	1	38	M
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>																				
4b Farne Islands Coast	5	1	3	1	1	5	3	5	1	3	1	1	3	1	5	5	5	5	54	H
4c Craster Coast	1	1	1	1	1	5	3	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	5	5	3	3	44	M
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>																				
5a Holy Island Coast	1	3	5	3	3	5	3	5	3	3	1	1	5	1	5	5	5	5	62	H
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	1	1	3	1	1	5	3	1	3	3	1	1	5	1	5	3	3	3	44	M
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	3	1	3	3	3	5	3	5	1	1	1	1	3	1	5	5	5	5	54	H

Character Area Sensitivity Scoring: Low=1; Moderate=3; High=5

Overall Sensitivity Scoring: 24 or less=Low; 25-47=Moderate; 48 or more=High

## Capacity Assessment

**7-10** The capacity of each landscape character area was assessed in a similar way as the assessment of overall capacity of character areas in the wider study area to accommodate commercial-scale wind farm development, as described in Section 6. Weighting factors to reflect landscape value have been applied to enable a judgement on capacity, which reflects the approach taken in Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* in adopting the ‘guiding principle’ for each character area from Part B of the NLCA, defined as *protect*, *manage* or *plan* (as described in paragraphs 3-10 to 3-16) as a weighting factor to reflect the likely value of each character area. Thus landscapes identified for *protection* have a weighting of 5, those for *management* have a weighting of 3 and those for *planning* have a weighting of 1. The use of the weighting factor in Part D has been adopted in this study to reflect the nature of the guiding principle, in that those areas identified for landscape *planning* are more likely to be of lower quality, or value, at present, and therefore subject to change, than those identified for *protection*.

**7-11** A further weighting factor is applied to reflect the added value of those character areas located entirely within the designated AONB, which are assigned an additional value of 1, whilst those character areas predominantly outside the AONB have no additional weighting. This reflects the methodology within Part C of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* in which greater weight is given to those character areas which lie within protected landscapes.

**7-12** Applying the weighting factors increases the scoring range to 19-96, with a mid-range score of 77. A total score of 26 or less is evaluated as *high* capacity, a score of 27-51 is evaluated as *medium* capacity, and a score of 52 or more is evaluated as *low* capacity.

**7-13** **Table 17** shows the assessment of landscape capacity of the AONB to accommodate small domestic-scale wind turbines. This is illustrated in **Figure 11**, with a similar ‘traffic light’ colour coding being adopted to enable easy cross-referencing with Table 17 where red is *low* capacity, orange is *medium* capacity and green is *high* capacity.

**7-14** From Table 17 it can be seen that the capacity assessment mirrors the sensitivity assessment, in that areas of *high* sensitivity have *low* capacity, and all other areas have *moderate* sensitivity and *medium* capacity. No landscape character areas are assessed as having *high* capacity.

**7-15** Four character areas have *low* capacity where small-scale wind turbines would be inappropriate. These are areas 3a Haggerston, 4b Farne Islands Coast, 5a Holy Island Coast and 5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries. The remaining 6 areas have *medium* capacity, but the weighted scores for two of these are very close to 52 which would put them in the *low* capacity category; these are character areas 4c Craster Coast and 5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays. These also have little or no capacity to accept wind turbine development due to their location within the AONB and where the guiding principle is protection of the landscape.

**7-16** The remaining four character areas with *medium* capacity are areas 2a Lower Aln, 2b Lower Coquet, 3b Lucker and 3c Rock. These all lie outside the AONB where the guiding principle is management of the landscape rather than protection. There may be some opportunity for small-scale domestic wind turbines where impact on the key landscape characteristics is not significant and where important views are maintained. Landform and vegetation can be important in screening small-scale wind turbines.

**Table 17: Assessing Landscape Capacity to Accommodate Small Domestic/Farm-Scale Wind Turbines**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within or adjacent to the AONB	Sensitivity / Score From Table 16	Weighting to reflect added value		Weighted Score	Capacity
		Located within the AONB	'Guiding principle' from NLCA		
<b>2 Coastal Incised Valley LCT:</b>					
2a Lower Aln	M / 36	No + 0	Manage + 3	39	M
2b Lower Coquet	M / 40	No + 0	Manage + 3	43	M
<b>3 Farmed Coastal Plain LCT:</b>					
3a Haggerston	H / 50	No + 0	Manage + 3	53	L
3b Lucker	M / 46	No + 0	Manage + 3	49	M
3c Rock	M / 38	No + 0	Manage + 3	41	M
<b>4 Rocky Coastline LCT:</b>					
4b Farne Islands Coast	H / 54	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	60	L
4c Craster Coast	M / 44	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	50	M
<b>5 Sandy Coastline LCT:</b>					
5a Holy Island Coast	H / 62	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	68	L
5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays	M / 44	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	50	M
5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries	H / 54	Yes + 1	Protect + 5	60	L

**Total Weighted Capacity Scoring:** 26 or less=High; 27-51=Medium; 52 or more=Low

**7-17** The sensitivity and capacity assessment of small-scale domestic wind turbines in this study is not comparable to the assessment of sensitivity to small-scale wind power development in the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part C Landscape Sensitivity to key Land Uses* which assesses sensitivity to wind farms with five or fewer turbines irrespective of height. Hence that assessment is more comparable to the assessment of large-scale turbines in Section 6 as discussed above.

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## **8 SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY OF SETTLEMENTS WITHIN THE AONB TO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

### **Introduction**

**8-1** The objective of this part of the assessment is to assist in guiding future housing development within the AONB. The Northumberland Local Development Plan, Core Strategy, Preferred Options (February 2013), in response to stakeholder engagement and the provisions of national policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012), sets out a simplified spatial strategy whereby differentiation between lower tiers of settlement is not made. Consequently, for the AONB the emerging plan (Policy 2) now directs development primarily to Seahouses as a 'Service Centre' (as well as to 'main towns' and service centres outside the AONB, such as Amble and Berwick-upon-Tweed). Residual need for development will be permitted in 'other settlements' across the area which:

- a. Is of an appropriate scale for the size of the development;
- b. Maintains and enhances local services and facilities, including those outside the particular settlement in which the development will be located;
- c. Meets defined needs; and
- d. Protects the countryside from widespread new development.

**8-2** This study acknowledges that this is emerging policy only and may vary significantly by the time of adoption. However, it remains the most pertinent expression of council policy at the time of study and has been prepared in the context of the NPPF. This report does not seek to provide further interpretation of the scale or distribution of development this policy may effectively support across the AONB.

**8-3** It is important to also consider the provisions of other policies across the emerging plan in anticipating likely growth scenarios. Policy 3 of the emerging plan sets out objectives for the North Northumberland Delivery Area, within which the AONB wholly lies. This policy builds upon Policy 2 by recognising the role of Seahouses as a service centre for the rural area. It goes on to repeat that development in other settlements will be supported where it meets the same criteria as set out in policy 2 (above).

**8-4** The policy goes on to reaffirm that isolated new development in the open countryside should be avoided save in exceptional circumstances.

**8-5** Importantly for this study, Policy 3 states that within the AONB, new development must serve to conserve and enhance its special qualities through sensitive design and siting.

**8-6** Emerging housing Policy 9 of the preferred options plan sets a permissive context for the development of affordable housing sites adjacent to any settlement where other uses may not normally be permitted. This position remains open to interpretation, and the overall loss of certainty compared to previous plans is compounded by an absence of housing delivery targets for the North Northumberland Delivery area, in which the AONB wholly falls. These will be developed in the next iteration of the plan.

## Assumptions

**8-7** In this emerging policy context this assessment has been undertaken on the assumption that new housing development across the AONB will be limited as follows:

- a. Development of new housing which serves to meet more than the identified needs of the settlement itself will only be permitted in Seahouses (including North Sunderland);
- b. Housing development across the other settlements of the AONB will be limited (in most circumstances) to small scale schemes on the edge of settlements which are of a scale to reflect local need for new housing. This means development which is clearly modest in scale for the main villages of (listed from north to south):
  - i. Lindisfarne;
  - ii. Bamburgh;
  - iii. Beadnell;
  - iv. Embleton;
  - v. Craster;
  - vi. Longhoughton;
  - vii. Boulmer;
  - viii. Lesbury and Hipsburn
  - ix. Alnmouth; and
  - x. Warkworth.

**8-8** For other smaller settlements across the AONB this report assumes policy would restrict development to that tightly limited in scale and be of a nature (use, design, materials, landscaping) that precludes inclusion within this strategic landscape capacity study.

**8-9** Housing development within the AONB in the open countryside, i.e. sites clearly outside (and not on the 'edge of') the above listed settlements and other smaller settlements is considered to be limited by emerging policy save in exceptional circumstances. In addition, this report recognises that the character and value afforded to the AONB's designated landscape further emphasises that there would be a presumption against housing development in the open countryside.

**8-10** The assessment does not consider small-scale infill, alterations, extensions or conversions of existing buildings.

**8-11** Assumption is made that all housing developments would comply with guidance contained within the Northumberland Coast AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment. In doing so it would always be of a suitable scale, well designed and well related to the coastal landscape setting.

**8-12** In establishing the above policy context and development assumptions, the assessment of settlement capacity for housing across the AONB has been based upon the considerations set out in the following paragraphs.

## Approach and Methodology

**8-13** The study provides a comprehensive analysis of the 10 selected settlements in the AONB to assess the relative sensitivities of their landscape surroundings. Each settlement was analysed and assessed based on a combination of desk study and fieldwork, considering settlement character,

boundaries and the character and sensitivity of the surrounding landscape to potential housing development. The assessment provides guidance at the strategic scale but does not provide a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of each settlement.

**8-14** The study draws on the NLCA and field survey. It follows the methodology within the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, September 2010; Part A Landscape Sensitivity at Settlement Edges*, which itself draws on the LCA. Relative landscape sensitivity was assessed based on a range of criteria. Judgements of sensitivity have not been explicitly recorded, but areas of higher or lower sensitivity to housing development are described and illustrated on accompanying sketch maps for each settlement.

**8-15** Settlement character and identity is addressed by considering the scale, form and pattern of the settlement, building character, key features and transport routes, settlement setting, boundaries, approaches and views. The character of the surrounding landscape, features and qualities are considered by reference to the record of key landscape characteristics in the NLCA Part A and the descriptions of key qualities of relevant LCTs in the NLCA Part B.

### Criteria to Assess Settlement Sensitivity

**8-16** For each settlement the following questions were posed in order to meet the requirements of the brief to consider constraints to development, opportunities for landscape enhancement / mitigation, and delivery of the recommendations within the NLCA Part B:

- A. Constraints to Development:
  - (i) Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?
  - (ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?
  - (iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from Important Viewpoints?
  - (iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?
  
- B. Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation:
  - (i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?
  
- C. Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B:
  - (i) Would new housing affect or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?

### Settlement Assessments

**8-17** Seahouses and the 10 main villages within the AONB listed in paragraph 8-7 are assessed in the following pages in order, from north to south. A map is provided for each settlement at the end of the assessment to accompany the text; **Figures 12 – 22.**

## Lindisfarne and Holy Island

### Landscape Context

Lindisfarne is located within landscape character area 5a *Holy Island Coast*, within the wider *Sandy Coastline* LCT 5.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Holy Island Coast* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Broad sweeping coast and sands
Land cover	Much variety in land cover resulting in mosaic effect	Sands, dunes and arable farmland
Scale	Medium-large	Broad sweeping sands and coast
Enclosure	Generally open, enclosed in places	Generally open, enclosure in bays
Skylines	Largely simple, some variety	Gently undulating landward skylines, seaward views more varied
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views	Holy Island and Lindisfarne Castle distinctive landmarks
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility focused on Holy Island
Receptors	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes	Views from mainline railway and A1, and tourist destination
Movement	Quite, limited movement	Movement on local roads
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Important tourist destination and activity reduces sense of remoteness
Settlement	Occasional villages/hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Settlement limited to Lindisfarne and frequent farmsteads
Industry	No industrial influence	No industrial features
Vertical features	None	No tall vertical features such as communication masts or pylons
Linear features	Few linear features	Linear features limited to local roads
Historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape	Lindisfarne Castle and village important features
Recreation	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction	Important tourist destination and attraction
Condition	Well managed landscape	Well managed coastal landscape
Distinctiveness	Distinctive to Northumberland	Landform and historic Lindisfarne Castle make this a distinctive landscape
Rarity	A unique landscape within the area	Coastal island and castle are unique within Northumberland

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Sweeping views across the seascape and along the coastline
- Prominence of historic features as landmarks
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development
- Intact sand dune and saltmarsh habitats

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

The village lies in a unique landscape and heritage setting, and as such presents especially sensitive context for accommodating additional housing needs. Insensitive siting and design of new housing would clearly present significant risk in relation to the established character of the Island and of the AONB's special character, qualities and landscape features.

However, there may be potential for sensitive development on limited sites if significant harm to established character and the special landscape features and qualities of the AONB could be avoided. The anticipated scale of development necessary to meet local need (as prescribed by the spatial policy context) would be *unlikely* to present inherently detrimental impacts upon these recognised special qualities should the suite of planning policy for siting, landscape and design be applied. Proposals for housing development (reflecting local needs) should nevertheless be subject to the detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of how new housing may impact upon the characteristic openness of the landscape within which the village stands, and particularly in respect to any impact upon the character of the historic core of the village and on its twin iconic heritage assets, the Castle and Priory ruins.

Landscape and heritage constraints can be seen to be significant to most parts of the settlement's periphery. In particular, views from the mainland to the southern and western edges of the village are important whilst the Priory and its village edge setting on its southern edge is of national importance. The village's eastern fringe is particularly important in respect to its relationship with Lindisfarne Castle. In particular this relates to the open space between the village and castle which establishes its prominent setting and separation from the village which should not be encroached upon. Furthermore, the open space between village and castle affords important views in all directions along this historically important visitor route. The village when viewed from the castle sits tightly between sea and priory across very gently rising ground. Its eastern edge presents highly attractive views across the interface between landscape, seascape and the historic village.

Historic character is somewhat diminished across the northern fringe of the settlement, particularly along Chare Ends, although the wider landscape context remains distinctive and sensitive, and views in to the village on approach from the causeway are very important as a gateway to the village and its great heritage assets.

(ii) *Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

Delivery of new housing should have full regard to the historic settlement form and street pattern. The village lies across gently rising land and consequently roofscapes and building heights are important in the settlement's character and distinctiveness. New development should not serve to challenge visually the elevated ruins of the priory or church, nor serve to interrupt vistas from within the village to the castle and/or sea which are important characteristics. Open spaces are important to local character to the western fringe of the village.

(iii) *Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

The whole of the village setting falls within the zone of visual sensitivity to the iconic castle and priory. Any development would have the *potential* for significant impact on the settings of the iconic features, and all development proposals should be scrutinized in relation to such potential impacts as discussed above.

The village falls within the view cones of several identified important viewpoints:

- Farne Islands
- Galliheugh Bank
- Halidon Hill
- Cocklawburn Beach, and
- Greensheen Hill.

Housing development is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence on the low-lying island to present significant harmful landscape impacts from these viewpoints, the majority of which are at significant distance from the village. Some potential for visual prominence may exist in relation to Galliheugh Bank, although vistas from this point on the mainland are directed to the south and western edge of the settlement where heritage consideration and important open spaces would suggest development would not fall within those areas.

(iv) *Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

Other key viewpoints identified by this study which may afford vistas to the settlement include:

- Chesterhill
- East Hill, Waren Mill
- Buddle Point
- Beal
- Fenhamhill; and
- Emmanuel Head / Lindisfarne Pyramid.

Views into the village are possible from important viewpoints on the mainland. Chesterhill, Buddle Point and East Hill offer comparable views as those considered in relation the Galliheugh Bank (above) and are of a distance and direction unlikely to be affected by the scale and likely location of any new housing on the island. Views from the west around Beal and Fenhamhill are also distant and not likely to be harmed by the scale of likely housing development.

Views to the village from Emmanuel Head on the northern point of the island are slightly elevated and afford views southwards across generally open and low-lying farmland with low enclosure and very limited tree and hedge cover. However by function of distance and the scale and type of development likely to be permissible in policy, in combination with the existence of a broken village profile with some vegetation screening, new development to the northern fringe of the settlement would be highly unlikely to present demonstrable landscape harm from this viewpoint.

A number of routes identified as presenting important views extend around the mainland in relative proximity to Holy Island. These present intermittent vistas towards Holy Island which are comparable to those identified as Important Viewpoints. Hence it is unlikely that development of housing addressing local needs on Holy Island would be detrimental to vistas from sensitive routes on the mainland.

The Causeway, and route through Holy Island to the castle have also been identified as sensitive routes. Views to the village from the causeway are limited by distance and terrain until close to the northern fringe of the settlement where village character is most diluted, despite it being the only entry point from the mainland. Vistas from the road from the village to the castle have previously been considered in relation to the character and iconic feature view cones (above).

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

- (i) *Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

Modest housing development is likely to be directed towards the north and north-eastern fringes of the existing settlements as a consequence of the high landscape and heritage sensitivity of most of the settlement's edge. Sites such as west of Chare End and on the car park north of Green Lane may offer the least harmful locations for new development in the context of the AONB's special qualities. In addition the car-park site offers potential for particularly well integrated, small scale housing development which could strengthen settlement character and reflect historic street pattern. Housing development would be unlikely to offer significant potential for any wider landscape enhancement apart from any screening it may present from more sensitive parts of the village environs of the less sensitive housing and community buildings which extend northwards along Chare End.

Additional planting in the form of indigenous trees and hedges, reflecting local character would be possible through new housing as appropriate, although this should not serve to diminish important vistas out of the village or significantly alter the balance of trees and openness in the village's landscape setting.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

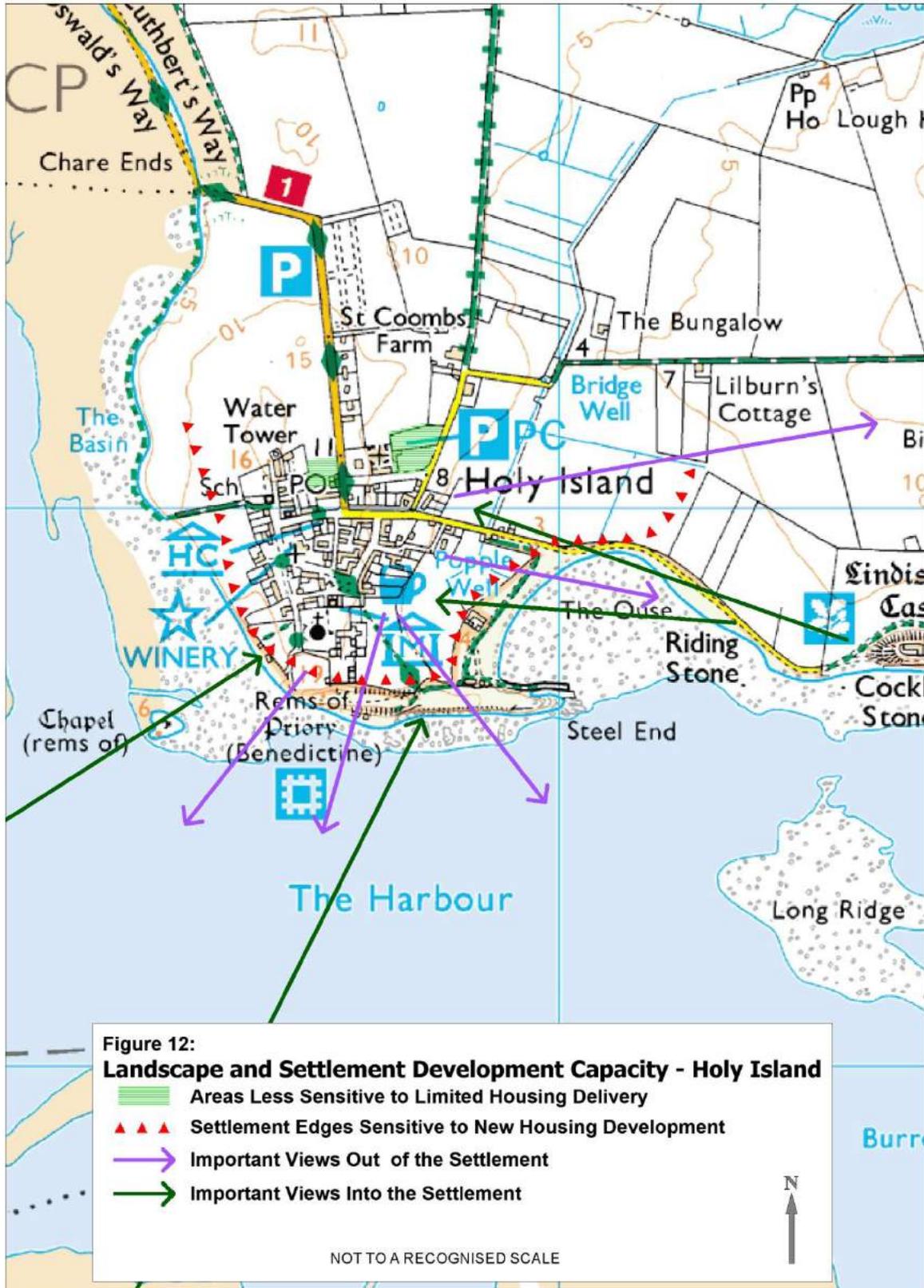
The guiding principle for this LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement in the NLCA Part B to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims for this landscape should be to conserve and enhance the key qualities of the landscape and adjacent seascape, and make their on-going custodianship sustainable. The landscape should be managed to integrate conservation of the natural and cultural heritage resource, with sensitive development of infrastructure for tourism, and good freedom of access and preservation of the open sea and coastal views.*

Subject to appropriate application of planning policy, landscape and other considerations, the scale and nature of potentially appropriate housing development at Lindisfarne would be most unlikely to inherently compromise protection of the Sandy Coastline's special qualities, such as the undeveloped coastline, historic village setting and features, key views into and out of the village. In doing so the special 'sense of place' which is especially tangible in Holy Island may be safeguarded.

Opportunity would exist for modest delivery of housing on the edge of the settlement of Holy Island without compromising aspirations for the LCT. In doing so modest opportunity for enhancement of the relationship of the settlement to its landscape setting is presented, but wider enhancement of landscape character would be limited.



## Bamburgh

### Landscape Context

Bamburgh is located within landscape character area 4b *Farne Islands Coast*, within the wider *Rocky Coastline* LCT 4.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Farne Islands Coast* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Complex, strong topographical variety	Sandy bays, islands and rocky headlands
Land cover	Varied, but lacking complexity	Beaches, dunes and farmland
Scale	Medium	Focus on coastal edge and seaward views
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Some open areas and some enclosure within bays
Skylines	Varied	Headlands and rocky outcrops, although gentle rise inland
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views	Bamburgh Castle and Farne Islands provide important features
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Some intervisibility, influenced by coastal aspect and rocky headlands
Receptors	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.	Settlements and transport routes provide high level of receptors
Movement	Occasional to frequent movement	Frequent use by visitors of coastal transport routes
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Towns and coast important for visitors
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Several villages
Industry	No industrial influence	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Few vertical features	Bamburgh castle on distinctive rise
Linear features	Few linear features	Local roads and coastal edge
Historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape	Bamburgh castle forms a distinctive landmark
Recreation	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction	Bamburgh castle, beach and towns are important for recreation
Condition	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Coastal landscape under pressure from tourism development
Distinctiveness	Distinctive to Northumberland	Bamburgh Castle, coast and islands distinctive
Rarity	A unique landscape within the area	Combination of castle, coast and islands is unique

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Exposed coastal location, with dramatic views along the coast and out to sea
- Prominent natural and cultural coastal features including castles and the Farne Islands
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development.

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Bamburgh lies in a unique landscape and heritage setting, and as such presents especially sensitive context for accommodating additional housing needs. Insensitive siting and design of new housing would clearly present significant risk in relation to the established character of the settlement and of the AONB's special character, qualities and landscape. The village is an important tourist destination and maintenance of its special qualities is critical to its sustainable development.

The scale of housing to come forward through the emerging development plan may however be modest. At a strategic level the key qualities of the Rocky Coastline LCT are unlikely to be seriously compromised as a consequence. Nevertheless, new housing almost anywhere in Bamburgh present a risk at the local level upon its special character.

There may be potential for housing development on very limited parts of the village periphery where significant harm to established character and the special landscape features and qualities of the AONB could be avoided. The sensitivity of the village and the opportunity for views from elevated positions on and around the castle, and important views towards it on approaches to the village, means that such capacity is quite severely restricted in landscape terms, even for the anticipated modest scale of development necessary to meet local need (as prescribed by the spatial policy context). Careful identification of sites and robust application of the suite of planning policy for siting, landscape and design is essential if Bamburgh's very special landscape and built environment qualities are to be conserved. Proposals for housing development should be subject to the detailed landscape and visual impact assessment with emphasis on how new housing may impact upon the characteristic relationship of the village to its wider setting and particularly in respect to the character of its historic core and on its relationship with the castle and important open spaces therein.

Landscape, built environment and heritage constraints can be seen to be significant to most parts of the settlement's periphery. In particular, views from the south-eastern, south-western and western approaches to the village, are critical to the village's special character and qualities, particularly with respect to the visual dominance of the Castle and how vistas open and close to it along these approaches. Whilst the castle and its prominence are central to the special character of the village,

the well-integrated transition between surrounding farmland and coastal environs and the sometimes loosely defined built extent of Bamburgh its open spaces are also important to local distinctiveness.

In this context development which: threatens the balance of open space and built area; is incongruous on the settlement fringe; or impedes upon important views into and out of the settlement would be likely to have a harmful impact upon local special qualities. Sites around Bamburgh capable of accommodating housing development, even to a modest scale are consequently limited.

The western fringe of the village has extended over recent years between the B1341 and B1342, although recent housing in this area at Radcliffe Park now presents a relatively sensitive interface between open countryside and the village. To the south-east of the B1341, vistas of the castle are dramatic and relatively free from interruption because of a break and fall in relief to the east. Subsequently development in this area would present significant risk to the special character of the village. Approaches from the south-east are in close proximity to the castle, and open fields to the west are important to its setting, although this is harmed visually by the car park. Approaches to the village from the north-west afford intermittent views to the castle, but the church of St Aidan and important open space, particularly on the coastal side, are also fundamental to the character of the village itself, as well as being increasingly important to the setting of the castle as distance is reduced. The village environs immediately north of the castle are characterised by the close proximity to the dunes and beach, and further development in this area may serve to dilute historic settlement form by consolidating sporadic inter-war ribbon development along the Wynding.

Opportunities to accommodate modest housing development are therefore limited in landscape terms to small, scattered infill sites around Bamburgh. Some capacity on its south-western fringe may present some limited opportunity for small scale new housing, but significant attention should be afforded to village form and the prominence of the sites from the castle, and views to it. For example, a tightly enclosed continuation of development to the south of Lindisfarne Avenue may limit landscape impact and reflect village form, but would demand high design standards. Impacts upon the historic dovecote and its setting would also be important considerations in this location. Landscape capacity for limited growth may also exist to the west as a modest continuation of the Radcliffe Park development. However, particular attention would need to be afforded to design and materials and also to boundary details.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

Delivery of new housing on the periphery of the village or in open space within it should have full regard to the historic settlement form and street pattern, although this will be challenging. The western parts of the village lie gently rising land and consequently roofscapes and building heights are important in the settlement's character and distinctiveness, particularly from the castle. New development should not serve to break the gentle ridgeline south of the B1341 which affords views to the castle from the south-west, nor serve to interrupt vistas from within the village to the castle and/or towards the dunes and sea which are important characteristics. Open spaces are important to local character across much of the village.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

The whole of the village and its setting falls within the zone of visual sensitivity to the iconic castle. Any development would have the *potential* for significant visual impact on it and all development proposals should be scrutinized in relation to the potential for this. The eastern fringe of the village, primarily the castle and shoreline/dunes fall within the zone of visual sensitivity to Lindisfarne Castle and Priory. However, at this distance, and having regard to the likely scale of development and the priority afforded to avoiding harm to the castle's immediate setting, the likelihood of harm to that zone are considered negligible.

Bamburgh lies within the view cones of several identified important viewpoints:

- Halidon Hill;
- Cocklawburn Beach;
- Galliheugh Bank;
- Farne Islands;
- Greensheen Hill;
- Ros Castle; and
- CATERAN Hill.

Modest housing development is highly unlikely to be of a scale or prominence across the village to present harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints, the majority of which are at significant distance from the village and/ or are screened by intervening landform or features. Some potential for visual prominence may exist in relation to the Farne Islands, but only for development north of the castle along the Wynding. Vistas from this point to the mainland are however limited and at distance.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

Other key viewpoints identified by this study which may afford vistas to the settlement include:

- Glororum

Views into or across the village are possible from the important viewpoint at Galliheugh Bank to the west and Glororum crossroads to the south-west. Chesterhill offers splendid views over the village and to the castle and islands beyond, and the sensitivities of such vistas are considered in preceding paragraphs. Glororum crossroads offers a spectacular first view of the Castle on approaches to the village, but the village itself is of very limited prominence in the vista as a consequence of falling relief. The importance of resisting development which occupies land across or above the break in slope on this edge of the village is pertinent in respect to this viewpoint.

All roads leading into Bamburgh are identified as being sensitive and present important views. The significance of vistas into and across the village from these has been addressed in the preceding paragraphs, and underlines the overall sensitivity of Bamburgh to new development.

## Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation

- (i) *Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

This study suggests that modest housing development may be best directed towards the south-western and southern periphery of the village in relation to conserving its special qualities. The intrinsic landscape character in these areas may be considered to be less significant than the built and historic characteristics of the village and particularly the dramatic castle and coastline with island seascape beyond. Limited opportunity exists to enhance wider landscape character therefore. However, well located and sensitively designed modest housing developments should seek to enhance the relationship of the village within its rural setting by ensuring boundary treatments, landscaping and orientation of buildings and rooflines reflect established character.

Limited enhancement of the existing, relatively recent interface between new housing and the rolling arable landscape of the western edge of Bamburgh may be secured through additional housing in this area north of the B1341.

## Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B

- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

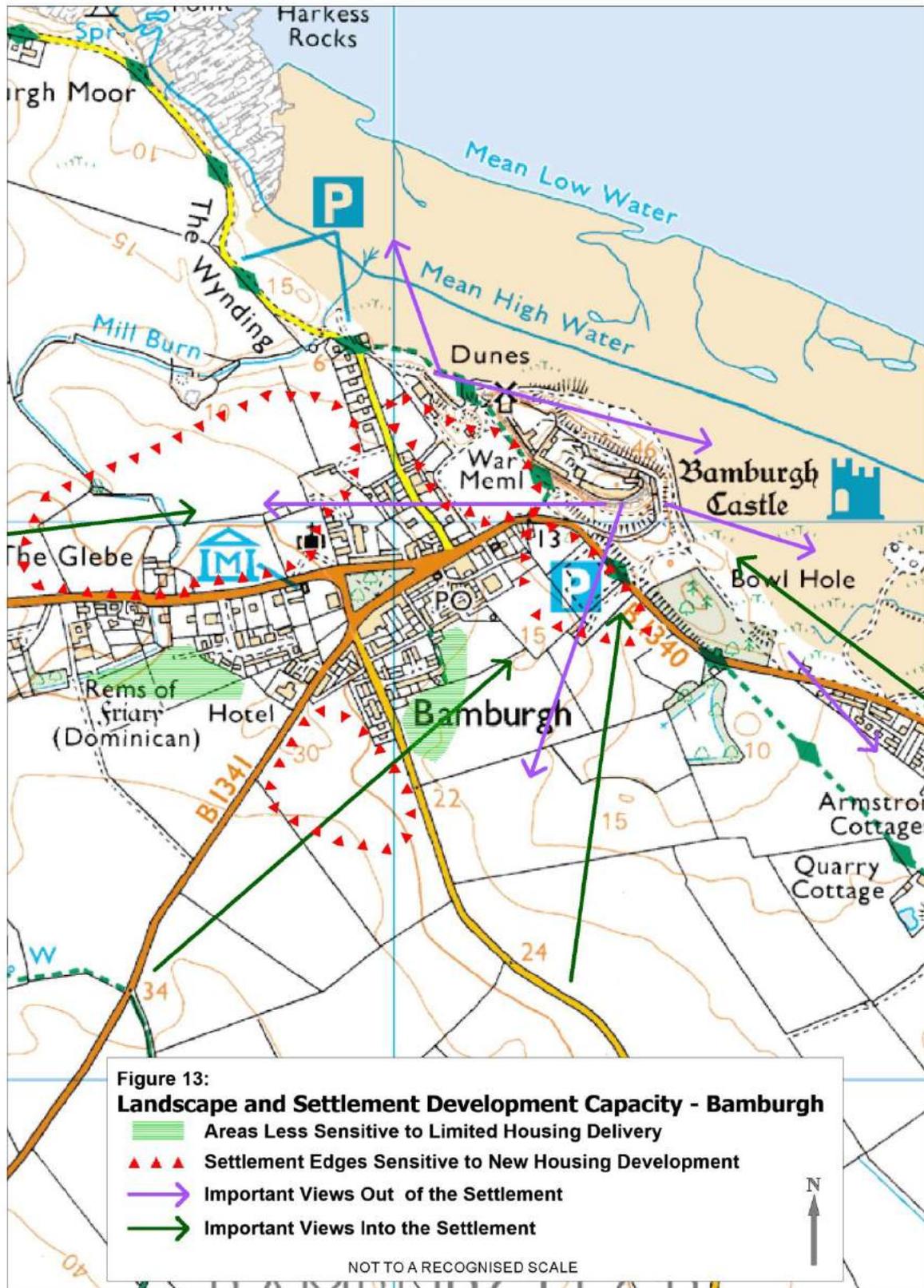
The guiding principle for this LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement in the NLCA Part B to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to arrest the erosion of character and loss of condition of landscape elements where this has occurred, and in so doing raise the general quality of the landscape. The coastal landscape and adjacent seascape is a key element of Northumberland's tourist economy, and requires a degree of protection.*

Subject to appropriate application of planning policy, landscape and other considerations as examined above, the scale and nature of potentially appropriate housing development at Bamburgh would be most unlikely to inherently compromise protection of the Rocky Coastline's special qualities, such as the undeveloped coastline, historic village setting and features, key views into and out of the village. In doing so the special 'sense of place' which is dominant around and within Bamburgh should be safeguarded.

Limited opportunity does exist for modest delivery of housing on the edge of the settlement of Bamburgh without compromising aspirations for the LCT. In doing so modest opportunity for enhancement of the relationship of the settlement to its landscape setting is presented, but wider enhancement of landscape character would be limited.



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## Seahouses (and North Sunderland)

*Seahouses and North Sunderland are identified within the emerging Northumberland Local Development plan as a 'Key Service Centre'. Consequently the settlement is identified to be a focus for meeting needs arising from the local area, reflecting its relative level of services in comparison to other settlements in the AONB. Housing needs arising in the local area will therefore be focused towards Seahouses to a greater extent than the other villages considered in this study. The scale of growth proposed for housing over the plan period had yet to be developed in preparing this report.*

### Landscape Context

Seahouses is located within landscape character area 4b *Farne Islands Coast*, within the wider *Rocky Coastline* LCT 4. North Sunderland lies within the adjoining landscape character area 3b *Lucker*, within the *Farmed Coastal Plain* LCT3.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the ***Farne Islands Coast*** landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Complex, strong topographical variety	Sandy bays, islands and rocky headlands
Land cover	Varied, but lacking complexity	Beaches, dunes and farmland
Scale	Medium	Focus on coastal edge and seaward views
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Some open areas and some enclosure within bays
Skylines	Varied	Headlands and rocky outcrops, although gentle rise inland
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views	Bamburgh Castle and Farne Islands provide important features
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Some intervisibility, influenced by coastal aspect and rocky headlands
Receptors	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.	Settlements and transport routes provide high level of receptors
Movement	Occasional to frequent movement	Frequent use by visitors of coastal transport routes
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Towns and coast important for visitors
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Several villages
Industry	No industrial influence	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Few vertical features	Bamburgh castle on distinctive rise
Linear features	Few linear features	Local roads and coastal edge
Historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape	Bamburgh castle forms a distinctive landmark
Recreation	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction	Bamburgh castle, beach and towns are important for recreation

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Condition	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Coastal landscape under pressure from tourism development
Distinctiveness	Distinctive to Northumberland	Bamburgh Castle, coast and islands distinctive
Rarity	A unique landscape within the area	Combination of castle, coast and islands is unique

The key landscape characteristics for the **Lucker** landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Simple, with occasional variety	Flat or gently rolling farmland
Land cover	Simple, with occasional variety	Predominantly arable with occasional woodland
Scale	Medium-large	Large scale fields
Enclosure	Generally open, enclosed in places	Gentle variation in topography, some enclosure by shelterbelts in places.
Skylines	Largely simple, some variety	Limited variation in topography, some woodland
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	No views or landmark features
Intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Topography limits intervisibility
Receptors	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Landscape crossed by mainline railway and local roads between villages
Movement	Occasional to frequent movement	Occasional movement on local roads and railway
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Farmed landscape with small villages
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Frequent small villages and farmsteads
Industry	Very limited, small scale industry	Mainline railway and farm buildings
Vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Mobile phone masts, large agricultural buildings and silos and quarry at Belford Station
Linear features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Mainline railway and local roads
Historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape	Few prominent historic features, some policy woodlands
Recreation	Low level informal or local recreational use	Network of local footpaths
Condition	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Lack of management as a result of agricultural intensification
Distinctiveness	Representative landscape or Northumberland	Not distinctive but representative of lowland agricultural landscape
Rarity	A common landscape across the area	A lowland agricultural landscape

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 4: **Rocky Coastline** as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Exposed coastal location, with dramatic views along the coast and out to sea
- Prominent natural and cultural coastal features including castles and the Farne Islands.
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs.
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development.

The key qualities of LCT 3: **Farmed Coastal Plain** as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Farmsteads of traditional vernacular architecture, with brick industrial farm chimneys
- Shelterbelts of mature beech and pine
- Estate landscapes and associated semi-natural and plantation woodland
- Coastal character, with views to the sea and coastal features and landmarks.

## Constraints to Development

- (i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Seahouses is a small 18th century port which has expanded inland in all directions from the distinctive harbour and historic village core. It is a focus for tourist and visitor attractions, particularly in relation to its role as gateway to the Farne Islands. With the exception of the immediate harbour area, which remains a working and functional place, the built environment of Seahouses is unexceptional, with significant growth occurring over the mid and late 20th century. North Sunderland is a separate settlement in its own right but is very closely related physically to Seahouses and effectively represents the western most element of the built up area. It does retain more of a distinct and characterful historic core, reflecting its past role as a small agricultural settlement, although this has been subsumed with mid-to-late 20th century housing development.

The landscape context of Seahouses' historic core is of note in relation to its coastal setting, nestling tightly around a semi-natural haven within the immediate rocky coastline. It lies across a low rocky promontory, contrasting with the sandy beaches and dune systems characteristic to the landscape immediately north and south of the town. The promontory presents a slightly raised area which is modest in elevation but significant in the context of its coastal plain setting, and is prominent on approaches from the south along the B1340. To the north of the harbour, ribbon development has extended behind the prominent and distinctive St Aidan's Dunes which continue north-westwards almost continuously to Bamburgh. Despite its relatively low elevation the town is prominent in the landscape from approaches from Bamburgh and from inland approaches, especially to the north-west.

Inland from the harbour and historic core of the town, the landscape context is unremarkable with its transition in to the generally less scenic Lucker LCT. This LCT is characterised by wide-open arable landscapes over flat or gently undulating land and with a relative absence of landscape features or landmarks apart from isolated farmsteads and shelter belts.

Accommodating necessary community expansion without further erosion of landscape character suggests that housing development should be directed away from the immediate coastal strip. Despite historical growth of the town along the seafront, the dunes and beaches remain as one of Seahouses' principal and distinctive landscape assets (along with vistas to the Farne Islands and the harbour area) and remain highly sensitive to further encroachment. In order to safeguard the recognised special landscape qualities of the AONB in this area, further development along the town's northern or southern coastal strips should be strictly controlled.

In combination with the relative prominence of the raised ground to the immediate south-east of the town and the sensitivity of the coastal strip north and south of Seahouses, landscape capacity for change in these areas is limited. Consequently the focus for new housing development should be directed towards inland areas of the settlement.

Recent development and associated structural planting have presented a relatively 'soft' settlement edge to the southern fringe of Seahouses, whilst the older built environment of North Sunderland has a more established organic and irregular edge to its south. Development to the east of the B1340 on the raised land of the promontory has the potential for significant visual prominence. Together, these factors suggest limited capacity for change without harmful landscape impacts arising along the southern areas of Seahouses.

To the west and north-west of Seahouses centre, a significant area of land is bounded by a combination Main Street, Seafield Road, St Aiden's and Broad Road. Whilst falling within LCT 4 Rocky Coastline area, it reflects much more closely the characteristics of LCT3b, Lucker. The significant triangular parcel of land within this area falls very gradually from the south to north but is visually enclosed on its south, east and part of its west side by existing development. Significant advance planting has been established along its western fringe which, in time, should mature to provide an effective shelterbelt and visual screen to the site. The eastern part of this land is established as a large static caravan park. This is occasionally prominent in longer views from slightly higher ground to the northwest. The remaining area enclosed by the roads and existing land remains as open farmland. Despite relative proximity to the coast, in landscape terms this site is screened from sensitive coastal views by housing along St Aidan's Road. Consequently the site is of sufficient scale and low visual prominence that development to meet future town needs could be accommodated in this site without significant landscape character erosion.

Considerable capacity exists to the immediate north of Seahouses and North Sunderland to accommodate future growth needs without significant erosion of valued landscape character or special qualities of the AONB. Although the site will not be wholly screened in longer views from the northwest, these are not particularly important visitor areas, and delivery of high quality design, attention to roofscape, and on-going management of the existing shelter belts should mitigate any such limited impacts.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

Development across the immediate north of the town centre as supported by this study would be unlikely to give rise to any significant impacts upon landscape features that are important to the special qualities of the AONB. Development may be visible from the tops of St Aidan's dunes, but this would be seen against a backdrop of the town and consequently be of limited additional impact, and would not be in the principle vistas which will always be in relation to views to the Farne Islands and up and down the coast, particularly to Bamburgh Castle.

Other areas of Seahouses' landscape context are potentially vulnerable to development along its southern fringe and particularly where land is slightly elevated.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

Seahouses lies wholly within the zone of visual sensitivity of Bamburgh Castle. Distant views (4km) over the low-lying arable landscape are possible to the northern fringe of Seahouses from the castle's southern ramparts. Development across the northern edge of the town may therefore be seen from this important vantage point. However distance, low relief and intervening existing development would strongly suggest that additional housing in this area would not present a harmful impact on these vistas which are primarily drawn to the dramatic shoreline and Farne Islands. Delivery of development with sensitive use of materials, and particularly roofing material would further mitigate any residual visual impact.

Seahouses also lies within the view cones of several identified important viewpoints:

- Farne Islands;
- Preston Tower;
- Ros Castle;
- CATERAN Hill; and
- Crag Hill

Because of Seahouses' low elevation and the distance of most of these viewpoints, housing development, even of a more substantial scale than elsewhere in the AONB, is unlikely to present significant or harmful visual intrusion to these view cones. Views from the low-lying Farne Islands are mostly limited by St Aidan's Dunes and the existing profile of the settlement.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

Potential to view the northern fringe of Seahouses and North Sunderland does exist from viewpoints at Elford and the former railway track bed west of the town. These present possibly the most visually prominent vistas into the area recognised as having capacity for development. However, views from the west are limited by a marginal difference in elevation and will be mitigated as structural planting matures. Views from Elford are more elevated but also more distant. Prominence of any new development would be mitigated as landscaping matures, whilst the site

would be viewed against the existing town. High standards of design and use of materials appropriate to the setting would further mitigate any visual impacts from these areas.

The B1340 between Seahouses and Bamburgh is identified as a route with sensitive key views. The importance of the views along this road are primarily in relation to views travelling north as the iconic profile of Bamburgh Castle grows in the landscape, and of the dunes to the east. Open views towards the northern edge of Seahouses are evident when travelling south on this route, but views into the area most appropriate in landscape terms for new development are limited by existing housing and landscaping around the junction of Broad Road and St Aiden's Road on the northern limit of the settlement. No significant detrimental effect on sensitive views would therefore arise as a consequence of development in this area.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

- (i) *Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

Development of new housing to meet area needs on the northern fringe of Seahouses as described in previous paragraphs would have very limited potential for wider landscape *enhancement*. This study repeatedly stresses the importance of sensitive use of materials and reinforcement of local distinctiveness through design of new housing. Existing landscaping will mature to afford a softer interface between the town and landscape context in the medium-term which may afford localised landscape character and visual enhancement of Seahouses' northern edge.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for the **Rocky Coastline** LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement in the NLCA Part B to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

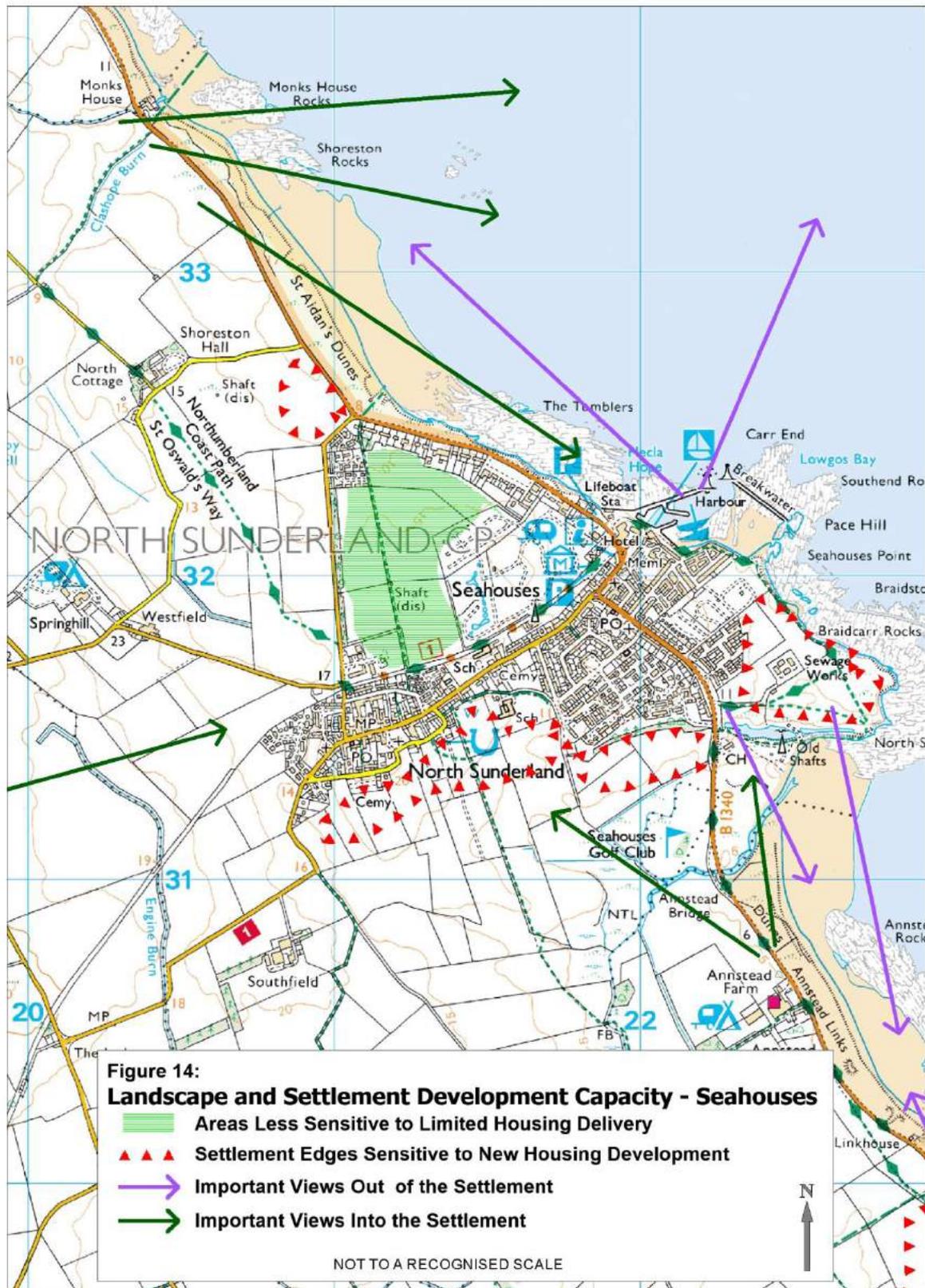
*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to arrest the erosion of character and loss of condition of landscape elements where this has occurred, and in so doing raise the general quality of the landscape. The coastal landscape and adjacent seascape is a key element of Northumberland's tourist economy, and requires a degree of protection.*

The guiding principle for the **Farmed Coastal Plain** LCT is to **manage** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to encourage improved custodianship of a landscape that has declined in quality as a result of agricultural intensification. The areas of this LCT are located between the A1 and the popular coastal strip, and have scope to accommodate on-farm tourism.*

Integration of new housing to the northern periphery of Seahouses' built limits would be unlikely to significantly further or compromise these aims. Development will be localised and focus upon an area partly enclosed by development and screened by planting. LCT aims are focused upon protection of existing positive coastal landscape characteristics and the re-introduction of lost features over the arable landscape. However the continued management of the mixed species shelterbelt around the proposed area for growth would partly support objectives for the Farmer Coastal Plain landscape. Delivery of housing which reflects local distinctiveness and is well related to the existing settlement would also serve to further landscape aspirations for the Rocky Shoreline LCT.



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## Beadnell

### Landscape Context

Beadnell is located within landscape character area 4b *Farne Islands Coast*, within the wider *Rocky Coastline* LCT 4.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Farne Islands Coast* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Rocky headlands and sandy bays
Land cover	Some variety	Rocky headlands, sand and arable and pasture farmland
Scale	Medium	Bays and field pattern create medium scale landscape
Enclosure	Some enclosures	Headlands create some enclosure
Skylines	Varied	Inland landform rises gently, along coast headlands punctuate skyline
Views and landmarks	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Views to Dunstanburgh Castle and headlands
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Some areas are visible with neighbouring landscapes
Receptors	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Coast provides draw for visitors on local roads
Movement	Quiet, limited movement	Local roads but visitor movement
Remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Coastal landscape provides high degree of tranquillity
Settlement	Occasional villages/hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Small settlements
Industry	No industrial influence	No industrial features
Vertical features	None	No vertical features
Linear features	Few linear features	Local roads only linear features
Historic features	Some prominent historic features	Dunstanburgh Castle lies in south of LCA
Recreation	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Coast a draw to visitors
Condition	Generally well managed	Generally well managed coast and farmland with visitor facilities
Distinctiveness	Some distinctive features	Combination of headlands and bays provide some distinctive features
Rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	Lack of rare features although headlands and Dunstanburgh Castle provide unique features

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Exposed coastal location, with dramatic views along the coast and out to sea
- Prominent natural and cultural coastal features including castles and the Farne Islands.
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs.
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development.

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Most of Beadnell is of limited value to the landscape of the AONB. The village itself benefits from a strong landscape setting due to its immediate coastal location at the northern end of the sheltered and sandy Beadnell Bay, with rocky shoreline defining the northern fringe of the village and dune system backing the bay. The village sits within a wider area of low lying and relatively level terrain, characterised by mostly arable farmland with very limited treescape. The dune systems south and north of the village are locally distinctive landscape features. This is more important to the south around the bay where it frequently obscures views out to sea due to their height.

A small harbour and the historically important limekilns on the bay's northern point remain the only significant heritage features of the village apart from St Ebba's Church to the west.

The village is elongated in form from the Harbour northwards, as far as the B1340 which defines its northern limits, and as such overlies the headland and fronts an extended strip of coastline. The village has extended inland also with late 20<sup>th</sup> century and more recent housing located along most of its length. A great majority of the built extent of the village consists of post 1900 buildings, primarily low-density housing, much of which appears to be used as retirement or holiday accommodation, reflecting Beadnell's close relationship with the bay in particular. The built environment of Beadnell lacks any significant vernacular character and there is no clearly defined historic village centre or services.

Sweeping views from the harbour and limekilns to the south over Beadnell Bay towards Dunstanburgh Castle are dramatic and free from visually incongruous features, primarily because of the screening effect of the dunes which mask significant caravan park development immediately south of the village. Vistas over the landscape and seascape are strongly horizontal in emphasis with the castle presenting a striking exception to this.

Away from the shoreline itself, Beadnell does not present an especially sensitive context for accommodating additional housing needs. Sites to the western fringe of the settlement, where the most recent phase of housing growth is evident, may absorb further proportionate growth without significant threat of harmful impact on settlement character or the wider landscape of the AONB.

Some views into the western fringe of Beadnell are possible from the west and southwest along the main B1340 and new housing in this area would be visible within those views, but seen against the existing village rather than as an extension into prominent or important countryside.

More significant risk to the special qualities of the AONB would be in relation to any extension to Beadnell north of the B1340, although application of planning policy would be likely to preclude such development as this presents a clearly defined and effective constraint on northerly extension. Strong tree cover along this village boundary further reinforces it as a rational and effective limit to the village.

Opportunities to accommodate modest housing development therefore exist in or around Beadnell which would have limited impact upon the wider landscape character and qualities of the AONB.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

Delivery of new housing on the periphery of the village or in open space within it would be unlikely to any significant detrimental impact upon heritage or landscape features. Heritage features, such as the limekilns are tightly constrained and consequently development would be unlikely to have significant effect on those assets. The built environment of the village is not characteristic of the identified valued qualities of the AONB, so limited new housing would be unlikely to be detrimental in AONB terms, subject to meeting siting and design policy expectations.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

The whole of the village and its southerly and western landscape setting falls within the zone of visual sensitivity of Dunstanburgh castle. Any development would therefore have a *potential* for some visual impact within the zone and all development proposals should be scrutinized in relation to such potential. However, and having regard to; distance of separation; likely scale of development; its low elevation; and the probability growth would be viewed against the backdrop of existing housing, the likelihood of harm to that zone are considered negligible.

Beadnell also lies within the view cones of two identified important viewpoints:

- Farne Islands
- Preston Tower

Modest housing development is highly unlikely to be of a scale or prominence across the village to preset harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints which are at significant distance from the village and/or are screened by intervening existing development, landform or woodlands.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

Other key viewpoints identified by this study are limited to the important viewpoint from Beadnell harbour southwards, towards Dunstanburgh Castle and over the bay and headlands beyond. New

housing development would necessarily be located inland to the existing settlement and not encroach upon this vista.

A limited stretch of the B1340 to the west of Beadnell has been identified as a route presenting important views. The significance of vistas into and across the village from this route are however limited, as the importance of such views is in relation to the dunes and on to Dunstanburgh Castle. Development on the western fringe of Beadnell, seen from the road would be seen against the existing, unremarkable village environs.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

(i) *Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

New housing in or around Beadnell would almost certainly be limited to its western fringe. Views into this area from the west are unremarkable in respect to the contribution the settlement makes to the AONB and its special qualities. Any extension of the built extent of the settlement could benefit from substantive structural planting to afford medium and long-term mitigation of the prominence of the development in wider coastal vistas. High standards of design and the use of appropriate external materials in new development would be pre-requisites in new development within the AONB, and these should be delivered such that the outer fringes of the village enhance its landscape fit.

Whilst harm has been caused to the special qualities of the AONB in respect to past development around Beadnell, it is important to embrace opportunities to further the landscape objectives for the conservation of the LCT through new development. Sensitive management and delivery of future development proposals on the western fringe of Beadnell remains necessary in order to minimize further landscape character erosion.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

(i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for the *Rocky Coastline* LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement in the NLCA Part B to achieve this is described as follows:

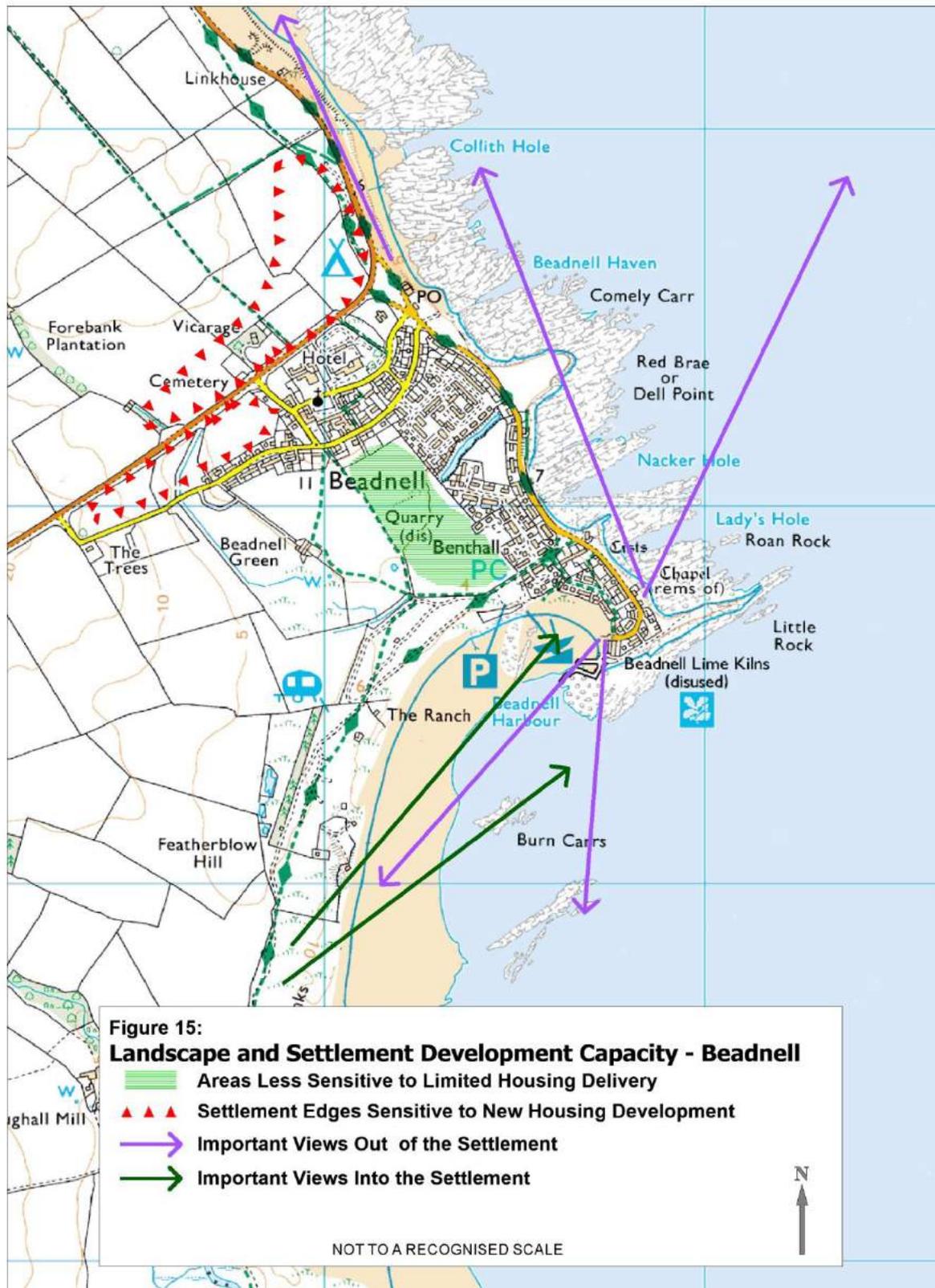
***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to arrest the erosion of character and loss of condition of landscape elements where this has occurred, and in so doing raise the general quality of the landscape. The coastal landscape and adjacent seascape is a key element of Northumberland's tourist economy, and requires a degree of protection.*

Subject to appropriate application of planning policy, landscape and other considerations as examined above, the scale and nature of potentially appropriate housing development at Beadnell would be most unlikely to inherently compromise protection of the Rocky Coastline's special

qualities, such as the undeveloped coastline, historic village setting and features, key views into and out of the village.

Some opportunity does exist for modest delivery of housing on the western edge of the settlement without compromising aspirations for the LCT. In doing so modest opportunity for enhancement of the relationship of the settlement to its landscape setting is presented, but wider enhancement of landscape character would be limited.



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## Embleton

### Landscape Context

Embleton village falls across the boundary of two landscape character areas: 5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays and 3c Rock, within the wider Sandy Coastline LCT5. However, this LCT boundary mirrors the boundary of the Northumberland Coast AONB which dissects the village on a north-south axis. This settlement assessment therefore considers implications for future housing growth on sites within the AONB only, and in doing so considers the characteristics of landscape character area 5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays only. This is in the context that development to meet local needs housing supply in Embleton will be prioritized in areas outside the AONB as a matter of principle.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Beadnell and Embleton Bays* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Complex, strong topographical variety	Sandy bays, islands and rocky headlands
Land cover	Varied, but lacking complexity	Beaches, dunes and farmland
Scale	Medium	Focus on coastal edge and seaward views
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Some open areas and some enclosure within bays
Skylines	Varied	Headlands and rocky outcrops, although gentle rise inland
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views	Bamburgh Castle and Farne Islands provide important features
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Some intervisibility, influenced by coastal aspect and rocky headlands
Receptors	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.	Settlements and transport routes provide high level of receptors
Movement	Occasional to frequent movement	Frequent use by visitors of coastal transport routes
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Towns and coast important for visitors
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Several villages
Industry	No industrial influence	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Few vertical features	Bamburgh castle on distinctive rise
Linear features	Few linear features	Local roads and coastal edge
Historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape	Bamburgh castle forms a distinctive landmark
Recreation	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction	Bamburgh castle, beach and towns are important for recreation
Condition	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Coastal landscape under pressure from tourism development
Distinctiveness	Distinctive to Northumberland	Bamburgh Castle, coast and islands distinctive

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Rarity	A unique landscape within the area	Combination of castle, coast and islands is unique

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Sweeping views across the seascape and along the coastline
- Prominence of historic features as landmarks
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development
- Intact sand dune and saltmarsh habitats.

## Constraints to Development

- (i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Embleton is a small village located inland from the shoreline and bay, lying over an area of elevated land and either side of a gentle north-south ridge. Only a small proportion of the village falls within the AONB, east of the B1339 and then east of Quakers Row and Stanley Terrace. Consequently, a significant majority of Embleton falls outside the study area and within LCT 3c.

The parts of Embleton within the AONB occupy elevated sites along the ridgeline and offer dramatic vistas eastwards over the dunes of Embleton Bay and towards Dunstanburgh Castle to the south-east. Land falls markedly from the ridge towards the coast before levelling out behind the extensive dune system. In this area Embleton golf course and clubhouse are prominent features in the intervening landscape between village and coast. In the context of the AONB, the elevated land across which the village stands is unremarkable in its landscape character save for its change in elevation and slope, being characterised by grazing land and arable land use with generally low hedges offering limited enclosure and grain to the landscape. Its particular landscape value is relation to the ridgeline of visible properties and vistas it affords from the village.

The built environment is characterised by a loose-knit village form spread along and across the ridge, mostly of residential buildings, some with vernacular merit, others being 20<sup>th</sup> century houses and bungalows. As a consequence of elevation and changing relief within the AONB parts of Embleton, some of these buildings are sometimes prominent or 'skyline', most pronounced in the case of the large whitewashed Sportsman Inn. A small amount of development exists on the coastal side of the ridgeline across elevated but falling land. Most prominent are two pairs of semi-detached mid-20<sup>th</sup> century villas, which are separated from the main settlement by an open paddock. These are prominent in the landscape but of some character.

The village offers a pleasing but diluted historic built environment within the AONB, particularly in respect to street pattern and small open spaces within. It does not however present such a strong

sense of place or local distinctiveness as evident in other villages in the AONB such as Bamburgh or Craster.

This study supports a presumption that sites which fall outside the AONB parts of Embleton should be prioritised for the development of new housing before sites in the AONB are considered. Only where it is clearly evident that no capacity for the development of sites outside the AONB exist without causing significant harm to the character of the village and to the AONB itself, should sites within the AONB be considered. In this context it is unlikely that development would be prioritised within the AONB in the short to medium-term.

Nevertheless, very limited delivery of new housing development to meet locally arising need within or on the periphery of the AONB parts of the village is unlikely to have any *fundamental* negative impact upon the key qualities of the LCT.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

Delivery of new housing on the periphery of the village or in open space within it would be unlikely to any significant detrimental impact upon heritage or landscape features. The built environment of the village is not strongly characteristic of the identified valued qualities of the AONB, so limited new housing would be unlikely to be detrimental in AONB terms, subject to meeting siting and design policy expectations.

The relationship of the village to its ridgeline and the falling relief to the sea is a distinctive characteristic of the village. Whilst modest development within the landscape in this area may have limited impact upon *wider* character, the very limited extent of development on this slope is a strong characteristic of the village itself. Development that extends to the east of the ridge, particularly at the southern parts of Embleton, around Sunny Brae, should be resisted. This would have beneficial consequences for the integrity of vistas from the coast and Dunstanburgh Castle back towards Embleton and help retain the distinctive ridgeline settlement limits.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

Embleton lies wholly within the zone of visual sensitivity of Dunstanburgh Castle which lies 2.5 Km south-east of the village. Inter-visibility exists between the castle and the parts of Embleton on the seaward side of the ridge, within the AONB. Vistas towards the castle from the village are important locally and contribute to the special qualities of the AONB. Housing development which could serve to obscure existing vistas to the castle should therefore be resisted. Views from the castle are important in all directions, but vistas up and down the coast are of primary value. Modest development of housing on the edge of Embleton (within the AONB) would potentially be visible but subject to ensuring good design standards, such impacts should not materially detract from such views.

Embleton also lies within the view cones of several identified important viewpoints:

- Farne Islands

- Preston Tower
- Ros Castle
- CATERAN HILL
- Brizlee Tower
- Cloudy Craggs

Modest housing development is highly unlikely to be of a scale or prominence across the village to present harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints which are at significant or sufficient distance from the village and/or are screened by intervening existing development, landform or woodlands.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

Other key viewpoints identified by this study with a potential relationship to the village are limited to the sensitive route and viewpoint along the B1339 north of Embleton, looking south-eastwards towards Dunstanburgh Castle. Intervening landform would however mean no area of the village within which housing development may be appropriate would be visible from this point.

Sunny Brae and the minor road leading south from Embleton are also recognised as sensitive routes. Several vistas open up of Embleton's eastern edge and its distinctive seaward slope where any new development could be prominent on these approaches. As noted, whilst this may not present fundamental erosion of identified key landscape characteristics, it would be detrimental to historic village form and occupy conspicuous settings.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

*(i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

New housing in or around Embleton should be directed to areas outside the AONB and hence across its western areas.

Should development be found to offer a net landscape gain through siting within the AONB, development of small housing schemes may offer only limited opportunity for enhancement of the AONB's landscape character. This would primarily be through delivery of high quality housing development which contributes positively to the built character of the village and which serves to reinforce settlement form and maintain important views to the coast. Any extension of the built extent of the settlement may be enhanced by provision of sensitive boundary treatments of drystone walling or hedging. Structural planting to the east of the village should be avoided to maintain the openness of its characteristic vistas and immediate landscape character. High standards of design and the use of appropriate external materials in new development would be pre-requisites in new development within the AONB, and these should be delivered such that the outer fringes of the village enhance its landscape fit.

## Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B

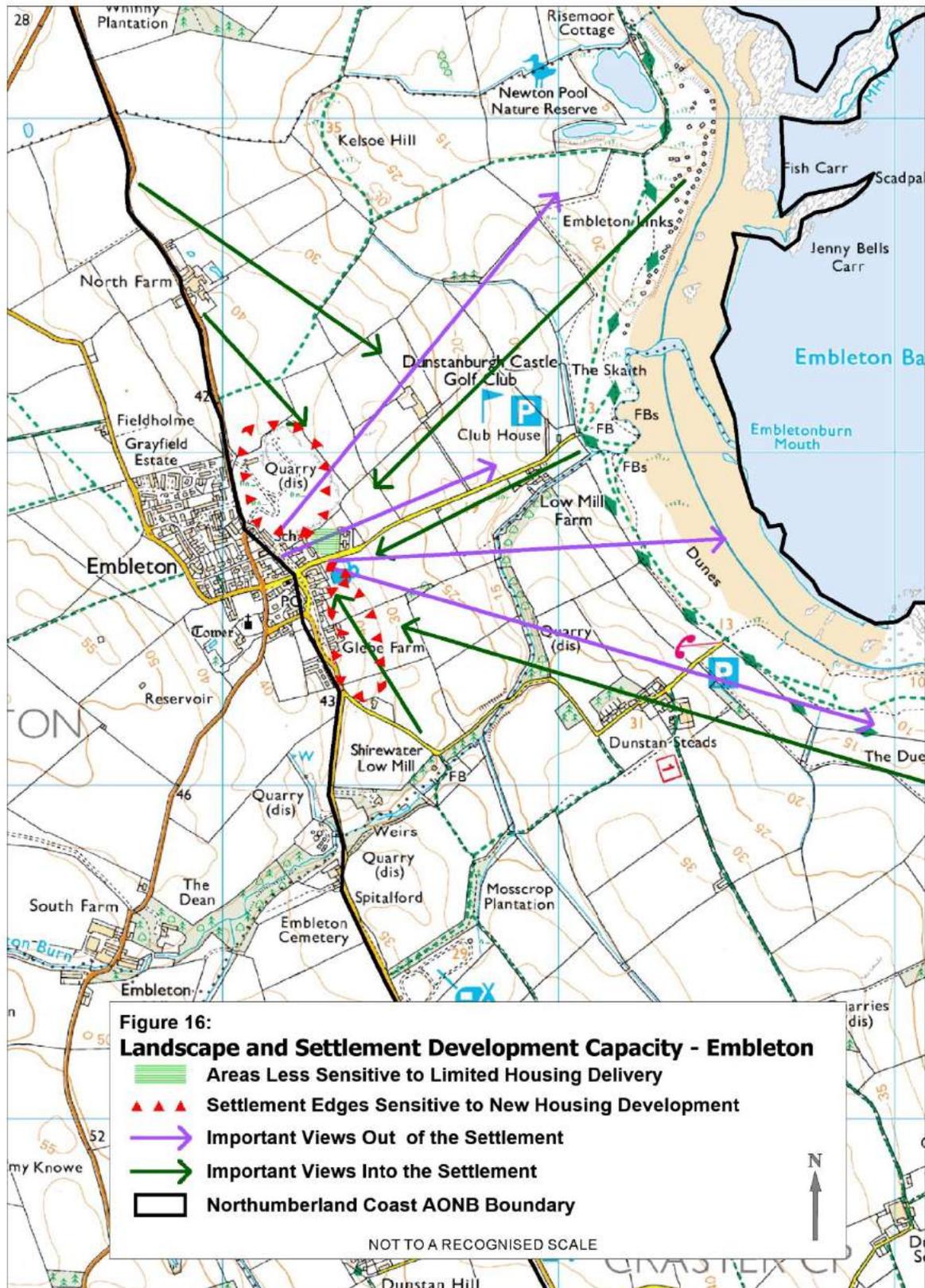
- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for this LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims for this landscape should be to conserve and enhance the key qualities of the landscape and adjacent seascape, and make their on-going custodianship sustainable. The landscape should be managed to integrate conservation of the natural and cultural heritage resource, with sensitive development of infrastructure for tourism, and good freedom of access and preservation of the open sea and coastal views.*

Subject to appropriate application of planning policy, landscape and other considerations as examined above, the scale and nature of potentially appropriate housing development at Embleton would be unlikely to inherently compromise protection of the Sandy Coastline's special qualities, such as the undeveloped coastline, historic village setting and features, key views into and out of the village. In doing so the wider objectives of the LCA should not be compromised.



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## Craster

### Landscape Context

Craster village falls within landscape character area: 4c *Craster Coast* within the wider *Rocky Coastline* LCT.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Craster Coast* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Some variety	Low lying with locally prominent ridges
Land cover	Some variety	Rocky cliffs and pasture
Scale	Medium-small	Coastal aspect and heughs contain landscape
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Some enclosure at coastal edge and by heughs
Skylines	Varied	Gently rising landscape, although local influences such as heughs
Views and landmarks	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Views to Dunstanburgh Castle
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Some intervisibility with neighbouring low lying landscapes
Receptors	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Coastal tourist route
Movement	Quiet, limited movement	Routes provide local and recreational links
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Tourism and RAF Boulmer provide human activity
Settlement	Occasional villages/hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Craster and hamlets
Industry	Limited industrial influence	Influence of RAF Boulmer
Vertical features	Few vertical features	Radar apparatus at RAF Boulmer
Linear features	Few linear features	Few local roads
Historic features	Some prominent historic features	Dunstanburgh Castle and historic fishing village of Craster
Recreation	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Attraction of Craster and coastal footpaths
Condition	Generally well managed	Opportunity to enhance field boundaries
Distinctiveness	Some distinctive features	Coastal landscape with distinctive local heughs
Rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	Coastal heughs are unique

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Rocky coast of cliffs and headlands
- Dramatic shoreline with offshore rocks and islands
- Prominent coastal landforms offering views.
- Small former fishing villages, now centres of tourism
- Exposed coastal landscape of windblown hedges
- Major historic features are popular tourist attractions.

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Craster is a small, compact harbour village lying in a confined area between sloping land in the west and the rocky shoreline which it tightly abuts. It has an attractive historic core of fishermen's cottages, inn and the famous smokehouse grouped around the small harbour. It has been substantially extended to the south by inter-war housing which has little vernacular merit or historic relationship with the village core. Craster has a close proximity and cultural association with Dunstanburgh Castle which stands around 2 km north of the village. Most visitors to Dunstanburgh Castle access it by walking from Craster village, over open coastal pasture above the narrow rocky shoreline. The views along this stretch of coastline are particularly dramatic even within the wider AONB context.

The village has a distinctive landscape setting. Apart from the coastal footpaths, the main access to it is reached along a single minor road to the west. It passes through the shallow but locally pronounced heugh which descends through a landscape of undulating terrain. This is characterised by gorse-lined hillocks and raised rocky outcrops associated with the Winn Sill, with areas of wooded as the village is neared. The village is then tightly confined between the shoreline and with land rising markedly to the west. This landscape setting suggests a degree of separation and isolation from other coastal settlements. As a consequence of the immediate terrain Craster has a low landscape prominence, with vistas into it possible from only short distances along the coastal path network.

Because of its immediate relationship with the shoreline, proximity and association to the castle and its historic village core, the delivery of additional housing in or around Craster therefore has the potential for some significant, if localised, impacts upon this distinctive landscape character.

The built environment is characterised by a compact village form, spreading primarily southwards from the harbour, and closely abutting the rocky shoreline. Vernacular character is strong within the core with locally won stone walls with blue slate and pantiled roofs offering shelter from fierce exposure to the north-easterly winds and surf. A distinctive row of painted fishermen's cottages front the coast to the immediate north of the harbour, and present an attractive gateway to the clearly visible Dunstanburgh Castle beyond.

To the south of the core the village character changes suddenly and markedly through the presence of an inter-war local authority housing estate. This alters the tight-knit grain of the village and introduces a characteristic symmetrical street pattern. This too is fully exposed to the North Sea with very limited natural shelter between it and the rocky shoreline. This part of Craster now presents a harsh and unsympathetic interface between the coast and the village with inappropriate boundary fences and non-vernacular housing dominating the vistas northwards from the shoreline south of the village.

Some sporadic late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing is found to the west of the village in limited numbers which further dilute the historic character and particularly the village's tight relationship with the shoreline.

Opportunity for provision of housing around Craster without further harm to its unique landscape and heritage context is therefore limited and presents a challenge in meeting local community need.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

In a landscape context, options for development of new housing around Craster are limited. Apart from piecemeal infill development, delivery of new housing on the periphery of the village or in open space within would have significant potential to cause harmful impact to local character and important constituent features. This relates most directly to potential views along the coast, but particularly in relation to vistas northwards to the castle, which is a highly sensitive element of the AONB's landscape.

Some potential may exist in relation to small development on open space at South Acres, although this is likely to raise issues of local amenity to existing residents. Alternatively, a well-designed and carefully detailed extension beyond more recent development at the southern limits of the village would appear to offer some opportunity for growth whilst not disproportionately altering existing village form.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

Craster lies wholly within the zone of visual sensitivity of Dunstanburgh Castle. Its northern edge, and particularly the Dunstanburgh Road and the harbour environs have an especially important inter-relationship with the castle and the open space which separates the village from it.

Development of new housing in this area is unlikely to be feasible without a material alteration in the balance of features within this landscape, and should be rigorously resisted.

Development which would extend the western edge of the settlement further up the slope which serves to 'hem in' Craster so closely to the shore should also be considered with caution. Extension of the built extent of Craster up the hillside has potential to both alter the historic form of the village further and increase risk of prominence in the landscape from north and south coastal approaches.

Craster also lies within the view cones of several identified important viewpoints:

- Preston Tower
- Ros Castle
- CATERAN HILL
- Brizlee Tower; and
- Cloudy Craggs

Because of Craster's distinctive landscape and shoreline 'enclosure', visibility or wider landscape prominence of any modest housing development is highly unlikely to be significant in vistas from any of these points.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

No 'other key viewpoints' identified by this study present potential for vistas into new housing development sites, again as a consequence of the topographic enclosure of Craster in the immediate landscape setting. Likewise, no vistas from sensitive routes are thought likely although vistas from the Northumberland Coastal Path will offer immediate views into most of the village and immediate hinterland.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

*(i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

New housing in or around Craster is likely to be limited to sites adjacent to the existing southern parts of the village. This area has served to erode the historic character of Craster as it has developed over the past half-century or so. Modest development in this area, possibly south of South Acres would have some limited potential to enhance the relationship of the village to the landscape context, but benefits would be modest in light of past change. Enhanced housing design, reflecting vernacular architectural style and materials may help present a more sympathetic interface between the village and open countryside. This may be further enhanced through improvements to boundary enclosure, such as drystone walls in place of utilitarian fencing. Softening of the village edge in this area through planting would be challenging given the extreme proximity to the sea and prevailing winds.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

*(i) Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for this LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to arrest the erosion of character and loss of condition of landscape elements where this has occurred, and in so doing raise the general quality of the landscape. The coastal landscape and adjacent seascape is a key element of Northumberland's tourist economy, and requires a degree of protection.*

Integration of housing to the periphery of Craster's built limits without compromising these landscape objectives would be challenging. Even with robust application of planning policy, landscape and other considerations, the scale and nature of potentially appropriate housing development at Craster would be likely to partially compromise protection of the Rocky Coastline's special qualities, such as the undeveloped coastline, historic village character, key views into and out of the village. Consequently significant housing delivery in Craster should be considered to be undesirable in relation to furthering AONB objectives.



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## Longhoughton

### Landscape Context

Longhoughton is located within landscape character area 3c *Rock*, within the wider *Farmed Coastal Pain* LCT 3. The B1339 running through the centre of the village is also the AONB boundary.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Rock* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Simple, with occasional variety	Gently undulating
Land cover	Some variety	Arable farmland and frequent woodland
Scale	Medium-large	Gently undulating topography
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Some enclosure provided by areas of woodland
Skylines	Largely simple, some variety	Gentle topography, some woodland
Views and landmarks	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Belts of Scots pine and policy woodlands provide landmarks
Intervisibility	Occasional view to adjacent landscapes	Gentle landform limits views
Receptors	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Mainline railway and local roads between villages
Movement	Occasional to frequent movement	Movement on mainline railway and local roads
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Local movement on roads and railway, and frequent settlements
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Several villages and frequent farmsteads
Industry	Limited industrial influence	Proximity to RAF Boulmer, influence of mainline railway, quarries at Howick
Vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Pylons in south of area
Linear features	Linear features but lacking prominence	Local roads and mainline railway
Historic features	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Estate influences at Rock House and Howick Hall
Recreation	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Network of local paths, attraction of Howick Hall
Condition	Generally well managed	Variable condition of field boundaries
Distinctiveness	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Lacking distinctive features but representative of lowland agricultural landscape
Rarity	A common landscape across the area	A frequently found agricultural landscape

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 3: *Farmed Coastal Plain* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Farmsteads of traditional vernacular architecture, with brick industrial farm chimneys
- Shelterbelts of mature beech and pine
- Estate landscapes and associated semi-natural and plantation woodland
- Coastal character, with views to the sea and coastal features and landmarks

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Longhoughton is a linear 'ribbon' village which has expanded either side of the B1339, mainly to provide housing for personnel from the nearby helicopter station at RAF Boulmer. Located within a gently undulating arable landscape, modern housing estates have been built beyond the traditional stone village core alongside the road. The centre of the village, around the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul has a particular characteristic maturity with old stone walls and mature trees. The northern part of the village now extends almost to the mainline railway, built on embankment to the west of the village, and to the plantation shelterbelts within the Howick Hall Estate designed landscape to the north. These features serve to enclose the village and provide recognisable linear constraints to development.

There may be some opportunity for small scale infill development to the west on open fields between the village and railway, although the Westfield Park Sports area and play area occupy some of this land. Development here should reflect the more sensitive, small scale and more enclosed, mature character of this side of the village, which is well integrated into the more undulating, pastoral landscape.

The southern end of the village is sensitive to development. South of the minor road leading from Boulmer in the east to Denwick in the west, a small, nucleated and tightly knit part of the village is separated from the main village by an open area of more rolling grassland and earthworks close to the crossroads. This part of the village comprises mostly local sandstone cottages and sensitive conversions and limited new buildings using traditional vernacular materials of stone and pantile roofs. Insensitive new development could potentially affect the distinctive rural character of this part of the village, affecting its setting in the landscape.

Most new development has occurred on gently undulating grassland to the east of the village. Generally well designed housing has been built at Eastfield, Eastmore and Springfield using a range of styles and sensitive materials, informally arranged on the edge of the more austere, regimented RAF housing. Other housing and infill is less sympathetic. Little attempt has been made to reduce the impact of the village on the more open, medium to large scale, agricultural fields to the east. Roadside hedges and trees provide some screening, with seasonal variations, but field boundaries are predominantly open with low gappy hedges and fencing, dominated by the overbearing two and three storey houses.

This eastern side of the village has a more of a coastal character despite being approximately 1.5km from the coast at Sugar Sands and Howdiemont Sands. Distance, intervening buildings and plantation shelterbelts combine such that there are few views to the sea and coastal features and landmarks. Thus further housing development to the east would not affect key qualities of the landscape, but it would creep increasing closer to the coast and in so doing will increase the likelihood of impacting on views to and from the coast and special landscape features.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

This part of the *Farmed Coastal Plain* is a typical lowland agricultural landscape lacking distinctive features. The gentle topography with some woodland, field boundaries in poor condition, frequent settlement and other built influences, provides unremarkable character and limits views. Mixed woodland planting and diversity of vegetation cover on the Howick Estate creates an enclosed landscape that contrasts sharply with the surroundings. The wooded Howick Burn provides a unique feature and a transitional link between the coast and inland landscape.

New housing should avoid the more sensitive landscapes to the south and north, but further development to the east could potentially be accommodated without affecting other features of importance in landscape terms.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

Longhoughton does not lie within any zones of visual sensitivity around iconic landscape features. The village lies within view cones from two identified important viewpoints:

- Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park
- Cloudy Crag

These viewpoints lie on high ground to the west. Any new housing development to the east of the village is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence to present harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints which are at significant distance from the village and/or are screened by intervening existing development, landform or woodlands.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

A number of other key views have been identified along the coast between Boulmer and Howick, essentially views from the coastal path (also part of National Cycle Network Route No. 1) north to Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle and southwards to Sugar Sands / Howdiemont sands, Longhoughton Steel, Boulmer Steel and Coquet Island. An extension of the village eastwards would not affect these key views.

The mostly gentle but varying landform limits views from the coast inland towards the village. The adjacent hills rise gradually and are not particularly prominent when visible. There are views into the village from the minor road at Low Stead and from the Boulmer road close to the village, where the harsh built edge provides Longhoughton with an unsympathetic landscape setting. The prominence of the village diminishes eastwards.

No important views out of Longhoughton have been identified. Important views in are limited to close views from roads and the railway towards the more sensitive southern end of the village where built form is mostly well integrated into the more undulating pastoral landscape.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

- (i) *Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

Provision of new shelterbelt planting to the east of the village would be particularly effective in reducing the impact of recent or further housing on the landscape. This should be of appropriate scale and species common to the locality to reflect existing plantations such as those around the Howick Hall Estate.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for this LCT is to **manage** the landscape. The vision statement in the NLCA Part B to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to encourage improved custodianship of a landscape that has declined in quality as a result of agricultural intensification.*

*The areas of this LCT are located between the A1 and the popular coastal strip, and have some scope to accommodate on-farm tourism.*

These guidelines are principally aimed at encouraging restoration and improvement of the character and quality of the landscape, for example by strengthening traditional boundary hedgerow and wall features. Consideration should be given to shelterbelt re-planting, including around well designed new build developments which reflect local character. Consequently there is some scope for new housing development at Longhoughton within the AONB but away from the sensitive coastline.



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## Boulmer

### Landscape Context

The village of Boulmer is located within landscape character area 4c *Craster Coast*, within the wider *Rocky Coastline* LCT 4.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Craster Coast* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Some variety	Low lying with locally prominent ridges
Land cover	Some variety	Rocky cliffs and pasture
Scale	Medium-small	Coastal aspect and heughs contain landscape
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Some enclosure at coastal edge and by heughs
Skylines	Varied	Gently rising landscape, although local influences such as heughs
Views and landmarks	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Views to Dunstanburgh Castle
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Some intervisibility with neighbouring low lying landscapes
Receptors	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Coastal tourist route
Movement	Quiet, limited movement	Routes provide local and recreational links
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Tourism and RAF Boulmer provide human activity
Settlement	Occasional villages/hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Craster and hamlets
Industry	Limited industrial influence	Influence of RAF Boulmer
Vertical features	Few vertical features	Radar apparatus at RAF Boulmer
Linear features	Few linear features	Few local roads
Historic features	Some prominent historic features	Dunstanburgh Castle and historic fishing village of Craster
Recreation	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Attraction of Craster and coastal footpaths
Condition	Generally well managed	Opportunity to enhance field boundaries
Distinctiveness	Some distinctive features	Coastal landscape with distinctive local heughs
Rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	Coastal heughs are unique

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 4: *Rocky Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Rocky coast of cliffs and headlands
- Dramatic shoreline with offshore rocks and islands
- Prominent coastal landforms offering views
- Small former fishing villages, now centres of tourism
- Exposed coastal landscape of windblown hedges
- Major historic features are popular tourist attractions.

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Boulmer is one of few remaining unspoiled, traditional fishing / farming villages on the AONB coast. A small linear village/hamlet, with predominantly single storey stone built cottages and cottage terraces with grey slate roofs, spread out in a 'ribbon' alongside the minor road between Longhoughton and Lesbury / Alnmouth. Small fishing boats still leave from the shallow beach/grassed harbour, where the rocky headlands provide shelter around Boulmer Haven.

Its linear pattern, emphasised by low stone wall boundaries around grass paddocks between the cottages, and the lack of any significant tree cover, provides an open, exposed character to the village. It retains a strong relationship with the sea. Despite the incongruous buildings, radar apparatus, masts and other structures at RAF Boulmer on the B1339 north of Lesbury, and the nearby helicopter station, the village retains a quaint charm largely unadulterated by modern development.

A small housing development of eleven bungalows has been built behind roadside cottages at 'Bowmere', at the southern end of the village. Built out of light, stone-coloured brick with dark roof tiles, they sit relatively well in the landscape despite the layout being contrary to the established linear form of the village.

New housing on the periphery of the village or within open space, other than small scale, single storey minor infill in keeping with the character of the village is likely to significantly affect the key features of the village which provides a special landscape quality to this part of the coastal AONB.

(ii) *Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

The traditional historic character of the village is a prominent aspect of the landscape, and would be affected by new housing which was out of scale and unsympathetic in design, layout and form. Only isolated, small scale, single storey stone built cottages are likely to be acceptable. Cumulative impact of new development, particularly where alien to the village's traditional linear form and pattern, should be a key consideration with any housing application.

The village is framed inland by the gently undulating, medium-large scale, simple agricultural landscape of the *Farmed Coastal Plain*, which also emphasises the open landscape setting of the village. Further new 'backland' development behind roadside properties is likely to compromise the setting of the village in the landscape which is an important characteristic.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

The view northwards from the minor coast road through the village (also part of National Cycle Network Route No. 1) provides the first clear view of Dunstanburgh Castle. New housing on the northern edge of the village could potentially lie within the zone of visual sensitivity around this iconic feature.

The village lies within view cones from two identified important viewpoints:

- Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park
- Cloudy Crags

These viewpoints lie on high ground some distance to the west. Any modest new housing development in the village is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence to present harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints which are at significant distance from the village and/or are screened by intervening existing development, landform or woodlands.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

A number of other key views have been identified along the coast between Boulmer and Howick, essentially views from the coastal path (also part of National Cycle Network Route No. 1) north to Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle and southwards to Sugar Sands / Howdiemont sands, Longhoughton Steel, Boulmer Steel and Coquet Island.

The coast path / St Oswald's Way and National Cycle Network Route No. 1 are recognised as sensitive routes from where there are key views of the special qualities and landscape features of the AONB. The character of the village, its setting in the landscape and views out, add to the enjoyment of the routes as a whole and to the diverse nature of the AONB. New development which affects the character and key qualities of this part of the AONB could diminish the enjoyment and wider amenity value of the designated landscape for visitors.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

*(i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

Attempts to 'modernise' the village to increase tourism should be avoided. The character of the village should be protected as a feature along the route, acknowledging the importance of the village in providing a recreational link or as a stopping off point for travellers to enjoy the views from the coastal car park, or the village pub.

New housing other than limited infill is likely to significantly affect key landscape characteristics. New housing would not provide opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures that could help strengthen landscape character.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

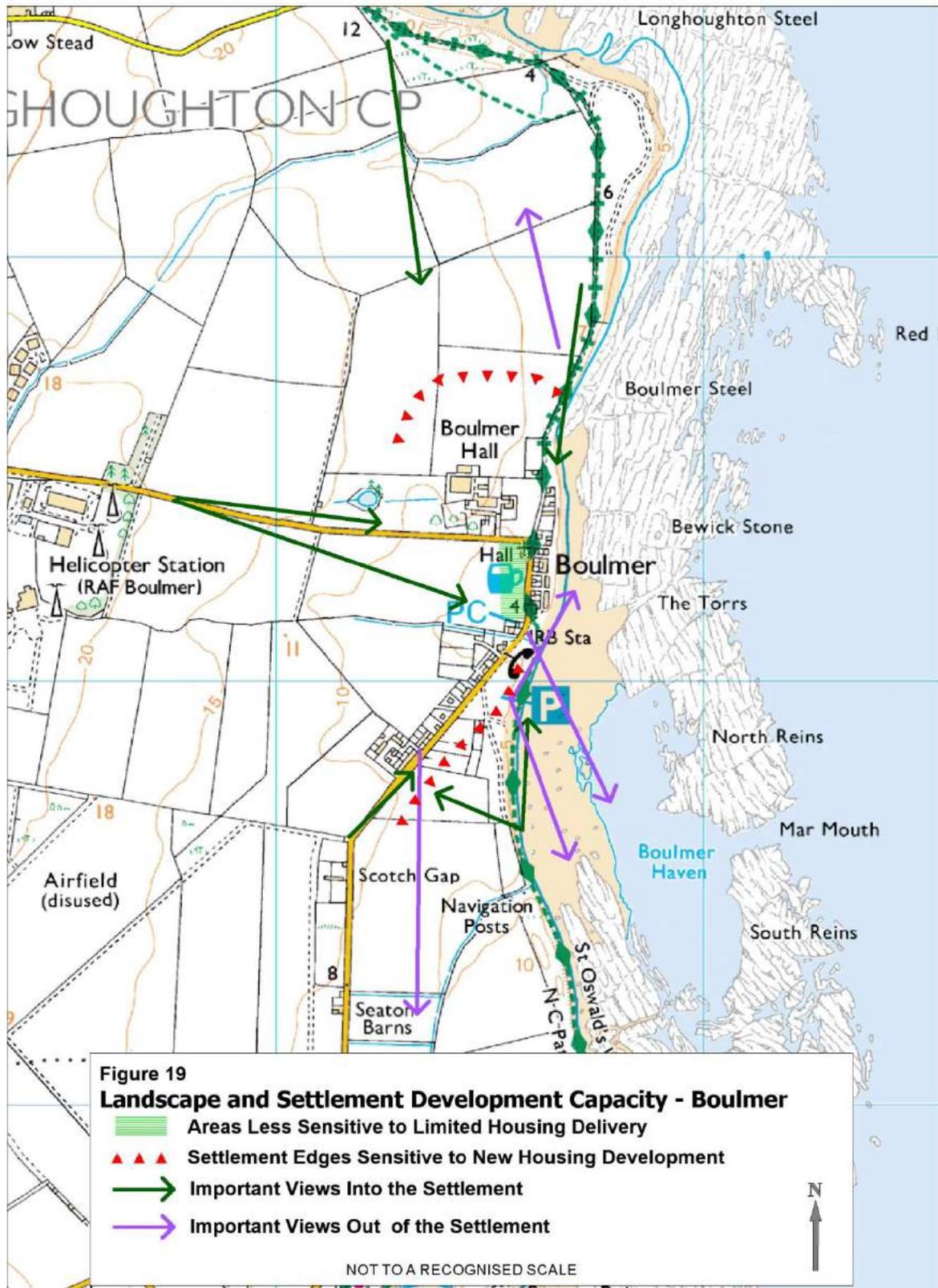
- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for this LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to arrest the erosion of character and loss of condition of landscape elements where this has occurred, and in so doing raise the general quality of the landscape. The coastal landscape and adjacent seascape is a key element of Northumberland's tourist economy, and requires a degree of protection.*

New housing could compromise protection of landscape character, in particular the distinctive form and layout of the village and its historic fishing traditions. The important seaward views out of the village should be protected. Positive land management could include improvement of recreational access along the coast, but care should be taken to ensure improvements are in keeping with the scale and character of the village. For example improvements to the small beach-side car park with unsympathetic kerbing and other materials, signage and lighting would be inappropriate.



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## Lesbury and Hipsburn

### Landscape Context

Lesbury and Hipsburn are both located within landscape character area 2a *Lower Aln*, within the wider *Coastal Incised Valley* LCT 2. The AONB boundary follows the A1068 south of Hipsburn and the B1339 to the north of Lesbury, taking a line between the two along the Steppey Lane cul-de-sac which becomes a footbridge over the River Aln.

Most of Hipsburn lies outside the AONB apart from approximately twenty properties on the eastern side of Steppey Lane. Similarly the main built up part of Lesbury lies outside the AONB apart from properties to the east of the B1339 along Bridge End and small housing developments at Croftlands and Meadowlands comprising approximately sixteen properties. This settlement assessment considers implications for future housing growth on sites within the AONB only, in the context that development to meet local needs housing supply in Lesbury and Hipsburn will be prioritised in areas outside the AONB as a matter of principle.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Lower Aln* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Some variety	Shallow, steep sided valley
Land cover	Some variety	Areas of arable, pasture and woodland
Scale	Medium	Deep and broad valley
Enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosure provided by valley landform and woodland
Skylines	Some complexity	Skylines influenced by varied topography at valley edge
Views and landmarks	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Views to settlement edge
Intervisibility	Self-contained, restricted intervisibility	Limited due to valley landform
Receptors	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Transport routes provide views and high numbers of residents experience landscape
Movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Main road and railway provide movement
Remoteness	Limited tranquillity	Roads, railway and town create busy landscape
Settlement	Towns and larger settlement	Proximity of Alnwick, Lesbury and Hipsburn
Industry	Many human features	Alnwick urban edge, roads and railway provide strong human influence
Vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Masts at RAF station at Lesbury (immediately outwith LCA), overhead wire of railway, power lines and mobile phone masts

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Road, railway and river are notable linear features
Historic features	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Alnwick Castle designed landscape, traditional cottages, disused railway and evidence of historic settlement
Recreation	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Local recreational use of disused railway
Condition	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Some lack of maintenance of field boundaries
Distinctiveness	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Valley with estate influence representative landscape
Rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	Incised wooded valley found in many locations

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 2: *Coastal Incised Valley* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Shallow valleys cutting through the coastal plain, with meandering rivers
- More sheltered than the surrounding coastal plain, with restricted views
- Arable farming, with pasture and woodland in steeper areas
- Villages and larger settlements, as well as farmsteads and cottages
- Transport links and infrastructure, such as the East Coast Main Line, pass through
- Long history of settlement, and good access links

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

A distinctive characteristic of the *Coastal Incised Valley* is that it is well settled. As well as Lesbury and Hipsburn, this landscape character type includes the eastern edge of Alnwick beyond the AONB to the west. In general, Lesbury and Hipsburn are unobtrusive in the landscape, and new housing development could potentially become a part of the character of the landscape. The eastern edges of the villages, however, lie within the AONB and retain key characteristics of the landscape type, and consequently are generally more sensitive to new housing.

The ribbon development of properties along the eastern side of Steppey Lane backs on to an extensive area of flat floodplain in between the meanders of the river. Mostly arable farmland, with meadow grassland on the wetter parts and pasture, Hipsburn First School, cricket ground and sewage works also located within the flood plain. This minor Hip Burn gently flows through the floodplain south of the B1338 to join the River Aln west of Alnmouth. The floodplain is unlikely to be appropriate for housing because of the potential for flooding.

The broad, flat, largely undeveloped valley landform provides a distinctive contrast to other parts of the coastal AONB and is important to the setting of the village in views both in and out. It provides

an important gap, in landscape and visual terms, between Lesbury / Hipsburn and the steep wooded valley sides enclosing Alnmouth to the east.

The northern and eastern sides of Lesbury have begun to encroach on to the gently rolling valley sides, which become steeper further out from the village. The built up edge sits relatively well in the landscape, and the *Farmed Coastal Plain* rises gently to the north of the village, where the rolling mixed farmland with hedgerows and hedgerow trees provides an important gap, in landscape and visual terms, between the village and the incongruous buildings, radar apparatus, masts and other structures at RAF Boulmer on the B1339. Further development would close this sensitive gap and encroach further up the valley side, which should be avoided.

The eastern edge of Lesbury extends along Bridge End and currently sits well in the landscape, avoiding the steeper valley sides. In landscape and visual terms, further limited, well designed housing could potentially be accommodated on flat open pastureland between modern housing at Croftlands and a small courtyard steading development further east, without affecting key landscape qualities.

*(ii) Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

Whilst not typical of the wider AONB, the incised wooded river valley is a prominent landscape feature in this narrow section of the designation, yet adds greatly to its landscape interest and scenic value. The river meanders extravagantly, having contributed over millennia to the dramatic horseshoe topography falling to the river from the pronounced wooded hillside of Mount Pleasant.

Despite being relatively enclosed by the steep sided and well wooded valley edge, the minor coast road from Boulmer and Alnmouth provides panoramic views from high ground down across the floodplain. The villages lie in the bottom of the bowl enclosed by the river valley sides and the rising hills to the west.

Whilst new housing would not affect the coastal influence and key landscape features and special qualities of the wider AONB, it would potentially affect key qualities of the distinctive *Lower Aln* character area and views between steep wooded valley slopes. The eastern edges of the settlements within the AONB are sensitive to housing which adversely affects the setting of the villages in the river valley landscape. Any new housing development within either village is likely to be more appropriate outside the AONB and closer to local facilities.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

Lesbury and Hipsburn do not lie within any identified zones of visual sensitivity around iconic landscape features. However, they do lie within the view cones from three important viewpoints:

- Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park
- Cloudy Craggs
- Bracken Hill, Alnmouth

The Brizlee Tower and Cloudy Craggs viewpoints lie on high ground some distance to the west. Any modest new housing development in the villages is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence to

present harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints which are at significant distance from the village and/or are screened by intervening existing development, landform or woodlands.

The identified Bracken Hill viewpoint lies on the ridge of high ground to the north of Alnmouth, providing panoramic views, principally along the coast but also westwards towards Lesbury and Hipsburn. Housing development which is uncharacteristic to the established form and pattern of built development in the villages, particularly where it affects landscape setting, could have some impact on views from Bracken Hill, although the key view from the viewpoint is along the coast.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

There are distant views eastwards from areas of open access land on Alnwick Moor in the west, but modest new housing development in the villages is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence to present harmful visual impacts.

There are views from the busy A1068 and from the east coast mainline railway south of Hipsburn, primarily coastal towards Alnmouth Bay, and showing the juxtaposition of Alnmouth between the meandering River Aln, high ground at Mount Pleasant and the Bracken Hill ridge to the north, and the river mouth and sandy coastline to the south and east. Views of Lesbury and Hipsburn from these linear transport corridors are limited, restricted to glimpses of buildings on lower elevations and set within the shallow river valley with wooded steeper slopes beyond. The tall masts at RAF Boulmer are prominent on high ground above Lesbury, but the eye is drawn towards Alnmouth and the coast.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

*(i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

The eastern built up edges of both villages sit reasonably well in the landscape, avoiding both the flat floodplain between river meanders and the steeper valley slopes. The setting of the villages in the landscape would not be enhanced by mitigation measures associated with new housing development in the AONB.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

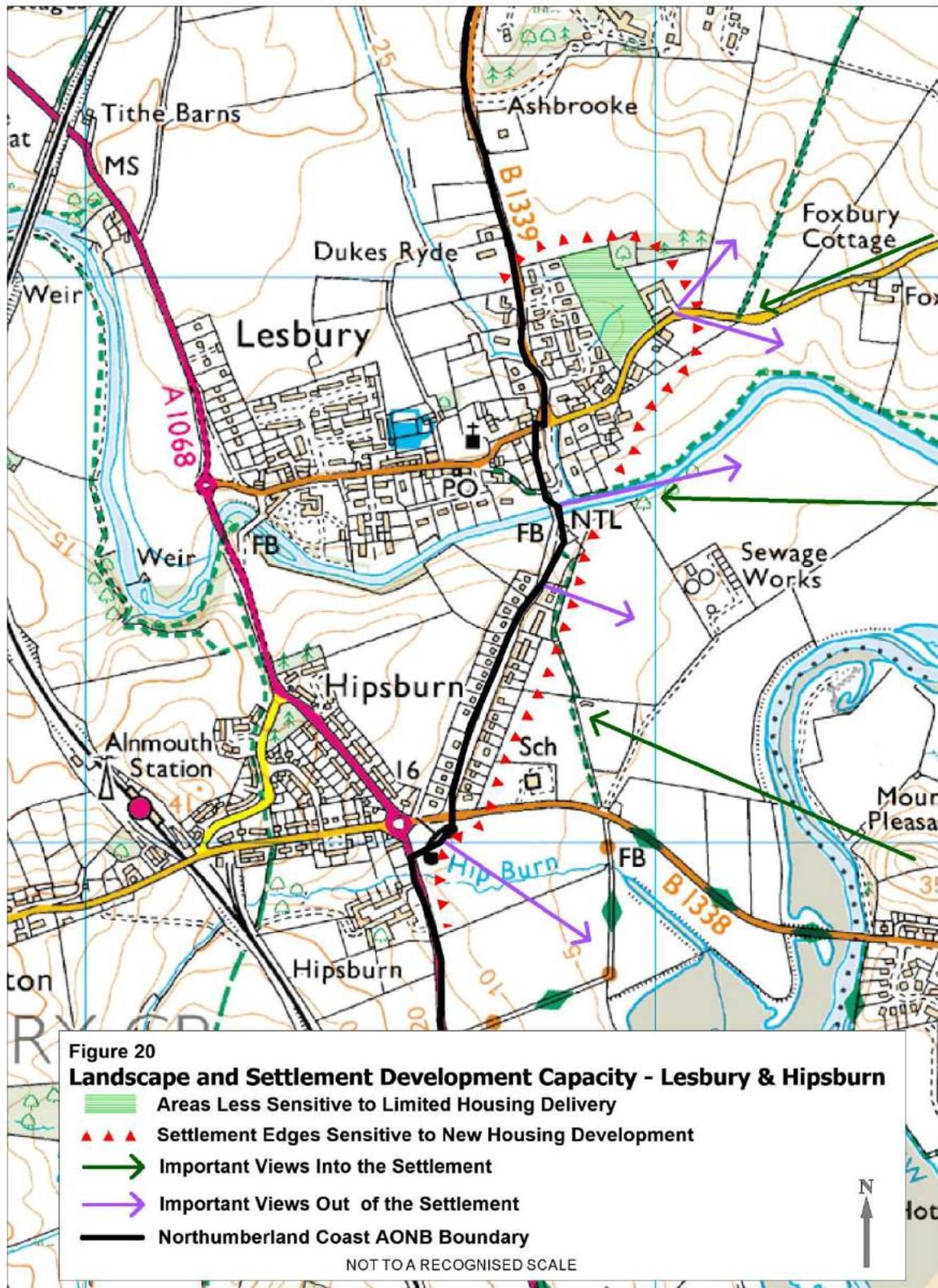
*(i) Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for this LCT is to **manage** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The landscape is generally well maintained, and the approach should therefore be to encourage the on-going custodianship, and to manage the pressures for expansion of Alnwick. New development should be guided to less sensitive locations, while maintenance should focus on the existing habitats such as riparian woodlands, hedgerows and flood plain meadows*

New housing development within the *Lower Aln* landscape character area is likely to be concentrated in the larger settlement of Alnwick, avoiding the more sensitive locations within the AONB. Sensitive management of flood meadows and the steeper valley slopes should include maintenance of their open undeveloped character to help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape.



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## Alnmouth

### Landscape Context

Alnmouth lies within landscape character area 5c *Aln and Coquet Estuaries*, within the wider *Sandy Coastline* LCT 5.

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Aln and Coquet Estuaries* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Simple with occasional variety	Gently sloping landform with occasional rocky headlands and estuary mouths
Land cover	Some variety	Coastal sands, dunes and saltmarsh
Scale	Medium	Coastal aspect and local features create medium scale landscape
Enclosure	Generally open, enclosed in places	Generally open with some local enclosure
Skylines	Largely simple, some variety	Simple skylines inland, some variety along coastal edge
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views	Features of settlements and Warkworth Castle provide views
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Parts of the landscape intervisible with neighbouring areas
Receptors	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes	Main coastal road linking key settlement and mainline railway
Movement	Frequent movement on roads and railway	Important road links and rail movement
Remoteness	Limited tranquillity	Busy transport links limit tranquillity
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Alnmouth, Warkworth and influence of Amble
Industry	Very limited small scale industry	Influence of towns, but no other industry
Vertical features	Few vertical features	No significant vertical features
Linear features	Few linear features	Roads and railway on periphery of landscape character area
Historic features	Some prominent historic features	Warkworth Castle locally prominent
Recreation	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Alnmouth and Warkworth key visitor attractions and role of sandy beaches for recreation
Condition	Generally well managed	Generally well managed some loss of field patterns
Distinctiveness	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Settlements, sandy beaches and estuaries significant coastal landscape features

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Rarity	A rarely occurring landscape	Estuaries and saltmarsh are features

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 5: *Sandy Coastline* as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Sweeping views across the seascape and along the coastline
- Prominence of historic features as landmarks
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development
- Intact sand dune and saltmarsh habitats.

## Constraints to Development

(i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Alnmouth lies within the tidal estuary of the River Aln, and has developed to meet the demands of the tourist industry in this area of the AONB. It is a popular centre for sailing. Settlement characteristics and tourist infrastructure exert a strong influence on the landscape, although it retains a strong coastal and seascape character. The visual relationship of the town with the sea is important.

The town is enclosed to the north, where views into and out of the town are enclosed by topography and woodland on high ground. In contrast the town is open to the sea and provides sweeping views along the coastline to the south. Views westwards from the town, and when travelling on the B1338, are also extensive across the flat open floodplain of the River Aln towards the rising escarpment and hills to the west.

New housing beyond current built limits is highly unlikely due to physical constraints as described below. Any new housing beyond current built limits would almost certainly significantly affect the key qualities of the *Sandy Coastline* landscape type and the *Aln and Coquet Estuaries* landscape character area as described in the NLCA and listed above.

There may be the opportunity for small scale housing at the north-eastern edge of the village on the Foxton / Boulmer road, where there are currently allotments. The ground rises to the east hence any built development should be confined to the road frontage to reflect site levels and reduce landscape and visual impact.

(ii) *Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

The setting of the town is distinctive, surrounded by significant landscape features, and provides little opportunity for new housing development. The meandering river and estuary mud banks and sand flats lie immediately to the west and south where the river meets the sea at Alnmouth Bay.

Sweeping sandy beaches are backed by a well-developed and preserved saltmarsh and dune system, although some of the dunes to the north and east have been developed as a links golf course. To the north the town is tightly constrained by the ridge of high ground at Bracken Hill and Mount Pleasant, where pastureland occupies the steep slopes.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

As shown in Figure 6, there are no zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features which extend to Alnmouth. Warkworth Castle is the closest Iconic feature identified within the AONB, and on a clear day there are distant views of the castle from the raised area of St. Cuthbert's Cross on the south side of the estuary. New housing would not affect sensitive views from Iconic features within the AONB.

The view from the top of Bracken Hill overlooking the town is identified as an 'Important' view, enjoyed by many residents and tourists. The ridge itself limits views northwards by channelling them along the ridge across Alnmouth Bay and golf club to Seaton Point. Physical constraints would prevent new housing from affecting the view. Views from Bracken Hill to the south extend to Warkworth Castle, Amble and Coquet Island, but similarly physical constraints would prevent new housing from affecting the view.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

Other key views within or close to Alnmouth include views from The Wynd and from St. Cuthbert's Cross across the estuary and bay, and from high ground on the eastern edge of the village of High Buston from where there are views of the coast and Alnmouth. Again, physical constraints would prevent new housing from affecting the view. Similarly any new housing would not affect distant views from areas of open access land on Alnwick Moor in the west.

There are important views from the busy A1068 Coast Route and from the east coast mainline railway south of Hipsburn, towards Alnmouth, the bay and the coast. Views from these transport corridors, which includes the National Cycle Network Route No. 1, the North Sea Long Distance Cycle Route, the Coast Path and various other public rights of way, of the setting of the town, with boats on the river in the foreground and distinctive landscape and seascape features surrounding the town in the background, is picturesque and one of the key views within the AONB. New housing, or other built development, should be prevented from affecting the view.

### **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

*(i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

The town has a strong landscape and seascape character, and a very distinctive and unique landscape/seascape setting. New housing is unlikely due to physical constraints and would not provide the opportunity for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures to strengthen landscape character.

## Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B

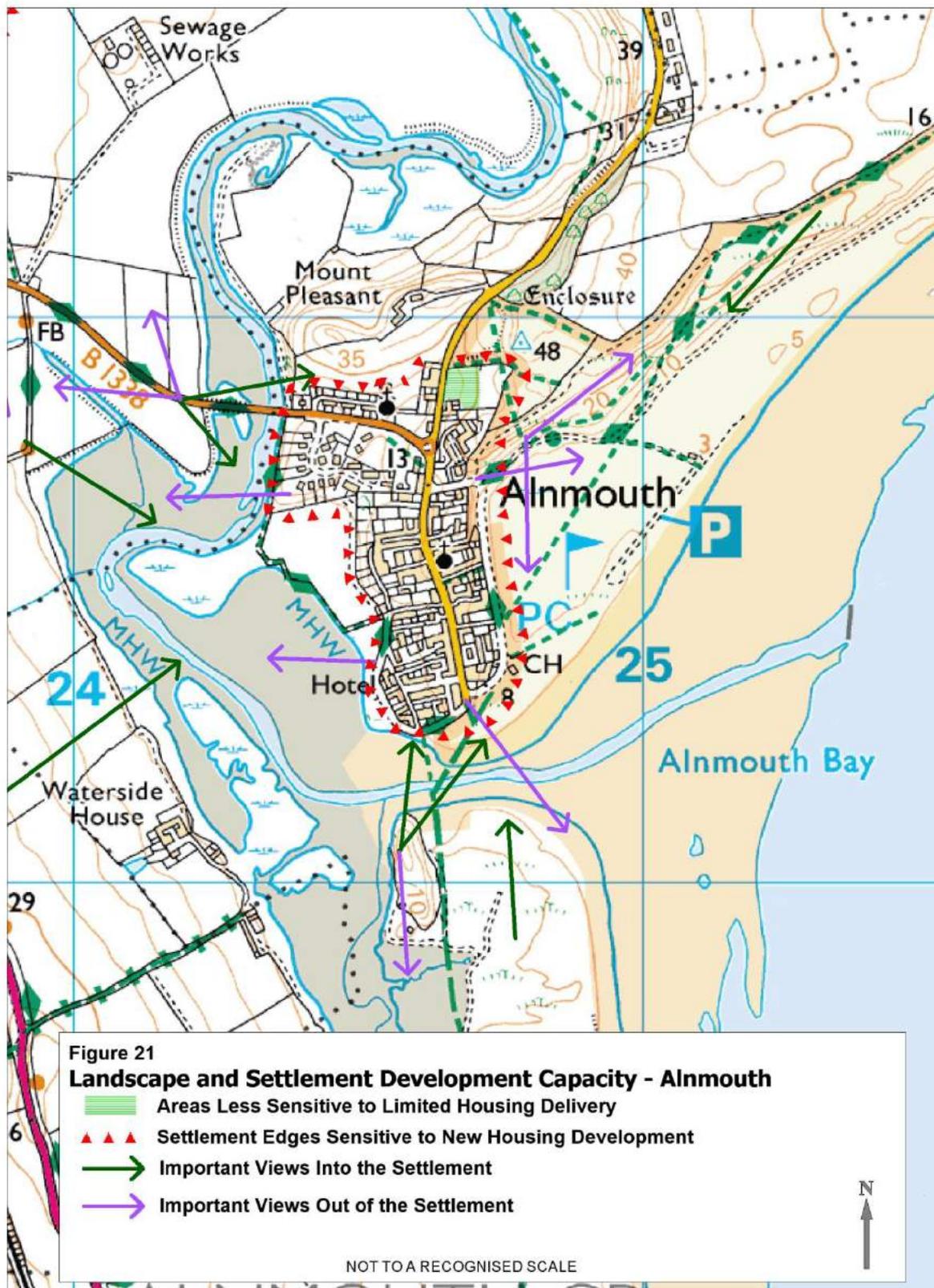
- (i) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for this LCT is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims for this landscape should be to conserve and enhance the key qualities of the landscape and adjacent seascape, and make their on-going custodianship sustainable. The landscape should be managed to integrate conservation of the natural and cultural heritage resource, with sensitive development of infrastructure for tourism, and good freedom of access and preservation of the open sea and coastal views.*

The distinctive landscape/seascape setting of the town is unique and should be protected from insensitive development or associated infrastructure that would compromise delivery of the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape. Conservation and enhancement of the key qualities of the landscape and seascape could in other locations within the AONB conflict with tourism, but increased tourist/recreational pressure is unlikely to lead to significant new housing development in Alnmouth.



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## Warkworth

### Landscape Context

Warkworth lies predominantly within the same landscape character area as Alnmouth described above, namely *5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries*, within the wider *Sandy Coastline* LCT 5. The two settlements within the two tidal estuaries essential book-end the LCT.

The western edge of the town within the AONB lies within landscape character area 2b *Lower Coquet* within the *Coastal Incised Valley* landscape character type 2. Within this LCT, modern development south of Morwick Road and at Heather Leazes lies out-with the AONB.

The traditional historic centre of the town, lying either side of the A 1068 on relatively flat ground within a meander of the River Coquet, is within the AONB. More recent housing on rising ground to the north of the river lies out-with the AONB, the boundary of which continues along the A1068.

This settlement assessment considers implications for future housing growth on sites within the AONB only, in the context that development to meet local needs housing supply in Warkworth will be prioritised in areas outside the AONB as a matter of principle. This essentially limits the assessment to consideration of three areas on the edge of the settlement and within the AONB, as shown on the map at the end of this assessment of Warkworth:

1. North of the river and east of the A1068, north of the minor lane to Warkworth Golf Club and Coquet View Caravan Park (within the *Aln and Coquet Estuaries* landscape character area);
2. East of the river and south of the minor lane to Warkworth Golf Club and Coquet View Caravan Park (within the *Aln and Coquet Estuaries* landscape character area);
3. South of the river, south of Mill Walk Wood and northeast of Heather Leazes (within the *Lower Coquet* landscape character area)

### Key Landscape Characteristics

The key landscape characteristics for the *Aln and Coquet Estuaries* landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Simple with occasional variety	Gently sloping landform with occasional rocky headlands and estuary mouths
Land cover	Some variety	Coastal sands, dunes and saltmarsh
Scale	Medium	Coastal aspect and local features create medium scale landscape
Enclosure	Generally open, enclosed in places	Generally open with some local enclosure
Skylines	Largely simple, some variety	Simple skylines inland, some variety along coastal edge
Views and landmarks	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views	Features of settlements and Warkworth Castle provide views

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Parts of the landscape intervisible with neighbouring areas
Receptors	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes	Main coastal road linking key settlement and mainline railway
Movement	Frequent movement on roads and railway	Important road links and rail movement
Remoteness	Limited tranquillity	Busy transport links limit tranquillity
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Alnmouth, Warkworth and influence of Amble
Industry	Very limited small scale industry	Influence of towns, but no other industry
Vertical features	Few vertical features	No significant vertical features
Linear features	Few linear features	Roads and railway on periphery of landscape character area
Historic features	Some prominent historic features	Warkworth Castle locally prominent
Recreation	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Alnmouth and Warkworth key visitor attractions and role of sandy beaches for recreation
Condition	Generally well managed	Generally well managed some loss of field patterns
Distinctiveness	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Settlements, sandy beaches and estuaries significant coastal landscape features
Rarity	A rarely occurring landscape	Estuaries and saltmarsh are features

The key landscape characteristics for the **Lower Coquet** landscape character area as recorded in the NLCA Part A, Annex A, are as follows:

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Landform	Some variety	Narrow incised valley within broader vale
Land cover	Some variety	Semi-natural woodland, pasture and arable farmland
Scale	Medium-small	Broader vale and narrower incised valley
Enclosure	Some enclosure	Broader vale more open, incised valley more enclosed
Skylines	Largely simple, some variety	Gentle topography of surrounding landscapes
Views and landmarks	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Views to Warkworth Castle and along river valley
Intervisibility	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Broader vale allows some intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes
Receptors	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Visibility predominantly from local transport routes
Movement	Occasional to frequent movement	More limited movement on local roads

Criteria	Key Characteristics	Summary
Remoteness	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Influence of land management, roads and settlement reduce sense of remoteness
Settlement	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Landscape influenced by Guyzance and Warkworth
Industry	Limited industrial influence	Small scale works outside Warkworth, influence of pylons and railway
Vertical features	Some vertical features but lacking prominence	Pylon line, overhead wires of railway
Linear features	Linear features but lacking prominence	Pylon line, railway and minor roads
Historic features	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Remains of priory at Guyzance and Warkworth Castle
Recreation	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Local footpaths and use for fishing
Condition	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Some loss of field boundaries
Distinctiveness	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Valley landscape with estate influence
Rarity	A more common landscape with features of some rarity	Valley landscape influenced by some rarer features of Guyzance

## Key Landscape Qualities

The key qualities of LCT 5: **Sandy Coastline** as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Dynamic seascape environment
- Sweeping views across the seascape and along the coastline
- Prominence of historic features as landmarks
- Traditional cores of former fishing villages, often with distinctive pantiled roofs
- Extensively accessible landscape with much tourist-oriented development
- Intact sand dune and saltmarsh habitats.

The key qualities of LCT 2: **Coastal Incised Valley** as listed in the NLCA Part B are as follows:

- Shallow valleys cutting through the coastal plain, with meandering rivers
- More sheltered than the surrounding coastal plain, with restricted views
- Arable farming, with pasture and woodland in steeper areas
- Villages and larger settlements, as well as farmsteads and cottages
- Transport links and infrastructure, such as the East Coast Main Line, pass through
- Long history of settlement, and good access links

## Constraints to Development

- (i) *Would new housing development affect the key qualities of the landscape as described in the NLCA?*

Area 1 comprises relatively flat ground above and to the east of the A1068, with a strong coastal influence due to views out to the sea. Land use includes a cemetery, long stay parking area and pastureland. A farmstead and three detached properties, with parks for static and mobile caravans, stand immediately to the north in the small hamlet of Birling. To the east the area extends to a single width track which is part of National Cycle Network Route No. 1. New housing would merge Warkworth with Birling. The A1068 forms an almost gorge-like barrier where area 1 lies at the top of a high retaining wall clothed in ivy and with a dense shrub and woodland canopy above. This forms a dense screen to the town when viewed from the single-width track leading to Warkworth Golf Club and Coquet View Caravan Park, from where there are also views of Warkworth Castle. Views of area 1 from the coast nearby are largely screened by the lower elevation of the beach, but there are views from the coastline further north. New housing could affect the key qualities of the seascape environment of the AONB, sweeping views along the coast and the setting of Warkworth Castle as a landmark feature in the landscape.

Area 2 lies to the south of area 1, and comprises (from north to south) a football pitch, a couple of farmsteads including Helsay, and arable farmland. Like area 1, area 2 is elevated above the town, at the top of the well wooded, steep sided river valley which is more characteristic of the *Coastal Incised Valley* LCT than the *Sandy Coastline* LCT. Area 2 also has a strong coastal influence with views to and from the coastal sand dunes. New housing in area 2 would be isolated from the town and contrary to established built form which in this area is well retained within the river meander. This is a sensitive area on the approach to Warkworth from the south along the A1068. The buildings within area 2 stand on a ridge of high ground, with flat open arable land providing an important gap between the buildings and Warkworth. Key qualities of the seascape environment of the AONB, in particular sweeping views along the coast and the setting of Warkworth Castle could be affected by new housing development in area 2, although to a lesser extent than in area 1 due to the effect of the existing farmsteads in this area.

Area 3 comprises arable farmland and grassland which gently falls northwards to the River Coquet, beyond the steep sided, wooded river valley. Coastal influence is limited by the sheltered wooded valley which restricts views. Currently areas to the south of the castle, north of Morwick Road, remain free of development which is important to the setting of the castle where there are views of it from along the river valley and from local transport routes and public rights of way. The *Coastal Incised Valley* has a long history of settlement, and good access links, where new housing would not be out of character. However the key consideration is the likely impact on the setting and views of the castle, an identified iconic landscape feature within the AONB. There are close views of the castle from the track and right of way along the western edge of area 3, leading down to Howlet Hall and the water works. More distant views are available from further west where occasionally the castle is seen with a backdrop of the coast. New housing within area 3 is likely to affect such key views and thus the setting of the castle in the landscape.

(ii) *Would new housing affect other features of importance in landscape terms?*

New housing within areas 1, 2 and 3 would affect the setting of the town in the landscape, extending development beyond recognisable built form and settlement pattern. Development would occur uncharacteristically beyond recognisable linear features, most notably the river corridor and the A1068 north of the town.

*(iii) Would new housing development affect zones of visual sensitivity around Iconic landscape features or key views from important viewpoints?*

Warkworth lies within the zone of visual sensitivity identified around the castle. Views out from the castle are panoramic, where uncharacteristic housing in sensitive locations beyond recognisable boundaries could affect views from the castle.

The town lies within the view cones from three important viewpoints:

- Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park
- Cloudy Craggs
- Bracken Hill, Alnmouth

The Brizlee Tower and Cloudy Craggs viewpoints lie on high ground some distance to the west. Any modest new housing development in Warkworth is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence to present harmful visual impacts from these viewpoints which are at significant distance from the town and/or are screened by intervening existing development, landform or woodlands.

The identified Bracken Hill viewpoint lies on the ridge of high ground to the north of Alnmouth, providing panoramic views, principally along the coast to the south and beyond Warkworth. Housing development which is uncharacteristic to the established form and pattern of built development in the town, particularly where it affects landscape setting, could have some impact on views from Bracken Hill, although the key view from the viewpoint is along the coast.

*(iv) Would new housing development affect other key views or views from sensitive routes?*

There are distant views eastwards from areas of open access land on Alnwick Moor in the west, but modest new housing development in the town is unlikely to be of a scale or prominence to present harmful visual impacts. Views from Warkworth / Amble Harbour and the A1068 towards the castle and the hills beyond to the west are identified as key sensitive views. Careful assessment of the impact of new housing within areas 1, 2 and 3 would be needed to ensure no adverse impact on the setting of the castle.

## **Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement / Mitigation**

*(i) Are there opportunities for landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures associated with new housing development that could help strengthen landscape character?*

Development of new housing to meet area needs in Warkworth should be prioritised in areas outside the AONB as a matter of principle. There is no justification for new housing within the AONB on the grounds of providing landscape enhancement or other mitigation measures to help strengthen landscape character. In all three areas identified on the edge of the settlement and within the AONB significant topographical and riparian woodland features provide strong linear boundaries that are important to landscape and townscape character. Open areas beyond these sensitive settlement edges are important to the setting of the town and to the setting of Warkworth Castle, and should remain open.

There may be some potential for new housing along settlement edges out-with the AONB, likely to be limited to the northern fringe around Station Road / Hermitage Drive and the southern fringe of

the town, subject to detailed landscape and visual impact assessment. Locations on the northern and southern fringes would potentially have less impact on the special qualities of the AONB and other landscape features, but these are transitional landscapes where several different landscape types and character areas meet, as identified in the NLCA. Local impact, dependent upon the use of appropriate materials, scale and layout of new housing and sensitive location to provide good landscape fit, including retention and enhancement of existing vegetation, is likely to be of more importance than potential wider impact on landscape character of the AONB.

### **Delivery of Recommendations within the NLCA Part B**

- (ii) *Would new housing compromise or help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims and land management guidelines for this landscape?*

The guiding principle for *Sandy Coastline* LCT 5 is to **protect** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The principal aims for this landscape should be to conserve and enhance the key qualities of the landscape and adjacent seascape, and make their on-going custodianship sustainable. The landscape should be managed to integrate conservation of the natural and cultural heritage resource, with sensitive development of infrastructure for tourism, and good freedom of access and preservation of the open sea and coastal views.*

Areas 1 and 2 lie within the *Sandy Coastline* landscape character type. Assessment has concluded that these are sensitive locations within the AONB on the edge of Warkworth, the largely open nature of which should be protected from new housing development. Land management should seek to minimise effects upon the landscape, and protect key views along the coast and seaward, and protect the setting of Warkworth Castle, in the siting and design of new development and tourist infrastructure. This will help deliver the key guiding principle and the principle aims within the NLCA Part B.

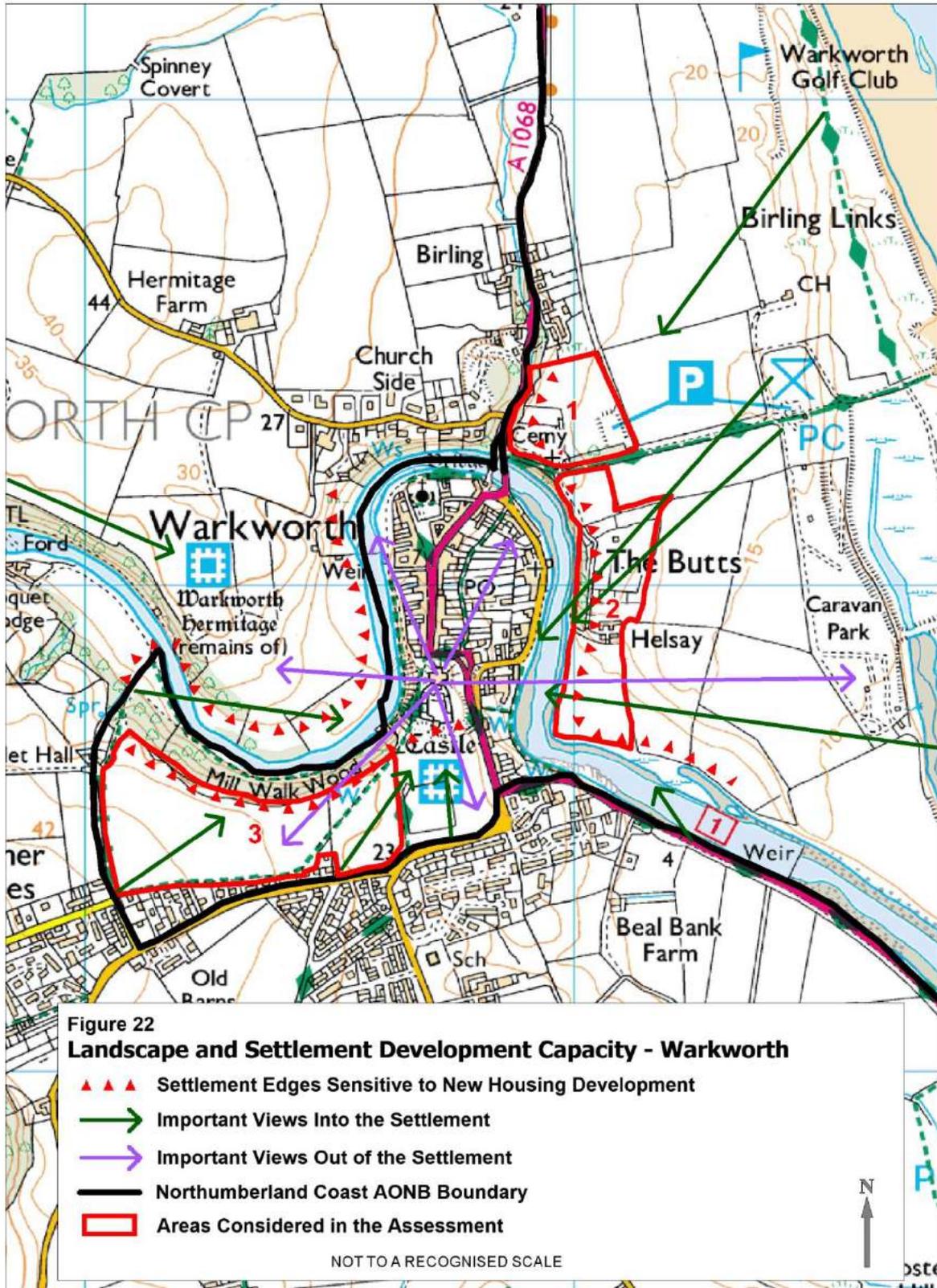
The guiding principle for the *Coastal Incised Valley* LCT 2 is to **manage** the landscape. The vision statement to achieve this is described as follows:

***Vision Statement:***

*The landscape is generally well maintained, and the approach should therefore be to encourage the on-going custodianship, and to manage the pressures for expansion of Alnwick. New development should be guided to less sensitive locations, while maintenance should focus on the existing habitats such as riparian woodlands, hedgerows and flood plain meadows*

Area 3 lies within the *Coastal Incised Valley* landscape character type. Management is required to enhance the landscape in some areas, including settlement edges where modern development may not reflect the local vernacular or existing settlement edges and patterns, leading to increased urban fringe and loss of cohesiveness and settlement character. The river corridor within the Coquet Estuary provides a recreational resource beyond the AONB, and land management should seek to

provide appropriate expansion of Warkworth to meet demand for local housing by steering development to the most appropriate locations, avoiding sensitive landscape features and views and managing tourist pressure, for example by encouraging provision of improved footpaths and interpretation along the river corridor. Assessment has concluded that area 3 is a sensitive location within the AONB on the edge of Warkworth. Management should seek to retain the open nature of the area which should be protected from new housing development.



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## 9 SENSITIVITY OF EXISTING CAMPING/CARAVAN/CHALET PARKS WITHIN THE AONB

### Introduction

**9-1** Camping, caravan and chalet sites are an established element of tourism related development across the AONB. They can be seen to be particularly associated with areas with good access to the sandy beaches, such as Beadnell and Warkworth, and where there are good local facilities, such as at Seahouses.

**9-2** They vary considerably in size, character and setting, and in some areas of the AONB are parts of the established character of the landscape. Attempts at landscape integration also vary considerably from site to site.

**9-3** The special qualities of the Northumberland Coast AONB combine to provide a popular tourist destination, particularly in relation to its tranquillity, historic features and unspoiled coastline. The tourism sector is consequently an important element of the local economy and the emerging Local Development Plan Core Strategy<sup>15</sup> recognises this by setting a generally positive approach to tourism development whilst seeking to safeguard the special qualities of the county (as a whole) which attract visitors in the first place. It further recognises that the coastal AONB faces significant pressure for tourism related development and seeks to balance the potential for economic growth with protection of the unique qualities of the statutorily designated area.

**9-4** Policy 15 of the emerging development plan sets the policy context for new or extended sites for tourist related development. It seeks to resist development in isolated locations in the open countryside, unless these can be seen to be essential to support an existing business in that location. It sets a sequential approach for tourism related proposals seeking to locate development as close as possible to settlements. However, it supports proposals for new (and extension of) chalets, caravans and camping sites in 'accessible locations' subject to having regard to visual prominence and the effectiveness of year-round screening. It goes on to clarify that any tourism related development should not adversely impact upon the purpose and special qualities of the Northumberland Coast AONB.

**9-5** The AONB Management Plan<sup>16</sup> sets out management objectives and policy for tourist related development, including for caravan and camping sites. This plan cannot control such development but seeks to establish common approaches to improved sustainable management of the special qualities of the AONB. In doing so it recognises the economic value of such sites but also their potential for harmful landscape and habitats effects through further proliferation. It seeks to limit future tourist accommodation facilities to within existing settlements. It also seeks to encourage enhanced screening measures to existing sites.

**9-6** It is not the function of this study to anticipate the outcomes of proposals under future planning policy frameworks. However, for the purposes of the study and at the time of writing, it may be assumed that new caravan and camping sites within the open countryside of the AONB *could* be permissible under emerging policy in 'accessible locations' and where year-round screening can be provided.

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<sup>15</sup> Northumberland Local Development Plan, Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation Document – February 2013

<sup>16</sup> Northumberland Coast AONB & Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS, Management Plan 2009-2014

## Approach and Methodology

**9-7** This study addresses this potential by considering the sensitivity and capacity of the landscapes of the AONB in relation to camping, caravan and chalet sites in two parts: firstly an assessment is made of the overall sensitivity of landscape character types within the AONB and capacity to accommodate caravan and camping development in principle, by considering potential effects on key characteristics, as set out in **Table 18**; secondly, assessment of current landscape and visual prominence of existing sites and their capacity for extension is made, based upon a combination of desk study and field survey, as set out in **Table 19**. Visual prominence draws on the visual analysis in Chapter 5 of this study to assess potential impacts on 'iconic' features, 'important' viewpoints and other 'key' views, including views from sensitive routes. Existing camping, caravan and chalet sites referred to in the tables are shown in **Figure 23** at the end of the report.

**9-8** The assessment provides guidance on sensitivity and capacity at the strategic level, including consideration of mitigation measures, but does not provide a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of each site. Guidance is given primarily to enable the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership to provide informed and robust advice in relation to forward planning, planning applications and other consultations.

**9-9** The landscape character types (LCTs) and landscape character areas (LCAs) defined by the NLCA which fall across the AONB are examined at a strategic level in relation to their capacity for new or extended caravan and camping sites in **Table 18**. The assessment is based upon professional judgement having regard to the key characteristics of the LCTs and LCAs (as defined in the NLCA Part A) and the inherent value associated with these as a consequence of its national landscape designation as AONB. Consideration is also given to the approach taken in Part D of the *Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study* which adopts the 'guiding principle' for each character area from Part B of the NLCA, defined as *protect, manage or plan* (as described in paragraphs 3-10 to 3-16). This has been adopted to reflect the nature of the guiding principle, in that those areas identified for landscape *planning* are more likely to be of lower quality, or value, at present, and therefore subject to change, than those identified for *protection*.

**9-10** Judgements of sensitivity have not been explicitly recorded, but areas of higher or lower sensitivity to camping/caravan/chalet parks are described. The summary capacity assessments are made based on the key characteristics that could be particularly vulnerable to intrusive caravan and camping development. As previously acknowledged, there may be very specific combinations of landscape character and elements within any particular LCT which may accommodate some degree of development without significant landscape impacts, although these would need to be assessed on a site by site basis as they come forward, and in the context of extant planning policy.

**9-11** The potential for landscape and visual prominence and effects upon landscape character from caravan and camping sites varies considerably, initially as a function of their scale, type and seasonality. Topography and site screening can be vitally important factors for all scales and types of site, and even the largest of sites can present proportionately low landscape impact where these combine effectively, such as at Haggerston Castle just outside the AONB. Conversely, small but poorly screened sites of static caravans in particular can be highly prominent in the landscape.

**9-12** At the lower end of a spectrum of visual prominence, small, seasonal, tent-only camp sites with minimal permanent amenities or facilities can present very low levels of visual prominence over relatively short 'peak season' periods or weekends. Prominence of such sites may be further mitigated by existing tree cover or hedgerows, or by close association with existing development such as farmhouses and agricultural buildings. For periods of the year they present no landscape

impact of any significance. In contrast, major holiday parks consisting of large numbers of effectively permanent static caravans or chalets, typically light in colour, and supported by amenity and recreational facilities can be significant features in the landscape, particularly where screening cover is limited or ineffective. Visual prominence over long-distances of these sites is possible depending on topography and land cover, and can be exacerbated by seasonal changes in screening effectiveness. Between these extremes lies a spectrum of scales, types and consequent visual prominence which present a wide variation in the potential for landscape impacts or erosion of established landscape character. An important influence on the visual prominence of caravan and camping sites can be the change in relief over the site itself, which can make the site difficult to screen from views into it, and effectively increase the number of visible units in comparison to more level sites.

**9-13** Hence, regardless of specific characteristics of any landscape character type or area in which a new site is proposed or an existing site potentially extended, there is an inherent risk of detrimental landscape impacts arising as a consequence of caravan and camping site development, wherever proposed. Field survey of existing sites in and close to the AONB has underlined that immediate local character, topography and the extent and effectiveness of screening, in combination with the scale and type of site are significant factors for consideration as well as the inherent qualities of the individual LCAs they fall within (as set out in **Table 19**). Poor or good development of caravan and camping sites in landscape terms are possible outcomes across any of the LCAs within the AONB, as evidenced by field survey.

**9-14** Cumulative landscape impact from multiple individual sites is an important consideration in the effective and sustainable management of the AONB. Combinations of the visual impacts of sites in the same vista can present disproportionate landscape impact in comparison to their individual visual effect. For example, concentrations of larger caravan sites on the edge of Seahouses and Beadnell result in the settlements being effectively extended to a significant degree in longer and middle distance views. The proximity of existing and proposed sites at Beadnell Bay has exacerbated the overall landscape impact of what individually may have once constituted acceptable scales of caravan park development. Likewise the development of a new site between existing sites, even when a significant distance apart but within the same vista can alter the overall balance of features in the landscape and increase inter-visibility of inharmonious landscape components, to the overall detriment of the AONB.

### **Assessment of overall landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity of LCTs and LCAs within the AONB to accommodate new and extended camping/caravan/chalet development**

**9-15** Table 18 below records the assessment.

### **Assessment of landscape and visual prominence of existing camping/caravan/chalet sites**

**9-16** Table 19 below records the assessment.

**Table 18: Assessment of Overall Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Capacity of LCTs and LCAs within the AONB to Accommodate New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet development**

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
<p><b>LCT 2: Coastal Incised Valley</b></p> <p><b>LCA 2a: Lower Aln</b></p> <p><b>LCA 2b: Lower Coquet</b></p>	<p><i>Manage</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shallow valleys cutting through the coastal plain, with meandering rivers.</li> <li>• More sheltered than the surrounding coastal plain, with restricted views.</li> <li>• Arable farming with pasture and woodland in steeper areas.</li> <li>• Villages and larger settlements, as well as farmsteads and cottages.</li> <li>• Transport links and infrastructure, such as the East Coast Main Line, pass through.</li> <li>• Long history of settlement and good access links.</li> </ul>	<p>Only the extreme eastern edges of this LCT fall within the AONB, comprising the lower reaches of the Rivers Aln and Coquet as they meander towards the coast.</p> <p>Whilst not typical of the wider AONB and mostly cut off visually from direct coastal influence, these are distinctive landscape features in this narrow section of the designation, yet add greatly to the landscape interest and scenic value of this small part of the AONB. They provide recreational value away from the coast, particularly the more gorge-like and picturesque lower Coquet valley.</p> <p>Enclosure provided by the often steep incised valley landform and woodland, particularly alongside the River Coquet, affords natural screening and restricts views mostly down the valleys. The LCT is effectively self-contained, with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs. Despite being close to settlements and main transport corridors, the valleys offer a degree of tranquillity.</p> <p>The Riverside Holiday Park is low lying alongside the River Coquet, just outside the AONB, well screened by topography and woodland. It has no adverse impact on the AONBs special qualities due to its landscape setting which screens views of the coast and the iconic Warkworth Castle. The LCT offers some capacity for further well managed and well maintained caravan/camping sites which respect the small scale landscape and where sensitively located taking maximum advantage of local screening. Accessibility could limit availability of sites.</p>	<p><b>Moderate Capacity</b></p>

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
<p><b>LCT 3: Farmed Coastal Plain</b></p> <p><b>LCA 3a: Haggerston</b></p> <p><b>LCA 3b: Lucker</b></p> <p><b>LCA 3c: Rock</b></p>	<p><i>Manage</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open, coastal location, although sea views are not always possible.</li> <li>• Gently rolling or almost flat farmland, dominated by large arable fields.</li> <li>• Generally low-lying, with some small hills and raised plateaux.</li> <li>• Intensive farmland, often with weak field boundary pattern.</li> <li>• Occasional wooded estates.</li> <li>• Large farmsteads comprising traditional and modern buildings.</li> </ul>	<p>This LCT overlies the western fringe of the AONB, but inherent landscape character is generally of limited scenic value. Near and medium-distance vistas across the LCT are often possible with only minor changes in relief, for example around Galliheugh Bank and East Mill near Bamburgh where landscape is more complex and of scenic interest. Longer-range vistas from more elevated viewpoints to west of the study area afford extensive views across the <i>Farmed Coastal Plain</i>. General absence of screening from land-cover, woodland or changes in relief exacerbates openness and consequent visual prominence of caravan and camping site development. However, where 'natural' screening is found, this low variation in relief can afford locally effective screening and limit prominence.</p> <p>Whilst the <i>Farmed Coastal Plain</i> is of mostly limited inherent landscape value, it can constitute important open tracts which afford longer views towards iconic features, particularly Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castles. Prominence of visually discordant development such as poorly screened caravan sites, particularly in the landscape context of those iconic features presents a general potential for degradation of the AONB's special qualities.</p> <p>Only the Barn at Beal; Budle Bay, Waren; Springhill Farm; Dunstan Hill; and Proctors Stead camping and caravan sites fall within the <i>Farmed Coastal Plain</i> LCT and the AONB. The varying scales and degree of immediate screening of these sites do not allow for clear generalisations to be made in respect to their impact upon the character of the landscape type. The Barn at Beal, Springhill Farm and Dunstan Hill present examples of where the prominence of sites, albeit seasonal, can be detrimental to the openness and agricultural character of the area, and in doing so introduce an additional, harmful component to the landscape. However, the other sites generally demonstrate that with</p>	<p><b>Low-Moderate Capacity</b></p>

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
			<p>appropriate siting and adequate screening, along with limitation on scale, camping and caravan sites can be accommodated within the LCT without undue loss of character. Well-designed screening, reflecting shelterbelts characteristic of the LCT's farmsteads, and strengthening of field hedgerows can serve to reduce the potential for visual prominence of sites within the LCT whilst serving to reinforce its established landscape character. However such benefits should only be secured where the net impact upon landscape character, and particularly within the visual context of iconic features, would be positive.</p>	
<p><b>LCT 4: Rocky Coastline</b></p> <p><b>LCA 4b: Farne Island Coast</b></p> <p><b>LCA 4c: Craster Coast</b></p>	<p><i>Protect</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rocky coast of cliffs and headlands.</li> <li>Dramatic shoreline with offshore rocks and islands.</li> <li>Prominent coastal landforms offering views.</li> <li>Small former fishing villages, now centres of tourism.</li> <li>Exposed coastal landscape of windblown hedges.</li> <li>Major historic features are popular tourist attractions.</li> </ul>	<p>This LCT presents some of the most distinctive and distinguishing landscapes of the AONB along a generally very narrow coastal strip. A slightly more undulating topography to that of the coastal plain adds landscape interest as well as opportunities for key coastal views. The northern part of the <i>Craster Coast</i> LCA in particular presents a more distinctive topography which is important in the setting of Dunstanburgh Castle and offers local landscape interest away from the immediate shoreline. Despite its name the <i>Rocky Coastline</i> LCT includes important beaches and dune systems which afford views from each to iconic features of Lindisfarne, Dunstanburgh and Bamburgh castles, as well as inland.</p> <p>Away from the immediate coastal strip, the 'inland' elements of the LCT, and particularly for the Farne Islands LCA reflects the character of the farmed coastal plain and is inherently of limited scenic value, open and with little natural screening.</p> <p>There is a significant variation in the density and distribution of camping and caravan sites which fall within both the Rocky Coastline LCT and AONB, which affects landscape character.</p> <p>From Seahouses the southern parts of the <i>Farne Island Coast</i> LCA</p>	<p><b>Low Capacity</b></p>

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
			<p>4b display the AONB’s most significant concentration of sites, to the extent that it can be seen to be characterised to a significant degree by this landscape element. Seafield, Seahouses and the concentration of sites at Beadnell (such that they will read as one site south of the village) are significant, and can be prominent in some longer views, although they tend not to impact upon iconic features. Caravan sites in this area are established elements of landscape character, although their cumulative impact is harmful. Landscape capacity for further sites in this sector should be considered to have been exceeded. ‘Retro-fitted’ landscape mitigation measures of these sites remain valid landscape character objectives.</p> <p>Conversely, the northern reaches of the <i>Farne Island Coast</i> LCA are characterised by extensive tracts of coastline where no camping and caravan sites are located. Here the openness of the narrow coastal strip, views along it from the dunes and shoreline and its importance to the setting of iconic features is such that character of the landscape would be seriously vulnerable to the introduction of new sites. Screening opportunities may also be uncharacteristic and difficult to establish.</p> <p>The <i>Craster Coast</i> LCA 4c has only two current sites, at Seaton Point and Seaton Park Caravans, both at the southern end of the LCA, and hence remains mostly free of caravans and associated infrastructure within the landscape. Additional sites within the immediate Seaton Point area would be likely to lead to harmful cumulative erosion of character. North of Seaton Point as far as Craster, the LCA is free from sites and the wild and exposed character of craggy shoreline and slightly undulating topography suggest inherent vulnerability to new sites in this LCA. Very limited opportunity may be afforded for new sites to the western fringe of the LCA around Howick where established woodland affords small parcels of land and some strong screening potential</p>	

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
			<p>such that landscape and historic character may be maintained.</p> <p>Generally for the LCT as a whole, new caravan and caravan site development on the tight coastal strip would present inherent potential for harmful landscape impact, particularly to key characteristics of the undulating coastal topography, the importance and popularity of views all along the shoreline, and the value of the landscape to the settings of iconic features. Such impact may be exacerbated by an inability to establish effective mitigation screening as a consequence of coastal exposure, as well as such screening potentially constituting an uncharacteristic landscape element in its own right.</p> <p>New caravan and caravan site development on the 'inland' fringe of the LCAs may be more appropriate but subject to the same character considerations as the Farmed Coastal Plain LCA.</p>	
<p><b>LCT 5: Sandy Coastline</b></p> <p><b>LCA 5a: Holy Island Coast</b></p> <p><b>LCA 5b: Beadnell and Embleton Bays</b></p> <p><b>LCA 5c: Aln and Coquet Estuaries</b></p>	<p><i>Protect</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-lying, exposed coastline.</li> <li>• Broad sandy beaches and tidal sands.</li> <li>• Dune systems.</li> <li>• Isolated prominent built historic features, such as Lindisfarne Castle.</li> <li>• Long views along the coast.</li> <li>• Extensive historic associations.</li> <li>• Tourist infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>This LCT presents some of the most distinctive and defining landscapes of the AONB along a generally narrow coastal strip. The beaches of the LCT are significant attractions and focal points for visitors to the AONB. Whilst 'inland' topography is often low-lying, reflecting the <i>Farmed Coastal Plain</i> inland, dune systems provide raised vantage points that offer spectacular and expansive views up and down the coast as well as seaward and inland. In other areas land rises to the west, such as at Embleton and Warkworth which affords significant views into the landward side of dune systems with intermittent glimpses of the shoreline. Caravan sites within these vistas can be particularly prominent in the landscape such as at Beadnell.</p> <p>A number of larger caravan sites are concentrated within the LCT, reflecting historic association with the sandy bays therein. Sites which lie within the AONB include Beadnell Bay Caravan Park (which straddles the LCT boundary with the <i>Rocky Coastline</i> LCT)</p>	<p><b>Low Capacity</b></p>

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
			<p>and Newton Hall within LCA 5b <i>Beadnell and Embleton Bays</i>, and Birling Carrs and Coquet View along Warkworth beach within LCA 5c <i>Aln and Coquet Estuaries</i>. With the exception of Beadnell Bay Caravan Park, these present relatively limited influence upon wider landscape character. The two sites adjacent to Warkworth beach occupy elevated positions but they remain relatively insignificant elements within the landscape. Newton Hall is a self-contained site inland from the coast and well related in scale and location to the village.</p> <p>LCA 5a <i>Holy Island Coast</i> remains free from caravan sites, with only the small scale Beachcomber Campsite seasonally present on the coast at Goswick Sands. However this has little impact on the distinctive, open, historically important landscape.</p> <p>Notwithstanding these less prominent sites, new caravan and caravan site development on the tight coastal strip would present inherent potential for harmful impact to landscape character, and cumulative impacts are particularly likely, as at Beadnell. Increased sensitivity to new caravan and camping site development may therefore be as a consequence of: the vistas into the coastal edge from raised inland areas; the importance and popularity of views all along the shoreline and; the value of the landscape to the settings of iconic features such as Lindisfarne Castle.</p> <p>A strong feeling of openness is characteristic of the LCT, most apparent across the <i>Holy Island Coast</i> LCA where expansive views across the farmed inland areas containing very limited prominent development are typical. Whilst landscape character within landward views may be of only moderately inherent value in the near and middle distance, longer views to upland horizons emphasise a sense of space, tranquillity and relative remoteness of the AONB. Non-typical development within these open areas,</p>	

Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within the AONB	Guiding Principles for Landscape	Key Landscape Characteristics	Overall Sensitivity to Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development	Overall Capacity for New and Extended Camping/Caravan/Chalet Development
			<p>such as static caravans can be prominent, intrusive features and present significant potential for harm to the valued characteristics of the AONB.</p> <p>Opportunity for effective mitigation screening to low-lying sites close to the coast may be more practical than across the neighbouring <i>Rocky Coastline</i> LCT given the buffering effect of the dune systems, but elevated views from the west may limited such effect.</p> <p>New caravan and caravan site development on the 'inland' fringe of the LCAs may be more appropriate but subject to the same character considerations as the <i>Farmed Coastal Plain</i> LCA.</p>	

**Table 19: Assessment of Landscape and Visual Prominence of Existing Camping/Caravan/Chalet Sites**

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>• Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
<p><b>Elm Bank Caravan Park</b></p> <p><b>300 statics plus 51 approved</b></p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Broad River Mouth LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</b></li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>East Coast Mainline</b></li> </ul>	<p>Large site of static units on southern edge of Berwick-upon-Tweed, outside the AONB.</p> <p>Land falls to south and east with light coloured units prominent in views from within the northern parts of the AONB along the coast and from East Coast Mainline (passing and brief). These views are partially mitigated by context of the town to the north.</p> <p>Distant views from Halidon Hill viewpoint possible but viewed against context of the town and not visually significant.</p>	<p>Consent in place for extension to site by 51 units on the northern site edge which should have no significant impact upon the AONB.</p> <p>Extension to the south would be likely to compound existing visual prominence. Mitigation screening of the existing site through structural planting unlikely to be effective even in long-term due to exposed coastal / cliff-top location and elevation.</p>
<p><b>Pot-a-Doodle-Do, Scremerston</b></p> <p><b>20 wigwams + 3 yurts</b></p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</b></li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<p>Small site of timber holiday wigwams, canvas yurts and camping pitches outside but close to the AONB boundary.</p> <p>Locally prominent from immediate south, west and north approaches, exacerbated by sloping site profile. However, site not visible from within the AONB as a consequence of local relief and the screening function of the main farm buildings.</p> <p>Distant views from Halidon Hill viewpoint possible but very small scale of the site results in inconsequential visual impact.</p>	<p>Site should not be permitted to extend to the eastern side of the main farm buildings complex, beyond the distinct brow on which the farm stand. Topography to the east falls markedly to the coast across open farmland with prominent views up to the farm possible from the coastal path and shoreline. Positioning of tents or caravans in this area would be highly intrusive and effective mitigation limited as a consequence of the slope and views into the area.</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
<b>Haggerston Castle Holiday Park</b>  <b>900 statics &amp; chalets plus 156 tourers</b>	Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Eastern edge within Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ZVS</b></li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</b></li> <li><b>Greensheen Hill (partial)</b></li> </ul> Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>East Coast Mainline</b></li> </ul>	<p>Large site with extensive infrastructure and services to immediate west of the AONB boundary. Extensive and mature structural planting allied with relatively low-lying relief minimises landscape and visual prominence from within the AONB.</p> <p>Site falls within ZVS to Lindisfarne Castle and Priory <i>Iconic Feature</i>. However, intervening landform and established screening results in minimal visual impact.</p> <p>Distant views from Halidon Hill viewpoint possible but significant established screening of the site results in inconsequential visual impact in relation to views into the AONB.</p>	<p>Further single storey development within the well-established landscaping screen unlikely to have detrimental visual impact upon qualities of the AONB.</p> <p>Extension of the site outside current screening extent would present potentially prominent development from local and some longer views. Extension to the east should be resisted in relation to increased proximity prominence with the AONB.</p>
<b>Beachcomber Campsite</b>  <b>5 caravans and 45 tent pitches</b>	Falls within: <b>Sandy Coastline LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ZVS</b></li> <li><b>Bamburgh Castle ZVS</b></li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</b></li> <li><b>Cocklawburn Beach</b></li> <li><b>Greensheen Hill</b></li> </ul> Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Holy Island causeway and approaches</b></li> <li><b>East Coast Mainline</b></li> </ul>	<p>Small informal site within the AONB immediately to the west of the Goswick Links and adjacent to Beachcomber House.</p> <p>It is characterised by open, informal pitches and minimal amenity facilities. The site is set within an extensive area of low-lying, flat pastures with drainage ditches rather than hedge or tree cover defining field patterns. The area is distinctive in its wide open character, displays huge skies strongly horizontal landscape emphasis.</p> <p>Site falls within ZVS for Lindisfarne Castle and Priory and Bamburgh Castle <i>Iconic Features</i> as well as Halidon Hill and Cocklawburn Beach <i>Important Viewpoints</i>. Seasonal use, temporary pitches, small-scale and distance from these sites result in very limited visual intrusion from those sites.</p>	<p>Whilst of limited longer-distance prominence, the site is particularly open to view locally. Very modest extension of the site will potentially exacerbate this effect, but wider impacts will be limited. The site would benefit from additional screening but this may be out of character with the immediate landscape context, as well as difficult to establish on exposed sandy ground.</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
		<p>Northumberland Coastal Path runs immediately adjacent to the site offering uninterrupted views into it. Slightly elevated views into and over the site are possible from the dunes. Longer views are limited by a relative absence of public rights of way or highways in the vicinity and the screening effect of the east coast mainline embankment is emphasised as a consequence of the minimal difference in relief. Views from the beach are not possible due to the dunes' screening effect.</p> <p>No pitches occupied at time of survey.</p>	
<p><b>The Barn at Beal</b></p> <p>15 pitches</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ZVS</b></li> <li><b>Bamburgh Castle ZVS</b></li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</b></li> <li><b>Cocklawburn Beach</b></li> <li><b>Greensheen Hill</b></li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Holy Island causeway and approaches</b></li> <li><b>East Coast Mainline</b></li> <li><b>A1</b></li> </ul>	<p>At time of study no caravans or tents in place at this site.</p> <p>The site occupies an open and slightly elevated location to the immediate east of the Beal Bank visitor centre which is prominent from the sensitive route between Holy Island and the mainland. Despite a backdrop of the buildings and rising terrain, tents or touring caravans within this location are likely to have the potential to cause some visual intrusion from across the open and low-lying coastal plain.</p> <p>Site falls within ZVS for Lindisfarne Castle and Priory and Bamburgh Castle <i>Iconic Features</i> as well as Halidon Hill and Cocklawburn Beach <i>Important Viewpoints</i>. The site is intermittently prominent from the causeway and main approaches to Holy Island from the mainland. Seasonal use and scale limited the visual impact of the site, but it remains a minor landscape detractor within the AONB.</p>	<p>The existing site may benefit from sensitively designed screening although this may be uncharacteristic of the landscape character in this setting. Expansion of the site should be resisted on landscape and visual prominence grounds, particularly in relation to views from Holy Island and the sensitive causeway route.</p>
<p><b>Budle Bay Caravan Site</b></p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Straddles the boundary between the Sandy Coastline and Farmed Coastal Plain LCTs</b></p>	<p>Site falls within the AONB and lies in a shallow wooded valley immediately south of Waren Mill hamlet. Its low elevation and well-established tree screening results in a</p>	<p>Whilst currently a well screened site, no opportunity to extend the site southwards likely to exist without resultant increase in visual prominence. Some limited</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
250 pitches	<p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</li> <li>Cocklawburn Beach</li> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B1342 Coastal Route</li> </ul>	<p>limited landscape prominence. Some limited localised views into the site are possible from approaches from the south along the B1342, although these vary according to seasonal cover. Visual prominence is not a significant detractor to the AONB.</p> <p>Views into the site from <i>Important Viewpoints</i> are severely restricted by local terrain and tree cover and/or distance.</p>	<p>opportunity to extend the site to the north and east may be possible within the context of existing woodland and building cover.</p>
Waren Caravan and Camping Park 250 pitches	<p>Falls within: Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ZVS</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</li> <li>Cocklawburn Beach</li> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B1342 Coastal Route</li> </ul>	<p>Large site within the AONB on elevated land south of Budle Bay. The site is extremely well screened in most directions by bund walls, mature woodland and hedgerows. Some very localised visibility of units possible from southern approaches. Public footpath crosses the southern edge of the site from which prominence of caravans is obviously increased but for a short distance only.</p> <p>Views into the site from <i>Iconic Features</i> and <i>Important Viewpoints</i> are severely restricted by local terrain and tree cover and/or distance. Seasonal glimpses of the site from Lindisfarne Castle may be possible but distance and terrain significantly reduce the significance of such vistas.</p>	<p>Increase of unit numbers within the existing screening unlikely to have detrimental impact upon special qualities of the AONB. Maintenance of high hedgerows to all boundaries remains important.</p> <p>Some landscape capacity may exist within the north-western perimeter of the wider site but complex topography and tree cover suggests careful examination of visual impact should be taken on a case by case basis, particularly in respect to vistas to Holy Island.</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
<p><b>Glororum Holiday Park</b></p> <p>150 statics plus 30 tourers</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lindisfarne Castle and Priory ZVS</li> <li>Bamburgh Castle ZVS</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halidon Hill /O.S. Viewpoint</li> <li>Cocklawburn Beach</li> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>Large site lying outside the AONB. Site lies across gently rising ground from west to east. Some significant prominence of caravans in the landscape in near distance views, particularly from the west from the minor lane network and from the south from the B1341 - an important route travelling towards Bamburgh. Screening is immature and/or ineffective as a consequence of relief. The site is however screened from most vistas from within the AONB as a consequence of topography.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, intervening landform and distance from most of the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and detrimental impact upon the special qualities of the AONB limited.</p>	<p>No significant impact upon the AONB likely as a consequence of site expansion, although local prominence likely to be considerable in absence of significant additional screening. In the short-term the site is likely to remain a negative landscape detractor</p>
<p><b>The Kaims Country Park</b></p> <p>240 statics</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes: N/A</p>	<p>Large, rectangular site lies 3km outside the AONB within a well screened area between a wooded embankment and pronounced ridgeline to the east. No vistas into the site are possible from the AONB. Fleeting glimpses of a small number of units are possible from the south-west.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, intervening landform and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is extremely limited and no detrimental impact upon the special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>No visual impact or landscape character implications of the site on the AONB. Opportunity for expansion beyond the current perimeter is limited in. Whilst unlikely, extension to the east beyond the ridgeline of the enclosing terrain should be strongly resisted.</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
<b>Elford Farm Caravan Site</b>  <b>25 pitches</b>	Falls within: Farmed Coastal Plain LCT  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> </ul> Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	Small site located close to operational farm, 1.2 km west of AONB. Site lies in characteristic open landscape but from the AONB is viewed against farm buildings, cottages and mature shelterbelt. Existing screening and minor changes in relief (from the west) afford the modest site limited landscape prominence.  Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, its small scale, seasonal use, intervening landform, tree cover and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is extremely limited and no detrimental impact upon the special qualities of the AONB can be seen.	Potential for expansion of the site limited by existing development such that extension only likely to the southern edge. This could give rise to some minor visual intrusion in views from the AONB western boundary, although such vistas westwards are not significant elements of it special qualities. Whilst potentially incongruous with landscape character, advanced planting to this area would significantly off-set such intrusion.
<b>Springhill Farm</b>  <b>74 pitches</b>	Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bamburgh Castle ZVS</li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> <li>Crag Hill</li> <li>Preston Tower</li> </ul> Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	Medium sized camping and touring caravan site within the AONB in open landscape setting. Immediate landscape character is unremarkable open farmland with low hedges and limited tree cover.  Whilst closely related to the existing farm complex, the site is not well screened by relief or by planting. Northumberland Coastal Path runs approximately 0.5 km of the site to the east, although intervening hedgerows partly ameliorate visual prominence. Several views into the site from the minor lane network to the north-west and east area possible.  Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, intervening landform and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is extremely limited in most cases. However views to the site from the Farne Islands are possible.	Extension or expansion of the site would present potential for detrimental landscape impact through visual prominence. Additional advanced screening should be established before additional capacity or extension is permitted.  Expansion of the site in the absence of significant advance screening would potentially exacerbate visual prominence of mobile caravans in particular from the important viewpoints on Inner Farne.

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>• Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
<b>Seafield Caravan Park</b>  <b>400 statics plus consent for 188 more</b>	Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bamburgh Castle ZVS</b></li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Galliheugh Bank</b></li> <li>• <b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> <li>• <b>Farne Islands</b></li> <li>• <b>Cateran Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Crag Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Preston Tower</b></li> </ul> Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B1340 between Seahouses and Bamburgh</b></li> </ul>	<p>Very significant site within AONB, although it is located within the built limits of Seahouses/North Sunderland, with built development on most of the site's perimeter. Where screening from built development is absent, maturing tree belts afford an increasingly effective visual screen. Some middle-distance views into the site are possible from slightly elevated land to the north-west around Springhill Farm (above), although these are seen against a backdrop of the town. Static caravans are however relatively conspicuous in those vistas.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, intervening landform and distance from most viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited in most cases. However distant views to the site are possible from Bamburgh Castle's upper ramparts and from the Farne Islands are possible. In both cases, whilst the light coloured exterior of the static caravans are visually prominent, the site is viewed very much in the context of its urban edge location.</p>	<p>Landscape capacity exists to extend the site within the context of surrounding built development without significant visual impact or degradation of character. Additional planning <i>within</i> the site may serve to soften the prominence of static caravan units from Inner Farne, Bamburgh Castle and limited views from the north-west.</p>
<b>Seahouses Caravan Park</b>  <b>220 statics</b>	Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bamburgh Castle ZVS</b></li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Galliheugh Bank</b></li> <li>• <b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> <li>• <b>Farne Islands</b></li> <li>• <b>Cateran Hill</b></li> </ul>	<p>Large compact site within the AONB and effectively lying tightly within the built extent of the town. Prominent views of the site from the cliff-top coastal path which runs adjacent to its eastern boundary. These views are localised only.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, the site's compact form, scale, intervening landform, urban setting and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is extremely limited and no significant detrimental impact upon the special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>Site is tightly constrained on all boundaries with exception of its south-eastern edge which abuts open grassland between existing housing and the coastal path. Extension of the site in this direction has the potential to exacerbate visibility from the coastal path, and also from the shoreline. Development may also be visible over the distinctive shallow brow which partially defines the edge of the town on approaches from the south on the B1320. Cliff-top location suggests mitigating planting may be ineffective and potentially uncharacteristic. Extension proposals to have specific regard to potential for visual prominence from the harbour also.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crag Hill</li> <li>Preston Tower</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Annstead Farm Caravan Park</b></p> <p>20 pitches</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> <li>Crag Hill</li> <li>Preston Tower</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>Small site within AONB immediately west of coastal road and Annstead Links. Site well related to existing farm complex and screened by established planting. Limited views into the site are possible from the B1340 between Beadnell and Seahouses.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, its small scale, seasonal use, intervening landform, tree cover and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is extremely limited and no detrimental impact upon the special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>Extension of the site beyond the existing confines would present potential for visual prominence from an important coastal location of the AONB, particularly from the dune tops which lie only 200m to the east. Significant advanced planting should be delivered before any site extension becomes operational.</p>
<p><b>Beadnell Bay Caravan Site</b></p> <p>150 pitches</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Galliheugh Bank</li> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> </ul>	<p>Small site within the AONB in prominent location slightly to the north of the village. Located immediately west of the B1340 and only a few metres from the low dunes of the southern end of Annstead Links. The site is across low-lying, even ground with a single utilitarian amenities block in the centre. There is a complete absence of screening to the site and views into and across it are readily available from the main road and also Public Rights of Way to the west and north. Use appears to be seasonal, which may help reduce visual prominence out of season.</p>	<p>No landscape capacity for extension of the site exists without an increase in visual prominence from tents and touring caravans.</p> <p>Natural screening is totally absent. Provision of site screening planting would reduce prominence but likely to be uncharacteristic of landscape character and slow to establish given exposure of the site.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> <li>Crag Hill</li> <li>Preston Tower</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, its small scale, seasonal use, intervening landform, tree cover and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is extremely limited and no detrimental impact upon these particular special qualities of the AONB can be seen. However, immediate and local landscape prominence is significant.</p>	
<p><b>Beadnell Holiday Village</b></p> <p><b>40 chalets approved not yet erected</b></p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dunstanburgh Castle</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</li> <li>Farne Islands</li> <li>Cateran Hill</li> <li>Crag Hill</li> <li>Preston Tower</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B1340 Coastal Route</li> </ul>	<p>Proposed site in AONB. Not constructed at time of study.</p> <p>Lies immediately to west of Beadnell Harbour and east of the large existing site at Beadnell Bay Caravan Park. Site has a close physical relationship with the existing built extent of the village and with existing large static caravan site. The development of the site would effectively close the gap between the two. Views into the site are possible locally from the B1340 and from the new housing development south of Meadow Lane. Public Footpaths skirt the southern and western site boundary and afford immediate views into it.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including Dunstanburgh Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p> <p>The site is in close proximity to the historic harbour and Beadnell Bay, but high dunes and a low-lying topography reduce any harmful inter-visibility in important views from and across those sites.</p>	<p>Site constraints would mean future extension would be limited to a west/north-west direction. This would be likely to be viewed within the context of the built extent of the village which is characterised by mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> Century and early 21<sup>st</sup> Century housing with limited vernacular townscape value.</p> <p>Western fringe of the site would benefit from substantive planting to afford long-term screen and softening.</p>

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<b>East Lodge</b>  <b>80 statics</b>	Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dunstanburgh Castle ZVS</b></li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Galliheugh Bank</b></li> <li>• <b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> <li>• <b>Farne Islands</b></li> <li>• <b>Cateran Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Crag Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Preston Tower</b></li> </ul> Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>N/A</b></li> </ul>	<p>Small site within AONB and tightly enclosed within the village and by well-established screening. Very limited wider landscape impact.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including Dunstanburgh Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, the built environment, tree cover and distance from the viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>Site is tightly enclosed by existing development and the B1340. Opportunity for expansion therefore unlikely.</p>
<b>Beadnell Bay Caravan Park</b>  <b>300 statics plus 20 tourers</b>	Falls within: <b>Straddles both Rocky Coastline LCT and Sandy Coastline LCT</b>  Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dunstanburgh Castle</b></li> </ul> Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> <li>• <b>Farne Islands</b></li> <li>• <b>Cateran Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Crag Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Preston Tower</b></li> </ul>	<p>Large site in AONB.</p> <p>Lies immediately to west of Beadnell Harbour on low-lying land immediately landwards of the dunes. Site has a close physical relationship with the existing built extent of the village. Some views into the site are possible locally from the B1340 and from the new housing development south of Meadow Lane. The Northumberland Coastal Path effectively cuts through the centre of the site. Other Public Footpaths skirt the northern site boundary and afford immediate views into it. Views from the dune tops of Beadnell Bay are prominent and cannot be mitigated.</p> <p>Whilst other views into the site are not mitigated to any significant extent by screening, the low-lying and level</p>	<p>Some minor extension of the site westwards would present limited additional impact in landscape terms to the visual intrusion already well established by the site. However, if this was proposed, opportunity should be taken to afford significant screening in the form of shelterbelt planting across a tract to the west of the site, including off-site planting if possible. This would have the benefit of mitigating current landscape impact as well as any modest additional visual prominence.</p>

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	Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>B1340 Coastal Route</b></li> </ul>	<p>topography results in the site being viewed against the high dunes to the immediate east. Some longer views are possible from the south-west from the B1340. Nevertheless the site is a significant visual detractor within the AONB.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including Dunstanburgh Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, and distance from those viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	
<b>Newton Hall Caravan Park</b>  <b>50 statics</b>	Falls within: <b>Sandy Coast LCT</b> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dunstanburgh Castle</b></li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> <li><b>Farne Islands</b></li> <li><b>Cateran Hill</b></li> <li><b>Crag Hill</b></li> <li><b>Preston Tower</b></li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>N/A</b></li> </ul>	<p>Small site within the AONB.</p> <p>Occupies small meadow/former garden area east of Newton Hall. A generally level site with strong established screening. Limited wider views into the site but some near-distance views of caravan roofs from footpath to the immediate north.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including Dunstanburgh Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, and distance from those viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>Site is enclosed within a coherent boundary, well related to the village. Any extension to the open farmland to the north would alter that relationship and increase site prominence from the north and from the village edge to the east.</p> <p>Reinforcement of northern boundary planting would be beneficial in landscape terms.</p>
<b>Dunstan Hill caravan site</b>	Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p>	<p>Medium scale touring caravan site within the AONB.</p> <p>Lies in gently undulating pastoral countryside between Embleton and Dunstan. Passing views into the site from</p>	<p>The site has some visual prominence in the landscape, particularly from public rights of way. Extension of the site should be avoided without significant additional advance screening. Opportunity to improve existing</p>

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<p><b>150 pitches</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dunstanburgh Castle</b></li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> <li><b>Cateran Hill</b></li> <li><b>Crag Hill</b></li> <li><b>Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park</b></li> <li><b>Cloudy Crag</b></li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Minor road between Embleton and Dunstan</b></li> </ul>	<p>the Dunstan Road are possible, but this is limited to a generally localised impact. A significant shelter-belt to the northern boundary and slightly rising relief to the east helps reduce wider prominence in the landscape. Views into the site from the footpath on its eastern boundary, where screening is minimal, affords further localised views.</p> <p>Longer views into the site on southern approaches are limited by off-site shelterbelt. Touring pitches serve to reduce visual impact in off-seasons.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including Dunstanburgh Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, and distance from those viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p> <p>Very limited, distant views of Dunstanburgh Castle are possible from the site to the south-east, but views to it from the castle are not prominent enough to be detrimental to the special qualities of the AONB.</p>	<p>screening to the eastern and southern boundaries should be taken. Any extension should be limited to the south-west of the existing site.</p>
<p><b>Proctors Stead Caravan Site</b></p> <p><b>60 pitches</b></p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Farmed Coastal Plain LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dunstanburgh Castle</b></li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ros Castle / OS Viewpoint</b></li> </ul>	<p>Small site within the AONB to the northern fringe of Dunstan in pastoral setting.</p> <p>The site is relatively well screened in the wider landscape as a consequence of locally level terrain and by existing mature hedgerows and shelterbelts to the north and west. Screening value of these is seasonably variable. Some localised views of the site are possible from the minor road into Dunstan from the north, but</p>	<p>In landscape terms it would be possible to mitigate visual impact of extension to the site to either the immediate north or south, through appropriate provision of advance, additional planting, particularly to the north-east, north and western site boundary. Shelterbelts and hedgerows are characteristic of the locality. Existing hedgerows would afford better cover if maintained at only slightly higher levels.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cateran Hill</li> <li>Crag Hill</li> <li>Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park</li> <li>Cloudy Crags</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor road between Embleton and Dunstan</li> </ul>	<p>significance of this impact is limited in terms of wider special qualities.</p> <p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including Dunstanburgh Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, and distance from those viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p> <p>Intervening landform and distance minimises any significant harmful impact of views to and from Dunstanburgh Castle's towers which are partly visible from the edge of the site.</p>	
<p>Seaton Park Caravans</p> <p>115 statics</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park</li> <li>Cloudy Crags</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northumberland Coast Path</li> </ul>	<p>Small site occupying a rectangular field alongside the minor coast road between Boulmer and Alnmouth. Plantation woodland provides a good screen along the site's western edge, with roadside hedges and a gappy hedge providing reduced screening from the east and south respectively. The northern edge is particularly open.</p> <p>Visual impact is localised. Whilst falling within ZVS from two <i>important viewpoints</i>, intervening landform and distance are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>Site expansion to the north or south (the only possible directions) would extend the site beyond the plantation to the west, which provides an important screening function, and thus should be resisted.</p> <p>The character of the landscape in this part of the LCT is open and exposed, with gappy hedges, post and wire fencing and few trees. However, thickening of the site's northern and southern boundaries by hedge and hedgerow tree planting would potentially reduce the site's visual prominence from these directions significantly. This would create a self-contained site within a wider, exposed landscape considered preferable to the currently exposed site.</p>
<p>Seaton Point Caravan Site</p> <p>120 statics</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Rocky Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p>	<p>A mixture of traditional, long standing mostly dark timber or corrugated chalet structures and static caravans are mostly nestled into the natural fold of sand dunes at Seaton Point, south of Boulmer. The informal,</p>	<p>Site expansion to the west (the only possible direction away from the coast) beyond the dunes would significantly affect the key characteristic of landscape integration. Site prominence and visual impact would</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park</li> <li>Cloudy Craggs</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northumberland Coast Path</li> </ul>	<p>haphazard layout is mostly well integrated and now part of the local landscape character, although some chalets are in a poor condition.</p> <p>The Coast Path passes along the beach and through the site. Views from the north are limited, but the site is more prominent in views from the south and west, in particular from Alnmouth Golf Club and from high ground at Bracken Hill on the edge of Alnmouth, and when travelling eastwards from Lesbury and Alnmouth from where it becomes visible from the top of the river valley.</p> <p>Whilst falling within ZVS from two <i>important viewpoints</i>, intervening landform and distance are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	<p>increase in views from the south and west.</p> <p>There may be some capacity for increased development within the site, which should favour the more traditional chalets rather than modern static caravans.</p>
<p><b>Coquet View Caravan Park</b></p> <p>200 statics</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Sandy Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warkworth Castle</li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park</li> <li>Cloudy Craggs</li> <li>Bracken Hill, Alnmouth</li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>Large, ribbon-shaped site within the AONB.</p> <p>Located immediately to the west of the saltmarsh and dunes of Warkworth Beach, the site occupies slightly elevated land affording views to the coast and along the Coquet estuary.</p> <p>Views into the site possible from the dune top paths and for short distances from the harbour area of Amble at the mouth of the Coquet. In relation to its scale and elevation the site is relatively well screened as a consequence of local landform and established semi-natural screening of gorse and scrub.</p>	<p>Opportunity for site expansion is severely restricted without significant increase in landscape prominence. Extension to the west would breach existing screening, fall across sloping relief and be difficult to mitigate given existing land cover and habitat value. Views from the dune path would be prominent. Extension to south would breach the screening afforded by land cover from the A1068 along the Coquet Estuary. Extension to the west may have less immediate visual prominence, but would be likely to be prominent in views from Warkworth Castle ramparts.</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/ Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
		<p>Whilst falling within a significant number of ZVS, including close proximity to Warkworth Castle <i>iconic feature</i>, intervening landform, and distance from those other viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p>	
<p><b>Riverside Caravan Park</b></p> <p>120 statics</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Coastal Incised Plain LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Warkworth Castle</b></li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>N/A</b></li> </ul> <p>Sensitive Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>N/A</b></li> </ul>	<p>Large site but very well screened, on the flat low lying valley floor alongside the River Coquet. Set within a picturesque gorge-like setting enclosed by the steep incised valley topography and woodland. Hedges and trees provide some additional localised screening along the site access.</p> <p>Despite lying within the ZVS around the Warkworth Castle <i>iconic feature</i> there are no views to / from the castle. The site has no impact on other landscape features or special qualities of the AONB.</p>	<p>The only possible direction for expansion is within agricultural fields to the west, but the land gradually rises in this direction which would increase visual prominence of the site and should be avoided. Whilst wider visual impact as a result of expansion in this direction would be limited, with impact on landscape features or special qualities of the AONB unlikely, the site would become more visible in views from properties on the western edge of Warkworth at Heather Leazes.</p>
<p><b>Birling Carrs Caravan Site</b></p> <p>Around 50 static units</p>	<p>Falls within: <b>Sandy Coastline LCT</b></p> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Warkworth Castle</b></li> </ul> <p>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Important Viewpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park</b></li> <li><b>Cloudy Crags</b></li> <li><b>Bracken Hill, Alnmouth</b></li> </ul>	<p>Medium sized informal site within the AONB.</p> <p>Site sits across a prominent raised cliff top at Birling Carrs, a small promontory separating the southern and northern parts of Warkworth beach. The site is occupied by static units of mixed age and condition over undulating land which results in a wide variety in prominence between individual units. The site has minimal amenities or permanent structures.</p> <p>The site falls within a number of ZVS, including Warkworth Castle <i>iconic feature</i>. Inter-visibility between the site and castle is possible but intervening trees close</p>	<p>Opportunity for site expansion is severely restricted without significant and detrimental increase in landscape prominence. Extension is however unlikely due to tight topographical constraints. Any increase density of units on the site should be firmly resisted.</p> <p>Mitigation of landscape impact in the future through screening is unlikely to be feasible due to elevation and coastal exposure. Replacement of older units (if permitted should be subject to colour controls to help mitigate the prominence of lighter units.</p>

Site Name and Permitted Units/Pitches	LCT Location and Location within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones of Visually Sensitivity from Iconic Features and Important Viewpoints, and</li> <li>Views from Sensitive Routes</li> </ul>	Summary of Landscape and Visual Prominence, 2013	Recommendations in relation to Visual and Landscape Character Implications for Site Expansion
	Sensitive Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>to the village limit any seriously detrimental relationship. The visual impact of the site in the vista between Bracken Hill and the Castle presents a more harmful landscape impact. Landform and distance from other viewpoints are such that longer distance prominence is limited and no material detrimental impact upon these special qualities of the AONB can be seen.</p> <p>The site is prominent from stretches of the beach and the dune-top walk of St Oswald's way passes through the heart of it.</p> <p>Intermittent views of the site from the A1068 between Warkworth and Alnmouth are possible, and these are particularly prominent as a consequence of the site's elevation in relation to the sea-horizon to the east.</p>	

## Appendices

**Appendix 1:**

**Extracts from the NLCA Part A of LCT and LCA Descriptions within the  
AONB**

## Landscape Character Type 2: Coastal Incised Valley

### Introduction

1. This landscape comprises the lower sections of two river valleys, the Coquet and the Aln, as they flow through the coastal plain to the North Sea. The valleys are relatively shallow, but sharply incised in places, and emerge close together on the coast.
2. This LCT is represented by two character areas: 2a Lower Aln and 2b Lower Coquet.

### Key Characteristics

Shallow valleys cutting through the coastal plain, with meandering rivers.

More sheltered than the surrounding coastal plain, with restricted views.

Arable farming, with pasture and woodland in steeper areas.

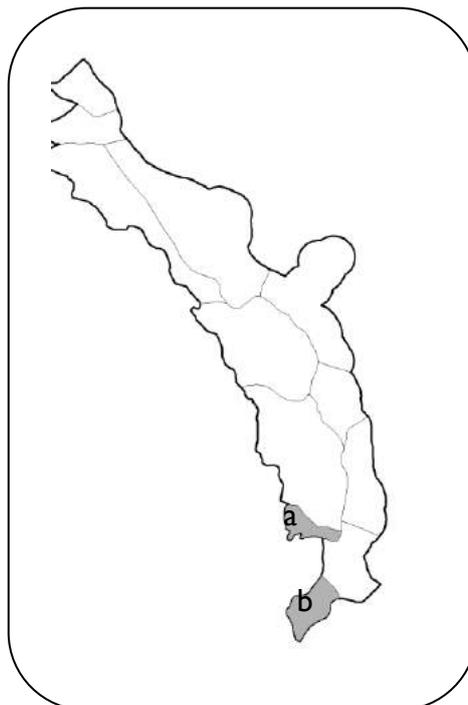
Villages and larger settlements, as well as farmsteads and cottages.

Transport links and infrastructure, such as the East Coast Main Line, pass through.

Long history of settlement, and good access links.

### Description

3. Shallow, but often steep-sided incised valleys contain meandering rivers. The Aln and Coquet are of moderate size, the Coquet being slightly larger, over 50m across in places. Both rivers meander within a broader vale, and the surrounding floodplains are not particularly flat. Coastal influence is more limited than in the surrounding *Farmed Coastal Plain* (LCT 3), due to the lower elevations and undulating topography.
4. The landcover is predominantly arable farming, with open, rectilinear fields. There is pastoral farming on steeper areas. Boundaries are post and wire or post and rail, with areas of intact, relatively species-rich hedgerows. Estate influences, with mixed plantation woodland and iron fencing, occur in pockets. There are deciduous and coniferous plantations and shelterbelts, with native and semi-natural woodland along the rivers, particularly the Coquet. New hedgerow trees have been planted in some areas. The River Coquet is protected as a SSSI, as are the saltmarshes around Alnmouth.
5. Both valleys are well settled. The *Lower Aln* includes the eastern edge of Alnwick, and the villages of Lesbury and Hipsburn, while the *Lower Coquet* contains part of Warkworth, and the hamlet of Guyzance. Numerous farmsteads and cottages lie along the rivers, generally within the lower part of the valley and not prominent features. Traditional building materials are seen alongside more modern elements, such as the brick houses at Hipsburn, or the industrial buildings around Alnwick. The masts of the RAF station above Lesbury are more prominent, as are the overhead wires associated with the East Coast Main Line railway, overhead power lines, and mobile phone masts.



6. The valley landscapes feel enclosed, particularly the lower incised valleys. Views are concentrated along the valley, often with the sea in the background when looking east. The surrounding coastal plain obscures many views, but there are occasional glimpses of distant features, such as Coquet Island and the aluminium works at Lynemouth.
7. The valleys show evidence of historic settlement dating back to prehistoric times. Visible features include the remains of a priory at Guyzance, the estates of Alnwick Castle and Warkworth Hermitage, partially cut into the cliffs above the River Coquet. There is an extensive footpath network, particularly in the Aln valley, though there is little open access land.

### ***Landscape Character Areas***

#### *2a Lower Aln*

8. This valley is relatively deep and broad, and is steep-sided in places, such as below Denwick. There are significant blocks of coniferous forestry at Bilton Wood and along the Cawledge Burn. The urban edge of Alnwick is often prominent in views, although the large industrial buildings adjacent to the A1 are well screened. The modern settlement of Hipsburn is also unobtrusive in the landscape. The A1 and A1068 create the impression of a busy landscape, which combined with the settlements offers little tranquillity. The disused railway is used as a footpath, although unofficially as there are plans to reopen the line. The Alnwick Castle Registered Park and Garden extends into the west of the area.

#### *2b Lower Coquet*

9. The Coquet flows within a narrow incised valley within a broader, shallower vale. The inner valley has extensive semi-natural woodland, with small-scale pasture in places. Views are more limited, and often picturesque, as in the estate-influenced area surrounding Guyzance. The river is also one of the most important game fisheries in the north of England, with large runs of sea trout and salmon. The upper vale is more open, and connected to the surrounding farmland. The river and the adjacent woodlands are designated SSSIs.

## Landscape Character Type 3: Farmed Coastal Plain

### Introduction

10. A band of farmland running along the north-east Northumberland coast, the *Farmed Coastal Plain* varies in width from the narrow strip between Haggerston and Belford, to the larger areas around Rock and Lucker. It is a gently rolling landscape of mainly arable farmland, well settled, and with a coastal influence. The Northumberland Coast AONB includes the eastern edge of this LCT.
11. This LCT is represented by three character areas: *3a Haggerston*, *3b Lucker* and *3c Rock*.

### Key Characteristics

Open, coastal location, although sea views are not always possible.

Gently rolling or almost flat farmland, dominated by large arable fields.

Generally low-lying, with some small hills and raised plateaux.

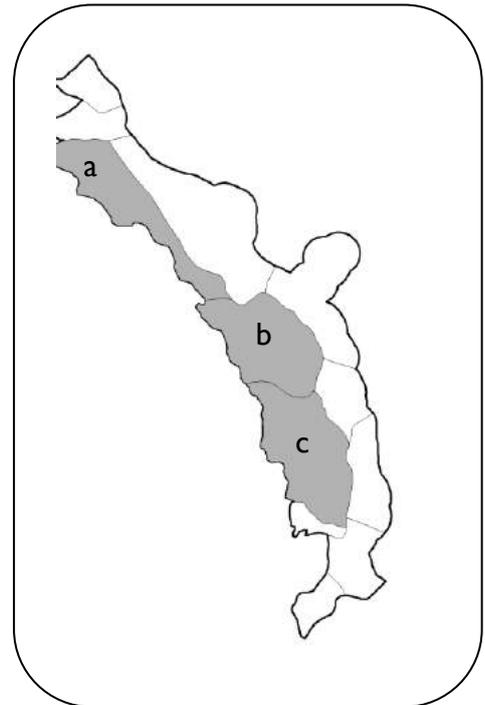
Intensive farmland, often with weak field boundary pattern.

Occasional wooded estates.

Large farmsteads comprising traditional and modern buildings.

### Description

12. This is a generally low-lying landscape of gently rolling land, with some broad, flat areas. There are areas of higher ground, such as the small plateau-like hill at Billylaw, south of Berwick, and around Longhoughton. Small, rounded hills are common features. The area is drained by small burns, which run down from the hills to the west, and cut narrow, shallow gullies through the sandy soil. Rocky outcrops are rare, but occur at Belford Station, for example.
13. Arable farmland is the predominant land use, with pasture in more marginal areas, such as small fields next to the railway line, and on the occasional hills. Larger fields are more common, with some areas of very extensive enclosures. Hedgerows are frequent but often unmaintained, leading to gaps and replacement with post and wire fencing. Tree cover is greater in the south of the *Farmed Coastal Plain*, becoming sparser to the north. Coniferous forestry occurs in small blocks and shelterbelts, with some deciduous plantations or tree lines, as well as belts of pine. The few estates provide a locally more wooded character, with mixed plantations and better-maintained hedges. Newham Fen is a SAC and NNR, and there are SSSIs at Brada Hill, Bradford Kames, Spindleston Heughs, and Longhoughton Quarry.
14. The landscape is well settled, though with no larger settlements. Small linear villages such as Longhoughton or Ellingham comprise traditional stone buildings, often with sympathetic infill as well as other buildings which reflect the local character less well. Farmsteads are generally traditional, in warm-coloured local sandstone, and



sometimes with brick chimneys which are prominent features. Large, utilitarian buildings often sit adjacent to traditional buildings, and there are occasional agri-industrial installations, such as the silos at Belford Station. The East Coast Main Line passes through the area, with overhead wires and overbridges being prominent in low-lying areas

15. This is an open landscape, though with varying enclosure imparted by the changing levels of tree cover. Low hills along the coast, particularly in the Bamburgh and Seahouses area, obscure direct views of the sea, yet there is a perception of being in a coastal location. Views inland are similarly limited by the varying topography and tree cover, although the adjacent hills rise gradually and are not prominent when visible.
16. Tourist sites are concentrated within the adjacent coastal strip, and there are relatively few visitor attractions within this landscape, although it forms an important means of access to the AONB. The footpath network is fairly dense, and there are several cycle routes, although little open access land. There are caravan parks, including the large site at Haggerston Castle. Historical features include numerous towers, such as at Preston, and estate centres at Howick and Cheswick. There are Registered Parks and Gardens at Belford Hall, Howick Hall, and Ratcheugh Crag. Large country houses and their estates are therefore an important aspect of historic character, reflecting the wealth created by improved agriculture from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The dominant pattern of larger rectilinear fields indicates a relatively late date of enclosure. Intensive arable agriculture has therefore wiped away much of the earlier historic landscape. However, traces – such as the medieval villages of Ancroft, Tughall and North Charlton – survive within the modern field pattern. Some extensive areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation survive, notably around Swinhoe. The World War II airfield at Brunton ties the character type in to a chain of such sites running down the eastern coastal plain of England.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *3a Haggerston*

17. This narrow strip of coastal plain is low-lying, and is backed by the Kyoie Hills to the south. In the north it merges westward into the *Open Rolling Farmland* (LCT 16), and rises up to Billylaw, overlooking Berwick. Small rounded drumlin hills are often topped by farmsteads, and enable broad views across Holy Island Sands to Lindisfarne, and inland to the Cheviot Hills. Haggerston Castle itself is a prominent landmark, although the caravan park which surrounds it is hidden by the former estate woodlands. Traditional farmsteads are of brick and stone, and several located to the north have substantial brick farm chimneys. The urban edge of Berwick has areas of scrub and occasional industrial buildings.

#### *3b Lucker*

18. South of Belford, the coastal plain broadens into an area of flat or gently rolling farmland, rising to a plateau near the coast which obscures most seaward views. Large arable fields are dominant, with little settlement, but prominent features such as mobile phone masts, large agricultural buildings and silos. Post and wire fences are predominant, although stone walls occur near the quarry at Belford Station.

#### *3c Rock*

19. This area is similar to 3b, but is generally more wooded. The transition is gradual, but this area is characterised by coniferous shelterbelts and deciduous woodland strips. Hedgerows are more common, although their condition remains variable. Belts of Scots pine are a distinctive feature. Estate influences occur at Rock House and Howick Hall, resulting in a more intimate landscape experience.

## Landscape Character Type 4: Rocky Coastline

### Introduction

20. The *Rocky Coastline* comprises the rocky sections of the coastal strip, including prominent headlands, cliffs, and the Farne Islands. It falls largely within the Northumberland Coast AONB.
21. This LCT is represented by three character areas: *4a North Tweed Coast*, *4b Farne Islands Coast* and *4c Craster Coast*.

### Key Characteristics

Rocky coast of cliffs and headlands.

Dramatic shoreline with offshore rocks and islands.

Prominent coastal landforms offering views.

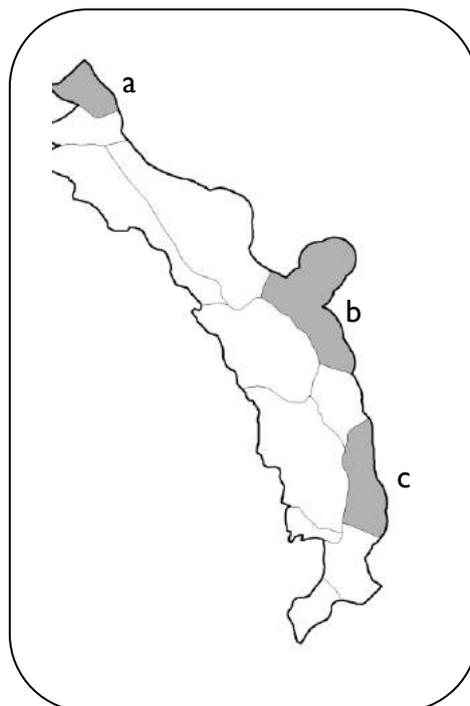
Small former fishing villages, now centres of tourism.

Exposed coastal landscape of windblown hedges.

Major historic features are popular tourist attractions.

### Description

22. This landscape occurs where bands of hard rocks meet the coastline, resisting marine erosion and resulting in headlands, while the softer rocks are worn away, forming bays. The *Rocky Coastline* comprises rocky headlands divided by small bays, while the larger bays area classified as *Sandy Coastline* (LCT 5). Elevation ranges from the high cliffs north of Berwick, to the low lying headlands such as Castle Point near Craster. Bays and coves within this LCT are generally rocky, with limited sand beaches, though dune systems are prominent around Bamburgh. Stone reefs, offshore rocks, and wave-cut platforms, often called 'carrs' or 'steels', extend out from the foreshore. Prominent landforms occur, such as the Whin Sill outcrop on which Bamburgh Castle is built.
23. The narrow coastal strip is dominated by the shore, although the inland section is farmed, mostly for pasture due to the exposed nature of the terrain. Hedgerows are often gappy and windblown, with wire fences. Tree cover is generally sparse, although some small woodland blocks are present. Whin grassland, a distinctive plant community on Whin Sill derived soil, occurs around Bamburgh Castle. The coast is part of the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar site, and the Farne islands are also a SPA. The coast is further protected as part of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast and North Northumberland Dunes SACs. The Farne Islands are a NNR, and there are several SSSIs along the coast.
24. Settlement is concentrated at small villages, often former fishing villages such as Craster, Beadnell, and Seahouses, which now cater more for tourist boat trips. Seahouses, with neighbouring North Sunderland, is the largest of these settlements, and has substantial areas of post-war housing. Further north, the industrial northern edge of Berwick abuts the coastal strip. Estate artefacts and buildings around



Howick, and military infrastructure at RAF Boulmer, exert a strong influence on the local landscape.

25. The influence of the sea imparts an exposed, maritime character to the area. Sea views are almost continuous, and often dramatic in nature. Views are available along the coast, particularly from vantage points such as Bamburgh Castle, and out to sea, particularly where the Farne Islands form a visual focus.
26. There are prominent historical features within this landscape, including Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh Castles, which are also major tourist draws. The registered battlefield at Halidon Hill (1333) further reflects the strategic importance of the coastal strip. Patterns of medieval open fields, in the form of upstanding ridge and furrow, are an important aspect of historic character. They survive around Bamburgh, Beadnell and Dunstanburgh in pastoral fields where the effects of mechanised agriculture have been less severe.
27. Coastal footpaths are extensive, including a section of the international North Sea Trail, linking Berwick and Cresswell. Access to the foreshore rocks and beaches is good, with access land along dune systems. Evidence of tourism is clear, with caravan parks, campsites, and golf courses.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *4a North Tweed Coast*

28. North of Berwick, the land rises onto a series of high cliffs, which drop sharply down to a rocky foreshore of wave-cut platforms. At the top of the cliffs is a mixed arable and pastoral area, crossed by the busy A1 dual carriageway, and the East Coast Main Line railway, which runs close to the cliff-edge, providing dramatic views of the coast. The northern edge of Berwick comprises industrial and commercial units, with post-war housing behind. Further south are holiday parks and golf courses. The Berwickshire Coastal Path runs north from Berwick to St Abbs in Scotland, following the cliff-top.

#### *4b Farne Islands Coast*

29. The western section of this area presents a transition from the *Sandy Coastline* (LCT 5) around Holy Island, but is punctuated by the eminence of Bamburgh Castle on its basalt outcrop. This feature dominates the low lying landscape, and the dune systems which stretch to Seahouses. Further south, the coast is more rocky, though still with some dunes. Seahouses and Beadnell are important local tourist centres. Offshore, the Farne Islands are two small groups of rocky islands, and are home to nationally important bird and marine mammal habitats.

#### *4c Craster Coast*

30. This straight section of coast has few bays and little sand, the exception being the natural harbour of Boulmer Haven. The coast is low-lying, with locally prominent ridges, known as 'heughs' around Craster. At the northern end of the area, Dunstanburgh Castle is the dominant feature, while to the south, the radar apparatus at RAF Boulmer is widely visible. Few roads follow this section of coast, although there is an extensive footpath network.

### **Glossary**

*Wave-cut platform*: a flat rocky platform, resulting from wave action at the high-tide line eroding a cliff, causing it to collapse and retreat.

## Landscape Character Type 5: Sandy Coastline

### Introduction

31. Occurring between areas of *Rocky Coastline* (LCT 4), the *Sandy Coastline* comprises a low-lying coastal strip, with sandy beaches and dunes, as well as extensive tidal sands and estuaries. This is a popular tourist area, and includes the historically significant Holy Island. It falls entirely within the Northumberland Coast AONB.
32. This LCT is represented by three character areas: *5a Holy Island Coast*, *5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays*, and *5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries*.

### Key Characteristics

Low-lying, exposed coastline.

Broad sandy beaches and tidal sands.

Dune systems.

Isolated prominent built historic features, such as Lindisfarne Castle.

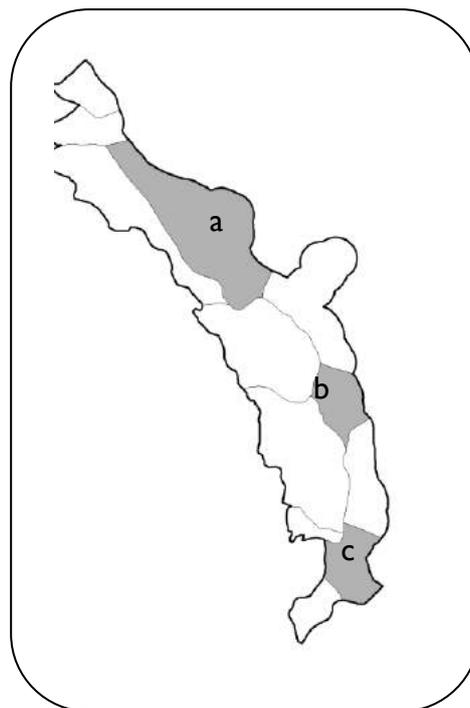
Long views along the coast.

Extensive historic associations.

Tourist infrastructure.

### Description

33. This landscape occurs between the rocky sections of coast, where sandstones and other softer rocks have offered little resistance to coastal erosion, forming wide sandy bays. Between Berwick and Bamburgh, a long stretch of broad sandy beach and tidal flats faces the low-lying Holy Island, which is held in place by the Whin Sill outcrop on which Lindisfarne Castle is built. Smaller bays occur at Beadnell and Embleton, and at Alnmouth, where they are associated with estuarine areas of the Coquet and Aln rivers. Landward, the terrain is low-lying, with extensive dune systems in places.
34. The coastal farmland is arable and pastoral, with varying field patterns across the area. Larger fields are more common in the north, while smaller-scale fields with irregular boundaries occur around High Newton. Tree cover is generally sparse, limited to small blocks, or associations with watercourses. Sand dune systems are extensive, often forming high ridges. Saltmarsh occurs in the tidal estuaries of the Aln and Coquet. This landscape includes the Lindisfarne and Northumbria Coast SPAs and Ramsar sites, and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast and North Northumberland Dunes SACs. Lindisfarne is an NNR, and there are several SSSIs along the coast, covering dunes, saltmarsh and the Coquet estuary.
35. Warkworth and Alnmouth in the south are the largest settlements, and along with the villages of Longhoughton, Embleton and Holy Island are architecturally and historically distinctive. The villages have developed to meet the demands of this popular tourist area, and tourist infrastructure is a part of the landscape. Also



prominent are the overhead wires of the East Coast Main Line railway, and the buildings of RAF Boulmer.

36. The visual relationship with the sea is important to this landscape, as are the striking vistas to coastal landmarks, such as Lindisfarne and Warkworth Castles. Views along the coast are open and extensive, particularly around and across Holy Island Sands. The coast is exposed and windswept, although some of the smaller bays are more enclosed.
37. The major historic features of the area are also prominent landmarks, and are noted above. Holy Island has a long historic of monastic settlement stretching back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Ridge and furrow can be seen at High Newton by the Sea, where a typical medieval village plan survives. The impressive medieval castle at Warkworth, cutting off a promontory created by a meander in the River Coquet, is a major local landmark and evokes the power of the medieval Dukes of Northumberland. Relics of more recent history are also visible in the form of World War II anti-invasion defences, now being subsumed by dune systems, at Bamburgh, Beadnell Bay and Alnmouth Bay.
38. There is relatively good access to most parts of the area, with access land around Alnmouth. Symptoms of tourism pressure are evident, with, for example, urban style car parking restrictions on some rural village roads.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *5a Holy Island Coast*

39. This area is dominated by the broad, sweeping sands between Holy Island and the mainland. The tidal sands are crossed by the causeway linking the island, and by lines of wooden poles. The island itself is largely sand dunes and arable fields, with Lindisfarne Castle on a prominent outcrop. The village has a medieval abbey and is a popular tourist site, with a large car park. On the mainland, extensive dune systems line the coast, with open arable land behind. There is much tourist infrastructure, including a campsite at Goswick. World War II anti-tank defences line parts of the beach.

#### *5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays*

40. These two small bays have broad sandy beaches, backed by dune systems. The small villages of High Newton by the Sea and Embleton are set back from the coast, with Low Newton and Beadnell harbour associated with the beach. The low hill by Low Newton offers a dramatic view across the bay to Dunstanburgh Castle. There is a large caravan park at Beadnell, and a coastal footpath runs the length of the area.

#### *5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries*

41. This strip is bookended by the tidal estuaries of the Aln and Coquet. Sweeping sandy beaches are backed by well developed dune systems and rolling open arable fields. The dunes near Alnmouth have been developed as a 'links' golf course. Both estuaries feature well preserved dune and saltmarsh systems. Alnmouth is an important local centre for sailing. Expansive views over the landscape to the sea are available from the busy A1068. Visitor pressure is concentrated in the settlements of Alnmouth and Warkworth

## **Glossary**

*Reversed-S field boundary*: distinctive pattern of ridge and furrow, the result of use of the ox-drawn plough.

*Ridge and furrow*: broad linear undulations that were created by medieval cultivation practices.

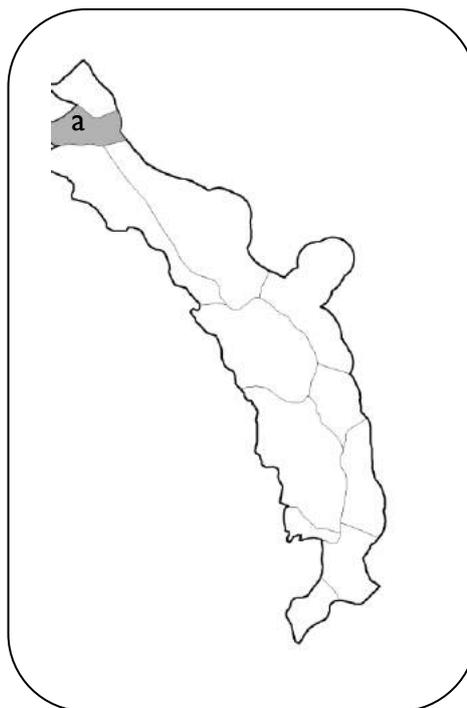
## **Appendix 2:**

### **Extracts from the NLCA Part A of LCT and LCA Descriptions within the Wider Study Area**

## Landscape Character Type 1: Broad River Mouth

### Introduction

42. This is a lowland, coastal landscape forming the hinterland to Berwick-upon-Tweed as the River Tweed sweeps round to the coastal edge. The railway and road bridges form a distinctive landmark feature as they cross the river.
43. This LCT is represented by one character area:  
*1a Tweed River Mouth.*



### Key Characteristics

Sweeping river course, separating the historic core and outlying areas of Berwick, with mud banks and sandy beaches at the river mouth.

Large-scale arable and pasture fields bounded by remnant hedgerows and occasional field trees. Woodland adjoins the river in places.

Historic character, including the medieval core and medieval/post-medieval fortifications of Berwick on the north side of the River Tweed, and the historic bridges spanning the river.

Peripheral development associated with Berwick extends over the valley slopes.

Large-scale industrial buildings at Tweedmouth form a dominant feature within views from the north.

The high arched railway bridge forms a distinctive landmark and this is complemented by the old road bridge into the historic core of Berwick.

Views are typically focused on the bridges and towards the coast.

### Description

44. The River Tweed sweeps around in a broad curve between low bluffs to north and south. The river cuts below steep slopes on the north bank, while the south bank slopes more gently. The river channel is characterised by mud banks, being tidal throughout the area, and increasingly estuarine. As the river broadens toward the sea, the bluffs fall away. The coast to the south of the river mouth comprises sandy beaches at Spittal.
45. Beyond the urban area the mixed farmland is predominantly arable, with large-scale fields. Hedgerows are typically incomplete, although some field trees and clusters of woodland are found in places. The low-lying marginal vegetation on the banks provides habitat value. The River Tweed is a designated SAC and provides important habitat for water crowfoot, salmon and otter. The estuary and adjacent coast are similarly protected, and Lindisfarne SPA and Ramsar site covers the Spittal shore.
46. The historic core of Berwick lies to the north of the river, and church towers provide a distinctive skyline. Peripheral development extends on the slopes to the

west of the railway and over the low bluff and rising slopes at Tweedmouth. The railway bridge at Berwick provides a dramatic landmark with the tall arches standing high above the river, and the historic Berwick Bridge also provides a feature within the town setting. The ruins of Berwick Castle occupy a prominent position at the northern landfall of the railway bridge. Italianate artillery fortifications – of Elizabethan/Marian date – ring the core of the town and give a strong sense of Berwick's turbulent history.

47. The settlement is largely contained within the gentle bowl of the landform at the river mouth, and the settlement edge is interspersed with large-scale open fields. Views within the valley are contained, but elevated locations provide more distant views to the surrounding countryside and Cheviot Hills to the west.
48. The area provides a number of recreational opportunities, with the attraction of the historic town, the Berwick Coast Path, sandy beaches, a network of footpaths, the National Cycle Network, and importance of the river for fishing.

## Landscape Character Type 7: Estate Valley

### Introduction

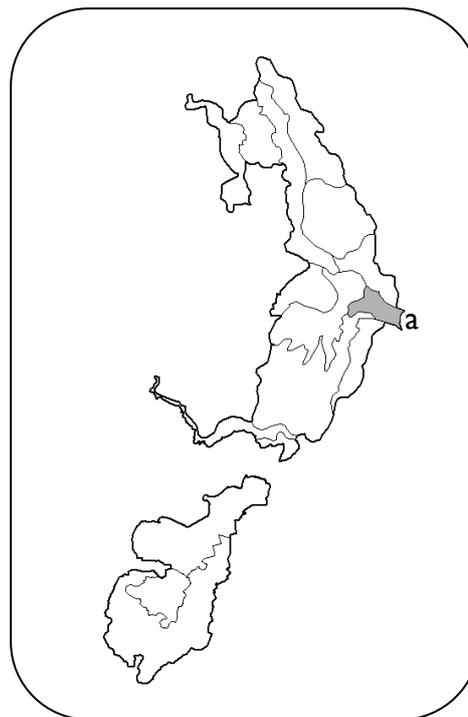
49. Incised valley, dominated by the extensive parkland in the ownership of the Duke of Northumberland, including Hulne Park, and the distinctive landscape around Alnwick Castle. The area broadly coincides with the Hulne Park Registered Park and Garden, although this extends beyond the area slightly to the south and west, and more extensively into the *Coastal Incised Valley* (LCT 2) to the east.
50. This LCT is represented by one character area: *7a Hulne Park*.

### Key Characteristics

- Incised valley.
- Extensive designed parkland landscape.
- Historic architectural features, including extensive boundary walls.
- Estate woodlands.

### Description

51. The River Aln meanders through this relatively narrow, steep sided valley, from its confluence with the Eglington Burn. The valley is at its narrowest here, as it passes between Alnwick Moor to the south, and Charlton Ridge to the north. The river meanders around smaller hills within the valley, such as Brizlee Hill (175m) and Cuthbert Heugh (129m). In places the river flows through floodplains, called haughs, and elsewhere is contained within a steep-sided gully.
52. Landcover reflects the estate influence of the Hulne Park designed landscape. Tree cover is extensive, generally comprising deciduous or mixed species. Some forestry plantations have been added. Arable and pastoral farmland exists within this woodland framework, but there are also areas of open parkland, such as Filbert Haugh, and the area north of the castle, with clumps of mature parkland trees. Tree cover extends along the river, and lines the steep valley sides. Heather moorland occurs at higher elevations.
53. The north-western edge of Alnwick is closely associated with Alnwick Castle. Traditional building forms comprise sandstone houses with slate roofs. High stone walls contribute to the estate influence. The castle itself is often hidden from view, though it stands over the Aln and is prominent from the road to the north. Within the park, settlement is limited to a few farmsteads and other estate buildings. Decorative buildings and historic ruins are sited within the park, complementing the natural landscape and estate woodland. The miles of tall stone walls enclosing the park are highly visible and define the extent of the parkland influence. The medieval origins of these extensive estates are highlighted by the presence of monastic remains at Hulne Priory (Carmelite), Alnwick Abbey (Premonstratensian) and St. Leonard's Hospital on the road north out of Alnwick.



54. The main perceptual characteristic of this landscape is its picturesque quality, deliberate yet naturalistic, and designed in part by Capability Brown. Ornamental buildings, such as Brizlee Tower, have been purposefully added to the landscape to enhance its visual appeal. As noted above, Alnwick Castle is prominent in only a few views, but its importance is in its status as the seat around which the park was developed. Views are determined by the landscape design, in places being limited by woodland, and elsewhere being extensive; the viewing platform of Brizlee Tower taking advantage of the latter.
55. Much of this area is a Registered Park and Garden, and the landscape is a historic feature in itself. It also provides the setting for a number of important buildings and structures, including Alnwick Castle, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Hulne Priory, and the 18<sup>th</sup> century Brizlee Tower. Evidence of earlier occupation includes standing stones and earthworks. Alnwick Castle, along with the Alnwick Garden, is a popular tourist destination. Hulne Priory and Alnwick Abbey are publicly accessible, as is the surrounding park.

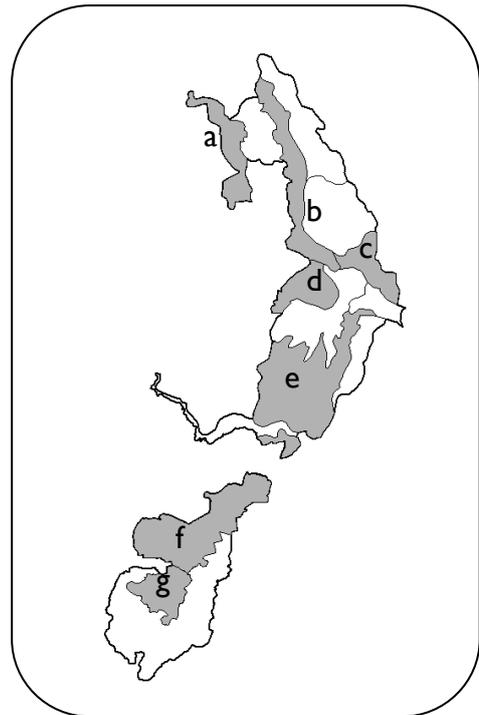
### ***Glossary***

*Haugh*: an area of floodplain meadow.

## Landscape Character Type 8: Outcrop Hills and Escarpments

### Introduction

56. These hills form a distinctive chain of rocky uplands, running the length of the *Northumberland Sandstone Hills*, from the *Kyloe Hills* in the north, to *Great Wanney Crag* in the south. Their distinctive form and rich semi-natural vegetation patterns contrast with the surrounding more intensively-farmed landscape.
57. This LCT is represented by seven character areas: *8a Doddington Ridge*, *8b Kyloe and Chillingham Hills*, *8c Charlton Ridge*, *8d Beanley Moor*, *8e Rothbury Forest*, *8f Harwood Forest* and *8g Sweethope and Blackdown*.



### Key Characteristics

Flat-topped elongated ridges and rounded sandstone hills.

Distinctive steep scarp faces forming stepped, often dark, skyline silhouettes.

Open plateau and gentle dip slopes clothed in heather moorland, acidic grassland mosaic, coniferous forestry and peat bog/mires.

Steeper slopes and craggy outcrops with bracken, heather and broadleaved woodland .

Wet pastures and semi-improved pastures on lower slopes.

Rich muted colours and textures.

Little or no habitation but significant archaeological remains.

Water bodies including natural loughs and reservoirs.

### Description

58. The underlying geology of the area is sandstone which forms a sharp north- and west-facing scarp with craggy cliffs, scree slopes and upstanding rocky outcrops. The scarp face creates an indented stepped skyline which is distinctive in views over great distances. Beyond the scarp, the flat tops of the ridges form a broad plateau above the gentler, rounded dip slope to the south. In these latter areas there are fewer distinctive rocky outcrop features, although the vegetation continues to reflect the acidic nature of the underlying geology. The area is drained by a series of burns which cut incised courses though the moorland, and are often bordered by bracken, heather and broadleaved trees and flanked by wet pastures. Elsewhere in this character type there are natural loughs and mires (e.g. Darden Lough and Little Lough respectively) in areas of impeded drainage where peat has built up, as well as man-made reservoirs such as Sweethope Lough and Fontburn Reservoir.
59. Much of this area is covered by extensive semi-natural vegetation reflecting the underlying acidic soil conditions, and including heather and grass moorland, and, in areas of impeded drainage, peat bog. Rocky outcrops set within the heather moors,

together with patches of bracken and gorse, add visual diversity. These areas of moorland are enclosed by stone walls and provide rough sheep grazing; they are managed for grouse. On lower slopes there is a medium-sized enclosure pattern of improved pastures within stone walls. These fringe areas have an intimate character due to their topography, stone walls and woodlands. There are some notable areas of ancient semi-natural woodland, particularly on steeper slopes below the scarp face, along incised burns and on the dip slopes where woodland often reflects the rounded topography of the area. Some of these woodlands are grazed and form important and distinctive areas of wood pasture. These contrast with the geometric shapes of the coniferous woodland (comprising pine, spruce and some larch) that have been planted on the open plateau and dip slopes such as Raylees Common, Harwood Forest and Aid Moss. In places the conifer plantations are edged with broadleaved species such as birch, giving a softer appearance. Elsewhere open glades have been created within plantations. Holburn Lake and Moss is a Ramsar site and SPA, and Ford Moss is a SAC. There are SSSIs at Colour Heugh & Bowden Doors, Fallowlees Flush and Hannah's Hill

60. There is little or no settlement in this landscape character type. In addition there are few roads accessing this landscape, although ancient hollow ways cross the area providing access by foot. Human features are limited to numerous communications masts, as well as a line of pylons across the Cartington Hills. Quarrying and mining has been an important aspect of this landscape. Former coal workings are scattered across the area, and several stone quarries continue to operate.
61. Due to their height above surrounding farmland, these hills form important backdrops to landscapes such as the Coquet valley as well as offering long distant views to other hills such as the Cheviot Hills. While not remote, the semi-natural vegetation and rocky outcrops, which are features of the hills, give a ruggedness and natural character to much of the area. The simple landform and complex semi-natural vegetation patterns provide a rich visual diversity of colours and textures.
62. The hills have a cultural importance, reflected in the high concentration of prehistoric sites such as burial cairns, standing stones, rock art and hill forts. There are several important concentrations of such features, such as at Doddington Moor, where a major prehistoric landscape is preserved. This comprises an extensive suite of Neolithic rock art, four later prehistoric enclosures and a fort. A number of other prehistoric fortified sites, including Bewick Hill, Beanley Moor, Jenny's Lantern and Old Rothbury, are preserved in rough grazing areas. Industrial remains from early mining also survive on Alwick and Lyham Moors and in the Kyloe Hills. The designed landscapes of Chillingham Park and Craggside make important local contributions to historic character.
63. The hills are an important recreational resource, with extensive areas of open moorland designated as access land. Rock climbers regularly use several of the outcrops. Tourist centres such as Rothbury are close by, and sites such as Craggside, a National Trust property, are within this landscape.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *8a Doddington Moor*

64. This chain of low hills, rising no higher than 200m, forms a separate ridge to the west of the main chain of the Outcrop Hills and Escarpments, although retaining the same scarp and moorland characteristics. The scarp slope is prominent from the flat Till valley to the west, and is wooded around Fenton. Doddington Moor in particular presents a concentration of historic earthworks and cup and ring marks, and is now the site of a golf course and quarry. There are views across to the Cheviot Hills, and the southern section, at Weetwood Moor, forms part of the setting of Wooler.

*8b Kylee and Chillingham Hills*

65. This long chain of hills has the characteristic outcrop escarpment on its western edge, forming relatively low but prominent hills including the Kylee Hills (174m), Greensheen Hill (205m) and Ros Castle (315m). The latter is the site of a hill fort, and similar evidence of prehistoric use is scattered across the area. There are also the more modern remains of coal working. There are medium-scale forestry plantations, as well as estate woodland and parkland associated with Chillingham Castle, an important tourist destination. The Kylee Hills are a popular rock climbing venue.

*8c Charlton Ridge*

66. A large tract of open upland landscape. Although plateau like, the landform is never flat. It is gently rolling at the north-west and becomes more dramatically undulating towards the south-east where there is an accompanying reduction in landscape scale. Predominant land use is extensive pasture grazed by sheep and cattle. Enclosure is infrequent and often consists only of wire fences. Consequently the landscape is very open, broken up only by numerous, relatively small and generally rectilinear conifer plantations. The area is crossed by a small number of single track roads and footpaths.

*8d Beanley Moor*

67. This undulating area shows the distinctive steep slope to the west at Titlington Pike, and has outcrops at Hunterheugh Craggs. There is a greater abundance of farmland; a mixture of arable and pasture, divided by hedgerows, only giving way to heather or plantation forestry at the summits or where slopes are steep. Minor roads provide access to scattered farmsteads and to the village of Glanton on the south edge of the character area. There are views to the Cheviot Hills, and to Charlton Ridge and Alnwick Moor to the east. There is a small-scale parkland landscape at Hedgeley Hall.

*8e Rothbury Forest*

68. This character area forms a broad upland ridge north of Rothbury and the Coquet valley. Like other areas within this type, craggy cliffs (e.g. Corby's Craggs and crags on Callaly Moor) form occasional prominent landmarks, and the land cover is extensive grass and heather moorland with substantial conifer plantations, the largest being Thrunton Forest. The moorland is extensively grazed, with infrequent wire fences, and the landscape scale is large, with long distance views. There is a wealth of prehistoric remains including cairn fields, cup and ring marks and remains of settlements. Later historic interest includes evidence of small-scale coal mining at Alnwick Moor, as well as large country estates at Callaly Castle and Craggside, now managed by the National Trust. A prominent feature is the 'golf ball' radome of the Brizlee Wood Remote Radar Head, now a recognisable modern historical element.

### *8f Harwood Forest*

69. This character area lies between Coquet Dale and the Lisles Burn, and is divided by the eastern 'arm' of the Northumberland National Park. The expansive upland is dominated by the large-scale, geometrically laid out, coniferous plantation of Harwood Forest, and the smaller, but still substantial, plantation at Raylees Common. Harwood Forest extends into the National Park, where the stepped ridge of the Simonside Hills forms a prominent landmark. To the south and east of the forest there are extensive tracts of semi-improved grassland, interrupted by small blocky plantations. In places heather moorland survives, and distinctive patterns resulting from controlled burning are evident. In damper areas there are mires supporting purple moor grass, bog myrtle and sphagnum moss. Dry stone walls are frequent enclosure elements, although many are no longer stock proof, and are supplemented with wire fences, which predominate elsewhere.

### *8g Sweethope and Blackdown*

70. This character area forms the southern extremity of the outcrop hills and comprises the gentle dip slope which has less dramatic topographic features than areas further north, although there are still notable craggy outcrops such as Great Wanney and Little Wanney Crag, used by rock climbers. It comprises extensive open areas of heather and grass moorland, and small blocky plantations. In places where heather moorland survives, the distinctive patterns resulting from controlled burning are evident. The area also includes Sweethope Lough which is important for fishing.

### **Glossary**

*Cup and ring marks*: characteristic circular marks on rock outcroppings, of prehistoric date.

*Radome*: a geodesic dome structure protecting a radar installation, often referred to colloquially as a 'golf ball'.

*Hollow way*: a road which has over time fallen significantly lower than the land on either side, also referred to as a sunken lane.

## Landscape Character Type 10: Smooth Moorland

### Introduction

71. This landscape occurs on the broad dip slope which lies to the east of the prominent scarp of the *Northumberland Sandstone Hills*. It is closely associated with the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8), which form the western edge of both areas of *Smooth Moorland*.
72. This LCT is represented by two character areas: *10a Rosebrough Moor* and *10b Alnwick Moor*.

### Key Characteristics

Gently undulating moorland, without the significant rocky outcrops which characterise the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8).

Simple landcover of heather moor, rough grassland and peat bog.

Limited areas of coniferous plantation forest, giving an open character.

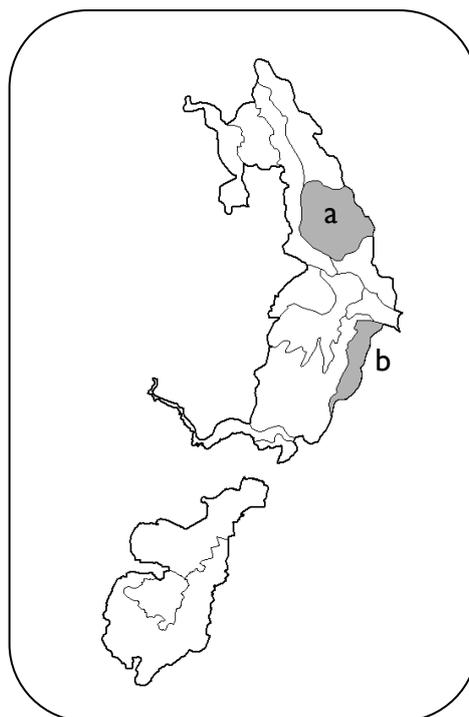
Little woodland or tree cover, and very limited settlement.

Uninterrupted views across the coastal plain towards the North Sea.

Prominent masts and other infrastructure.

### Description

73. The *Smooth Moorland* occurs on the gentle eastern dip slope of the *Northumberland Sandstone Hills*. The land rises from the coastal plain to a relatively level series of plateaux, before dropping sharply to the west at the scarp slope. The plateaux are flat or very gently undulating, with few prominent hills. Overall the land shelves to the east. Small burns drain the land, via a network of narrow gullies.
74. Heather moorland predominates across this landscape, with upland heath and blanket bog occupying large areas, giving the impression of an amorphous landscape of continuous heather coverage. Moorland grazing, with bracken and gorse and few field boundaries, covers the remaining upper areas. With decreasing elevation, boundaries become more frequent, with semi-improved grasslands on the lower slopes. Similarly, stone walls and post and wire fences give way to managed hedgerows at lower elevations. Coniferous plantations form the only significant woodland cover. There are a number of small-scale conifer plantations, as well as larger forests at Edlingham Woods and Ros Hill Wood. All are geometrical, and are prominent within the gently rolling landscape. There is a SSSI at Quarryhouse Moor Ponds.
75. There is very little settlement within this landscape, limited to a few scattered farmsteads, and isolated cottages. Farmsteads have traditional sandstone cottages, but with modern utilitarian structures added. It is also a relatively inaccessible landscape, with few roads crossing it. Ruined farmsteads and a disused railway line hint at the abandonment of this marginal land, although there are signs of return,



such as cottages undergoing restoration. Human influence appears in the form of several prominent communications masts, including the 150m Chatton television transmitter. On Alnwick Moor, a radar station and a communications mast are prominent landmarks.

76. Uninterrupted views across the coastal plain towards the North Sea, including the coast and the Farne Islands, are possible, due to the shelving gradient and the eastward slope, as well as the height of the plateaux above the coastal plain. Within the landscape views frequently comprise only heather moorland. Coniferous forests occasionally obstruct views, but the landscape generally is devoid of trees, and is open and exposed. This can be a bleak landscape, although when the heather is in flower, it can also be picturesque.
77. The relatively undisturbed nature of this upland landscape has contributed to the preservation of a range of historic remains. Extensive Bronze Age ritual and funerary landscapes in the form of cairn cemeteries and rock art survive. Early coal pits are visible on Quarryhouse Moor and around Hunterslaw and Commonflat. On the fringes of Alnwick Moor, the strictly regimented pattern of small rectilinear fields indicates the late date of enclosure and provides a stark contrast with the open moorland. Given the open landcover, much of this landscape is designated as access land, although there are few footpaths, and little to attract the tourist apart from the remote appearance of the landscape.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *10a Rosebrough Moor*

78. This is a broad area of moorlands to the east of the *Kyloe and Chillingham Hills* character area (8a). The central area around Middlemoor and Rosebrough Moor is almost flat. The northern section around Chatton and Sandyford Moors is more undulating, with small clumps of birch occurring in sheltered gullies. There are several prominent masts within the area, each with a cluster of small utilitarian buildings within a high-fenced compound. The uninterrupted heather moorland is most significant in the southern part of this area. The unfenced road across the area lends an upland, expansive feel.

#### *10b Alnwick Moor*

79. This area lies to the south-west of Alnwick. At the edge of Alnwick, urban fringe land uses are evident, including areas of equestrian paddocks. Alnwick Moor is crossed by the B6341, and was formerly traversed by a railway line, which has left a series of cuttings, embankments and scattered cottages. The northern part of this area extends into the Registered Park and Garden of Hulne Park. Heather burning leaves a distinctive pattern across the heather moorland, which will vary from year to year.

### **Glossary**

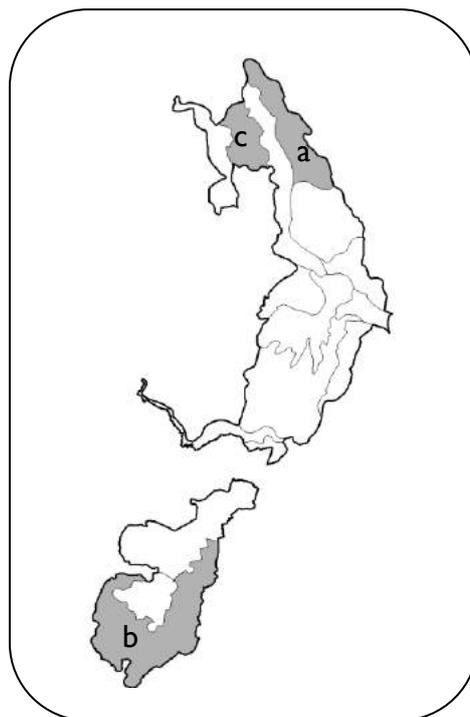
*Bell pit*: a type of simple vertical mine shaft, resembling a bell in cross section.

*Cairn cemetery*: a group of cairns in close proximity which are predominantly funerary or ritual in nature.

## Landscape Character Type 11: Sandstone Fringe Farmland

### Introduction

80. This landscape character type is associated with the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8), occurring at either end of the chain of the *Northumberland Sandstone Hills* (NCA 2). This is a transitional landscape between the sandstone hills and the more intensively farmed and settled lowland areas, and is a marginal area for farmland both economically and geographically.
81. This LCT is represented by three character areas: *11a Belford Hills*, *11b Buteland and Colt Crag*, and *11c Hetton*.



### Key Characteristics

Open, expansive, marginal upland fringe farmland.

Gently undulating topography drained by minor burns, with wet pastures in shallow hollows.

Occasional Whin Sill and sandstone outcrops and crags with associated active and disused quarries.

Association with neighbouring sandstone hills.

Mainly rough and semi-improved pastures, with patches of open grass moorland on highest ground.

Varied pattern of enclosure; medium- to large-scale and defined by a mixture of stone walls and wire fencing.

Areas of geometric coniferous forest and mixed woodland plantation.

Sparsely populated landscape, with occasional farmsteads connected by narrow lanes.

Historic elements include evidence of past mining including coal shafts, and ancient ridge and furrow.

### Description

82. Geologically this landscape character type comprises sandstone, shale, limestone and mudstone which are overlain with glacial drift, giving rise to a subtly undulating topography. Sandstone and whinstone outcrops occur and are quarried for building stone. The landscape shelves down from the higher sandstone hills, to the coastal plain, or to the mid-Northumberland farmland. Generally, this landscape has relatively limited topographical variation, although it is associated with the more distinct landforms of the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8), such as the Kyloe Hills above Hetton.
83. Land use is dominated by rough and semi-improved pastures, many of which are rushy, with patches of open grass moorland on the higher ground, for example around Coween, at about 240m. The enclosure pattern, where defined by stone walls, is visually strong, creating a rectilinear and regular pattern. This pattern is occasionally reinforced by angular blocks of coniferous and mixed woodland.

Elsewhere, larger improved pastures and large arable fields are divided by post and wire fences. In some places broadleaved woodland occurs in the shallow depressions and incised ravines created by burns, notably along the slopes down to the North Tyne valley and the coastal plain. Rock outcrops are marked by associated acid-loving vegetation such as patches of bracken and gorse. There are SSSIs at Gunnerton Nick, Redesdale Ironstone Quarries and Bavington Crag.

84. This landscape has few built features, the most significant human features being the angular blocks of coniferous forest. There are isolated settlements, and occasional small villages or hamlets such as Holburn. Belford is a traditional market town centred on a market cross, and surrounded by wooded estate landscapes. In the south there are a number of man-made features such as masts and small reservoirs.
85. The scale of the landscape is medium to large, and it has a visual simplicity and uniformity. It has an important visual relationship with the low ridges of the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8), which contain some views. However the open character and the relatively high elevation means that there are often broader views across neighbouring areas, either east to the coast or west to the Cheviot Hills. The landscape has a degree of remoteness, resulting from its lack of settlement. Woodlands and shelterbelts provide some containment in an otherwise open landscape.
86. A number of cup and ring marked rocks provide evidence of prehistoric activity within the area. There is extensive evidence of past mining and iron-smelting activity, as disused quarries and former spoil heaps pepper the landscape. The simplicity of the landform and the uniformity of land use mean that archaeological earthworks and ridge and furrow are visually prominent. These create a rich pattern and add a sense of time-depth. The A68 cuts a straight swath through the landscape around Colt Crag, following the line of Dere Street – the main Roman road linking York and the lands beyond Hadrian's Wall. A Roman camp at Swine Hill marks the point that the modern and Roman roads diverge. Recreational opportunities within this landscape are generally limited.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *1 1a Belford Hills*

87. This area lies on the east dip slope of the Kyoie Hills section of the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8), and flanks the *Farmed Coastal Plain* (LCT 3) to the east. The market town of Belford lies at the eastern edge, and arable farmland with hedgerows occurs along this lower edge. Estate influences around Belford include folly buildings. Further up the slope, post and wire fencing predominates, defining large semi-improved pastures. At the highest points are areas of grazed moorland and gorse scrub, merging with the *Smooth Moorland* (LCT 10) to the south. Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands are prominent in views to the east.

#### *1 1b Buteland and Colt Crag*

88. The Whin Sill cuts across this area, from Barrasford Quarry to north of Kirkwhelpington. As a more resistant rock, it forms prominent outcrops of high commercial value that have been, and continue to be quarried, for example at Divethill and Swinburne. The A68 passes through this landscape, the 'hidden dips' and 'blind summits' on the road highlighting the undulating topography and the straightness of Dere Street, the Roman road which it follows. This area often has a

rectilinear character of stone walls and shelterbelts. Patches of broadleaved woodland occur along minor burns and ravines, adding local interest and a more intimate character. This landscape has an expansive, empty and marginal feel, reinforced by the dispersed pattern of farmsteads.

*11c Hetton*

89. An upland fringe, expansive farmed landscape lying between the elevated landscapes of Doddington Moor and the Kyloe Hills. Gently sloping elevated farmland extends over a shallow valley between the more distinctive ridges of Doddington Moor to the west and the outcropping hills to the east. The shallow valley is drained to the south by the Hetton Burn. Large-scale arable fields are punctuated by geometric wooded blocks. The fields are bounded by a mixture of fences and hedgerows, and there has been some replacement planting of hedgerows and field trees. There is some woodland along the course of the streams and areas of rough grazing. Settlement density is low, with only a few dispersed farmsteads and houses. A network of local roads provide access through the area, including a road which follows the straight course of the 'Devil's Causeway' Roman road. This landscape is closely related to Doddington Moor and Greensheen Hill which often contain the landscape. The open character allows distant views to the Cheviot Hills to the west. The landscape is crossed by the St. Cuthbert's Way long distance route. The field pattern dates largely from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the form of large rectilinear fields, with some later amalgamation of holdings reflecting 20<sup>th</sup> century intensification.

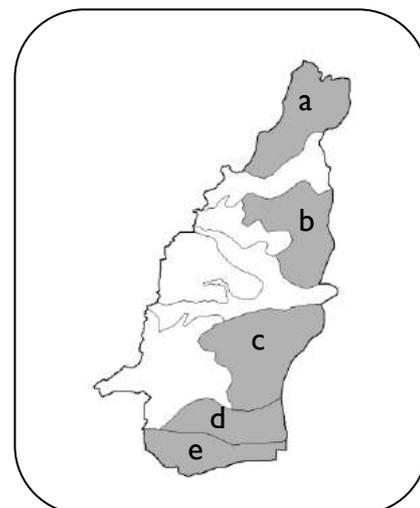
**Glossary**

*Henge*: circular Bronze Age enclosure, marked out by an earth bank and an inner ditch.

## Landscape Character Type 38: Lowland Rolling Farmland

### Introduction

90. This is a large area of rolling or undulating farmland, stretching from the Tyne Gap to Alnwick. Although there are variations in enclosure, patterns, and tree cover in this landscape, the overall form is relatively continuous.
91. This LCT is represented by four character areas: 38a Longframlington, 38b Longhorsley, 38c Whalton and Belsay and 38d Pont Valley.



### Key Characteristics

Undulating agricultural landscape with rich soils under predominantly arable cultivation.

Generally little tree cover, with occasional small-scale woodlands and plantations.

Medium-scale parliamentary enclosure landscape.

Field enclosure by hedgerows, with frequent hedgerow trees, has become fragmented in many places.

Trunk roads and prominent road alignments exert a strong influence.

Locally important estate influences, with woodland, and estate villages.

### Description

92. This landscape occurs on Millstone Grit and limestones, which are overlaid with thick drift deposits. The landscape undulates smoothly, with few prominent landforms. Much of the area is relatively elevated, generally between 100m and 150m, though up to almost 200m in places. The land generally slopes gradually down towards the east, forming part of the wider transition between the upland areas to the west, and the coastal plain to the east. Drainage is via burns and small rivers, including the upper reaches of the Rivers Pont and Blyth.
93. For the most part, this is an arable landscape of regular fields, medium to large in scale. Pasture becomes more common as the ground rises to the west. The field pattern is strong in places, and around Longhorsley or Whalton, for example, medieval patterns can be discerned. Field boundaries are generally hedges, well-maintained in several areas, although gappy in others, and increasingly replaced by post and wire on higher ground. Stone walls occur on higher ground, and in association with estates. There is generally little tree cover, and the main woodlands are coniferous plantations, although there are occasional hedge trees and pockets of broadleaf woodland. Exceptions occur at estates and other sites, including airfields. Longhorsley Moor is a valuable example of dry heath, and is protected as a SSSI.
94. Settlement is scattered, although more or less continuous across this landscape. There are several larger villages in the north, including Swarland and Shilbottle, with areas of modern housing. Further south, smaller hamlets are common, including estate villages at Belsay and Matfen, and often with a central green. Road infrastructure is often prominent within this landscape, with several main roads including the A1 passing through. The fringes of Alnwick and Morpeth add a

developed influence to the north and south-east extremities of the landscape, respectively. There are airfields at Ouston, Tranwell and Eshott, the last still operational, the others former military sites.

95. The rolling topography occasionally provides expansive views towards the uplands to the west, or towards the coast to the east. The coastal views are especially important from the north-east of the area, close to the coastal plain. Elsewhere the rolling topography also serves to obscure views. The intensiveness of agricultural use leads to apparent neglect of more traditional features such as hedgerows in some areas. Other areas appear better maintained, and there are traditional villages and estate influences.
96. Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site and Northumberland's most prominent historic feature, runs through the south of this area, although there are few visible remains. There are several shrunken or deserted medieval villages. Historic estates are locally influential features, with associated woodlands and buildings. The most significant are at Belsay and Bolam, both of which are, at least partially, publically accessible. Mining has been a historical influence on the northern part of this landscape.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

#### *38a Longframlington*

97. This character area occupies undulating, relatively high ground bordering the coastal plain between the Aln and Coquet valleys. Rectilinear field units are bounded by hedgerows originating from the parliamentary enclosures. Sizeable coniferous plantations can be found around Swarland and north of Shilbottle. Although the last colliery closed in the late 1990s, coal mining was formerly a significant presence in this landscape, with collieries at Shilbottle, Whittle and Longframlington. Although full restoration is yet to have been completed, there is little physical evidence of this industry now. Other former industrial activity included lime and tile manufacturing.

#### *38b Longhorsley*

98. This area has a strong enclosure pattern and an intricate network of small settlements, farmsteads, hedgerow trees and woodlands. Around Longhorsley, field sizes are smaller and patterns are less regular, indicating that they are older, possibly medieval. The fertile farmland of the area is cut by two major roads, the A1 and A697, which exert a significant influence on the landscape through severance and visual and aural intrusion.

#### *38c Whalton and Belsay*

99. This is a medium- to large-scale landscape of mixed arable and pastoral fields, with villages set within it. The country estates at Belsay and Bolam, and to a lesser extent Milbourne, stand out as well-wooded fragments of historic landscape, with 18<sup>th</sup> century parkland, estate buildings and other characteristic details. There is a scattering of medieval shrunken village sites across the area. Areas of less regular, smaller-scale field patterns, notably around Whalton and Ogle, hint at continuity from an earlier date, possibly medieval. To the east of the area, the disused Tranwell airfield, A1 trunk road, and institutional land uses including Kirkley Hall College and the former St Mary's Hospital site, combine with other urban fringe influences.

### *38d Pont Valley*

100. This area is a medium- to small-scale shallow valley. The dominant land use is pasture, and a particular characteristic of this area is the higher frequency of mature hedgerow trees. Field sizes are smaller and boundaries less regular than in other parts of lowland Northumberland, indicating that they may predate the parliamentary enclosures. There is evidence of deserted medieval villages at East Matfen and Heugh. The stone villages of Matfen and Stamfordham are developed around a central green. Water meadows upstream of Stamfordham are a distinctive and unusual feature. Historic estates are influential, with estate villages such as Matfen, farms and parkland all evident. The grounds of Matfen Hall have been converted into a golf course. Towards the east of the character area there are urban fringe elements, including power lines and horse paddocks.

### *38e North Tyne Ridge*

101. This character area overlooks the Tyne Gap, dropping away steeply in places to the Tyne valley. Views over the valley can be obtained from Halton Shields. The open arable landscape is occasionally punctuated by clusters of largely broadleaf woodland and pockets of improved pasture, with coniferous blocks and strips to the west. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site runs through the area, although there are few visible remains. The line of the wall is followed by the B6318, the former military road. Overhead electricity transmission infrastructure and the A69 trunk road are prominent elements to the immediate west of Heddon on the Wall.

### **Glossary**

*Deserted medieval village*: medieval settlements which have been abandoned leaving only the remains of earthworks. A *shrunk medieval village* retains some habitation, though earthworks show that the settlement was once more extensive.

### **Appendix 3:**

## **Extracts from the NLCA Annexe A of Matrices for Recording Key Landscape Characteristics**

## Landscape Character Area 1a Tweed River Mouth

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently sloping farmland surrounding river				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Arable and pasture fields, with some woodland along the river course				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Estuary mouth				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Open farmland with some containment within broad river valley				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Surrounding skylines reflect smooth sloping topography				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Railway bridge at Berwick and coast provide important focus for views				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Some intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Visible from major transport routes				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Road and railway are busy routes				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Transport routes and town reduce tranquillity				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Berwick upon Tweed lies to the north of the river				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	The railway, road and industrial areas of Berwick contribute industrial character				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Tall industrial buildings and some masts				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Road, railway and river are significant linear features				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Railway bridge, Berwick Bridge, Berwick Castle and town of Berwick				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Network of footpaths, attraction of coast and NCN route				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Generally well managed, field boundaries could be enhanced				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Bridge, river and landform highly distinctive				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Combination of railway bridge, river and town unique				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 2a Lower Aln

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Shallow, steep sided valley				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Areas of arable, pasture and woodland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Deep and broad valley				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Enclosure provided by valley landform and woodland				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Skylines influenced by varied topography at valley edge				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Views to settlement edge				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Limited due to valley landform				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Transport routes provide views and high numbers of residents experience landscape				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Main road and railway provide movement				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Roads, railway and town create busy landscape				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Proximity of Alnwick, Lesbury and Hipsburn				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Alnwick urban edge, roads and railway provide strong human influence				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Masts of RAF station at Lesbury (immediately outwith LCA), overhead wire of railway, power lines and mobile phone masts				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Road, railway and river are notable linear features				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Alnwick Castle designed landscape, traditional cottages, disused railway and evidence of historic settlement				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Local recreational use of disused railway				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Some lack of maintenance of field boundaries				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Valley with estate influence representative landscape				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Incised wooded valley found in many locations				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

## Landscape Character Area 2b Lower Coquet

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Narrow incised valley within broader vale				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Semi natural woodland, pasture and arable farmland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Broader vale and narrower incised valley				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Broader vale more open, incised valley more enclosed				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Gentle topography of surrounding landscapes				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Views to Warkworth Castle and along river valley				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Broader vale allows some intervisibility with adjacent landscapes				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Visibility predominantly from local transport routes				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	More limited movement on local roads				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Influence of land management, roads and settlement reduce sense of remoteness				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Landscape influenced by Guyzance and Warkworth				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Small scale works outside Warkworth, influence of pylons and railway				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Pylon line, overhead wires of railway				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Pylon line, railway and minor roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Remains of priory at Guyzance and Warkworth Castle				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Local footpaths and use for fishing				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Some loss of field boundaries				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Valley landscape with estate influence				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Valley landscape influenced by some rarer features of Guyzance				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 3a Haggerston

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Coastal plain with small drumlin hills				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Predominantly arable farmland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Gentle landform and larger fields				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Limited enclosure by landform or woodland				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Gently undulating landform give simple skylines with occasional areas of higher ground				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Allows views to Holy Island Sands and Lindisfarne and Haggerston Castle provides feature				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Transitional landscape with strong links to Open Rolling Farmland and the coast				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Visibility from A1 and mainline railway				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Busy main road and rail routes				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Busy roads and railway but essentially agricultural landscape				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Small villages, hamlets and farmsteads				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Influence of road and railway but limited other influences				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Occasional masts, and overhead lines of railway				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Road and railway don't dominate landscape				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Some larger properties and estate influences				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Network of footpaths, NCN and caravan park				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Generally well managed, some loss of field boundaries				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Representative but lacking distinctive features				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Typical coastal farmland				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 3b Lucker

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Flat or gently rolling farmland				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Predominantly arable with occasional woodland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Large scale fields				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Gentle variation in topography, some enclosure by shelterbelts in places.				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Limited variation in topography, some woodland				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	No views or landmark features				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Topography limits intervisibility				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Landscape crossed by mainline railway and local roads between villages				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Occasional movement on local roads and railway				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Farmed landscape with small villages				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Frequent small villages and farmsteads				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Mainline railway and farm buildings				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Mobile phone masts, large agricultural buildings and silos and quarry at Belford Station				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Mainline railway and local roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Few prominent historic features, some policy woodlands				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Network of local footpaths				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Lack of management as a result of agricultural intensification				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Not distinctive but representative of lowland agricultural landscape				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	A lowland agricultural landscape				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 3c Rock

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently undulating				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Arable farmland and frequent woodland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Gently undulating topography				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Some enclosure provided by areas of woodland				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Gentle topography, some woodland				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Belts of Scots pine and policy woodlands provide landmarks				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Gentle landform limits views				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Mainline railway and local roads between villages				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Movement on mainline railway and local roads				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Local movement on roads and railway, and frequent settlement				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Several villages and frequent farmsteads				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Proximity to RAF Boulmer, influence of mainline railway, quarries at Howick				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Pylons in south of area				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Local roads and mainline railway				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Estate influences at Rock House and Howick Hall				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Network of local paths, attraction of Howick Hall				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Variable condition of field boundaries				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Lacking distinctive features but representative of lowland agricultural landscape				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	A frequently found agricultural landscape				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 4b Farne Islands Coast

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Sandy bays, islands and rocky headlands				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Beaches, dunes and farmland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Focus on coastal edge and seaward views				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Some open areas and some enclosure within bays				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Headlands and rocky outcrops, although gentle rise inland				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Bamburgh Castle and Farne Islands provide important features				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Some intervisibility, influenced by coastal aspect and rocky headlands				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Settlements and transport routes provide high level of receptors				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Frequent use by visitors of coastal transport routes				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Towns and coast important for visitors				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Several villages				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	No industrial influence				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Bamburgh castle on distinctive rise				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Local roads and coastal edge				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Bamburgh castle forms a distinctive landmark				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Bamburgh castle, beach and towns are important for recreation				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Coastal landscape under pressure from tourism development				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Bamburgh Castle, coast and islands distinctive				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Combination of castle, coast and islands is unique				

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Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

**Landscape Character Area 4c Craster Coast**

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Low lying with locally prominent ridges				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Rocky cliffs and pasture				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Coastal aspect and heughs contain landscape				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Some enclosure at coastal edge and by heughs				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Gently rising landscape, although local influences such as heughs				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Views to Dunstanburgh Castle				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Some intervisibility with neighbouring low lying landscapes				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Coastal tourist route				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Routes provide local and recreational links				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Tourism and RAF Boulmer provide human activity				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Craster and hamlets				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Influence of RAF Boulmer				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Radar apparatus at RAF Boulmer				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Few local roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Dunstanburgh Castle and historic fishing village of Craster				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Attraction of Craster and coastal footpaths				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Opportunity to enhance field boundaries				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Coastal landscape with distinctive local heughs				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Coastal heughs are unique				

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### Landscape Character Area 5a Holy Island Coast

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Broad sweeping coast and sands				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Sands, dunes and arable farmland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Broad sweeping sands and coast				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Generally open enclosure in bays				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Gently undulating landward skylines, seaward views more varied				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Holy Island and Lindisfarne Castle distinctive landmarks				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Intervisibility focused on Holy Island				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Views from mainline railway and A1, and tourist destination				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Movement on local roads				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Important tourist destination and activity reduces sense of remoteness				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Settlement limited to Lindisfarne and frequent farmsteads				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	No industrial features				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	No vertical features				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Linear features limited to local roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Lindisfarne Castle and village important features				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Important tourist destination and attraction				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Well managed coastal landscape				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Landform and historic Lindisfarne Castle make this a distinctive landscape				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Coastal island and castle are unique within Northumberland				

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### Landscape Character Area 5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Rocky headlands and sandy bays				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Rocky headlands, sand and arable and pasture farmland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Bays and field pattern create medium scale landscape				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Headlands create some enclosure				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Inland landform rises gently, along coast headlands punctuate skyline				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Views to Dunstanburgh Castle and headlands				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Some areas are visible with neighbouring landscapes				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Coast provides draw for visitors on local roads				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Local roads but visitor movement				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Coastal landscape provides high degree of tranquillity				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Small settlements				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	No industrial features				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	No vertical features				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Local roads only linear features				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Dunstanburgh Castle lies in south of LCA				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Coast a draw to visitors				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Generally well managed coast and farmland with visitor facilities				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Combination of headlands and bays provide some distinctive features				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Lack of rare features although headlands and Dunstanburgh Castle provide unique features				

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### Landscape Character Area 5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently sloping landform with occasional rocky headland, and estuary mouths				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Coastal sands, dunes and saltmarsh				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Coastal aspect and local features create medium scale landscape				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Generally open with some local enclosure				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Simple skylines inland, some variety along coastal edge				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Features of settlements and Warkworth Castle provide views				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Parts of the landscape intervisible with neighbouring areas				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Main coastal road linking key settlements and mainline railway				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Important road links and rail movement				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Busy transport links limit tranquillity				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Alnmouth, Warkworth and influence of Amble				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Influence of towns, but no other industry				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	No significant vertical features				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Roads and railway on periphery of landscape character area				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Warkworth Castle locally prominent				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Alnmouth and Warkworth key visitor attractions and role of sandy beaches for recreation				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Generally well managed some loss of field patterns				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Settlements, sandy beaches and estuaries significant coastal landscape features				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Estuaries and saltmarsh are rare features				

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**Landscape Character Area 7a Hulne Park**

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Narrow steep sided valley				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Extensive tree cover, arable and pastoral farmland and parkland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Landform creates medium to small scale landscape				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Valley landform and woodland create enclosure				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Wooded and undulating				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Views are contained within the valley landscape and include features associated with Hulne Park and Alnwick Castle				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Valley landform constrains intervisibility				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Some visibility from road routes				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Roads connect local centres providing some movement				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Management of woodland and farmland				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Urban edge of Alnwick				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	No industrial influence				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	No vertical features				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Prominent estate wall and local roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Designed landscape with features of Alnwick Castle, Hulne Priory, and Brizlee Tower				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Alnwick Castle and Garden are important attractions				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Well managed estate landscape				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Designed landscape and estate wall, along with association with Alnwick Castle are distinctive				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Combination of extensive policy woodland, valley landscape, and historic features is unique				

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Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

**Landscape Character Area 8b Kylee and Chillingham Hills**

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Long chain of undulating hills				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Forestry plantations, estate woodland, parkland and moorland				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Low undulating hills				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Enclosure within valleys and by woodland but generally open				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Simple to undulating neighbouring ridges				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Scarp slope and prominent hills provide local landmarks				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Higher hills have some intervisibility				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Some visibility from local roads				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Movement limited to local roads and visitors				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Influences of tourist attraction and land management reduce sense of remoteness				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Occasional properties				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Some evidence of coal working				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	No prominent vertical features				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Linear features limited to local roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Estate woodland and parkland associated with Chillingham Castle, hill fort at Ros Castle				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Chillingham Castle important attraction, rock climbing popular in Kylee Hills, St Cuthbert's Way, National Trust land				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Estate woodland and parkland well managed				
<b>Distinctive-ness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Combination of estate influences, moorland, forestry and estate influences				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Moorland hill ridge with scarp slope and estate influences				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 8c Charlton Ridge

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently rolling, landscape with low hills and valleys				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Pasture and arable with some coniferous woodland blocks				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Larger scale in the north becoming smaller in scale to the south				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Some enclosure provided by valleys and woodland				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Immediate skylines are frequently shaped by the undulating landform of the adjacent character area. Bewick Moor and Alnwick Moor form simple, distant skylines.				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Elevated highpoints allow expansive views of Bewick Moor, distant sea views across the farmed coastal plain and distant views of Alnwick Moor.				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Views of the surrounding landscape are frequently obscured by the complex landform of this character area				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Few residential receptors and local road users, the A1 passes close to the east of this landscape character area, however views to this area are shielded by the rising landform.				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Landscape is crossed by a small number of local roads and footpaths				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Movement on roads creates human activity				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Scattered farmsteads and settlement of South Charlton				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Agricultural landscape				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	No vertical features				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Minor local roads				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Historic features are not a prominent feature of the landscape				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Local footpaths provide recreational value				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Lack of maintenance of traditional field boundaries				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Not a distinctive landscape				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Undulating upland landscape with few features of interest				

Black shaded box shows NLCA assessment  
Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

### Landscape Character Area 10a Rosebrough Moor

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently undulating upland moorland plateau				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Heather moorland, rough grazing and some coniferous plantation				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Open expansive plateau with large scale enclosure				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Generally open with some enclosure in places provided by woodland blocks				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Land falls to the east and rises gently to the west providing simple skylines				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	No key features, however some visibility from A1 corridor				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Eastern areas have greater intervisibility				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Rural roads cross the area, some visibility from A1 corridor				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Limited movement on local roads				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Land management activity reduces sense of remoteness				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Occasional farmsteads				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Some masts and tracks				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Some prominent masts				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Minor roads and edges to forestry plantations				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Numerous cairns, enclosures and cup and ring marked stones				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Areas of access land and network of paths				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Some lack of management of field boundaries, upland character				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Lacks distinctive features				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Upland pasture and moorland, with only two areas within this type, however other extensive upland moorland areas which share similar characteristics				

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**Landscape Character Area 10b Alnwick Moor**

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently rising slopes				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Moorland, pasture and forestry				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Open, expansive landscape				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Little enclosure by landform or vegetation				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Simple surrounding landform				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Expansive views across the coastal plain, and high visibility from A1				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	High level of intervisibility with coastal plain				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Traffic movement on local roads				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Sparsely settled, although close to the edge of Alnwick				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Prominent radar station and disused railway contribute industrial elements to the landscape				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Radar station and communication area prominent				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Roads and linear forestry plantations				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Small scale features such as cup and ring marked rocks and enclosures				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Access land, few paths				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Upland moorland landscape with mosaic of heather management				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Association with Alnwick and distinctive radar dome provide sense of place				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Only two areas within this type, however other extensive upland moorland areas which share similar characteristics				

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### Landscape Character Area I Ia Belford Hills

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently undulating				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Pasture, moorland, gorse scrub and forestry				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Medium scale landscape				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Strong enclosure pattern, reinforced by areas of woodland				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Coastal plain falls to the east, ridge to the west provides some variation				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands are prominent in views to the east from this landscape, but does not contain significant landmarks				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	High level of intervisibility with adjacent landscapes				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Crossed by several roads and adjacent to A1				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Several roads cross the landscape				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Proximity to main transport routes and roads				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Sparsely settled but adjacent to edge of Belford				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	No industrial features				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Some communications masts in south of LCA				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	Many roads cross the landscape				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Estate influences around Belford and rig and furrow				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Network of paths including St Cuthbert's Way				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	Well managed although some lack of field boundary management				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Wooded sloping farmland with estate influence				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	Although only two areas within this type, several similar fringe farmland types				

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### Landscape Character Area 38a Longframlington

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
<b>Landform</b>	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
	Gently undulating landform, between coast and upland				
<b>Land cover</b>	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
	Intensively farmed, some woodland and coniferous plantations				
<b>Scale</b>	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
	Large scale farmland				
<b>Enclosure</b>	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
	Open and exposed towards the coast, some areas enclosed by plantations				
VISUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Skylines</b>	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
	Skylines formed by undulating farmland				
<b>Views and landmarks</b>	Landscape contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited or occasional landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or locally significant in views	Some important landscape features, or significance in views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
	Locally significant views				
<b>Intervisibility</b>	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
	Overlooks coastal landscape to the east, and towards the National Park				
<b>Receptors</b>	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
	Well settled landscape, A1 passes through				
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
<b>Movement</b>	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
	Pockets of quiet, but generally busier landscape				
<b>Remoteness</b>	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise
	Remoteness only occurs in pockets away from settlement and main roads				

CULTURAL CRITERIA					
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
	Small towns/larger villages at Shilbottle and Longframlington, edge of Alnwick				
<b>Industry</b>	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
	Limited active industry, but mining has been important in this landscape				
<b>Vertical features</b>	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
	Masts near Shilbottle, two pylon lines				
<b>Linear features</b>	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
	The A1 runs through this landscape				
<b>Historic features</b>	No significant historic features	Historic features do not relate to landscape	Some historic features, less important to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are a prominent aspect of the landscape
	Industrial heritage, earthworks, historic buildings				
<b>Recreation</b>	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors, national designation or attraction
	Local path network				
QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS					
<b>Condition</b>	Poorly maintained landscape	Less well managed, with some elements in better repair	Generally well managed	Well managed with some elements in poor repair	Well managed landscape
	This landscape appears to be reasonably intact, despite past mining activity				
<b>Distinctiveness</b>	Not representative	Unrepresentative but with some sense of place	Some distinctive features	Representative landscape of Northumberland	Distinctive to Northumberland
	Some sense of place in historic buildings and villages				
<b>Rarity</b>	A common landscape across the area	A more common landscape, with features of some rarity	A more common landscape with some unique features	A rarely occurring landscape	A unique landscape within the area
	The rolling farmland type is relatively typical of the study area				

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Blue shaded box shows assessment in this study where different from NLCA assessment

## **Appendix 4:**

### **Iconic Features, Important Viewpoints, Other Key Views and Sensitive Routes**

Northumberland Coast AONB  
Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment

**KEY VIEWS AND SENSITIVE ROUTES**

Refer to Figures 3, 4 and 5

View	Grid Ref.	Comments
<b>'Iconic' Features</b>		
1. Lindisfarne Castle and Priory	NU 136417 to NU 126417	Extensive panorama along the coast to Berwick-upon-Tweed and includes Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands. The most sensitive visual cone extends in a 10km arc westwards to the Kyloe Hills [viewpoint 7]
2. Bamburgh Castle	NU 183351	Extensive panorama along the coast to Berwick-upon-Tweed and includes Holy Island and the Farne Islands. The most sensitive visual cone extends in a 12.5km arc westwards to the Kyloe and Chillingham Hills, extending to 14km to Ros Castle [viewpoint 11] and Cateran Hill [viewpoint 12] on Rosebrough Moor
3. Dunstanburgh Castle	NU 257218	Extensive panorama along the coast includes Bamburgh Castle, the Farne Islands and Coquet Island. The most sensitive visual cone extends in a 10.5km arc westwards to Cateran Hill in the Charlton Ridge [viewpoint 12] and Hulne Park
4. Warkworth Castle	NU 247058	Extensive panorama northwards along the AONB and south to Morpeth and Ashington. The most sensitive visual cone extends in a 12.5km arc westwards to Hulne Park and includes Brizlee Tower [viewpoint 14] and Cloudy Crag in Brizlee Wood [viewpoint 15]. The visual cone continues through Alnwick Moor and along the edge of Rothbury Forest down to Swarland and beyond Amble to Coquet Island
<b>'Important' Viewpoints</b>		
5. Halidon Hill / OS viewpoint	NT 968549 to NT 981547	Extensive panoramic views from the recognised viewpoint [including interpretation board] south-eastwards along the AONB. The most sensitive visual cone extends to the Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle and westwards to the Kyloe Hills [viewpoint 7]
6. Cocklawburn Beach	NU 032481	Sensitive visual cone includes the dramatic view along the coast to Holy Island, Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle; also views westwards to the Cheviot Hills

View	Grid Ref.	Comments
<b>7.</b> Greensheen Hill and junction of St. Cuthbert's Way and St. Oswald's Way Coast Path	NU 056358 to NU 067359	Dramatic views north-eastwards to the AONB with a sensitive visual cone including Holy Island and Budle Bay
<b>8.</b> Galliheugh Bank	NU 166348	First dramatic view of Bamburgh Castle and coast when travelling east on the B1342 Coastal Route; panoramic 360 degree views from the hill top Coast path
<b>9.</b> Farne Islands	NU 217358 to NU 250393	Popular boat trips around the islands include extensive panoramic views along the coast and westwards towards the Cheviot Hills. The most sensitive visual cone extends from the islands in an arc that includes Holy Island and Dunstanburgh Castle and westwards to the Kyloe and Chillingham Hills [viewpoint 7], the edge of Rosebrough Moor and Preston Tower [viewpoint 10]
<b>10.</b> Preston Tower	NU 184254	Extensive 360° views into and away from the AONB and towards the coast from the publically accessible tower ramparts. The most sensitive view cone is over mixed farmland and woodlands to the distant (8km) Dunstanburgh Castle. The crowns of mature trees in the immediate vicinity screen views to Bamburgh to the north. Distant view to Farne Islands to north-east, but not prominent in the vista
<b>11.</b> Ros Castle OS viewpoint	NU 082253	Extensive panoramic views north-eastwards from the recognised viewpoint. The most sensitive visual cone extends to the AONB and in particular to Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands
<b>12.</b> Cateran Hill	NU 104233	Extensive views north-eastwards to the AONB. The most sensitive visual cone extends to Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands
<b>13.</b> Crag Hill	NU 155204	Extensive views eastwards to the AONB. The most sensitive visual cone extends to Dunstanburgh Castle
<b>14.</b> Brizlee Tower, Hulne Park	NU 158148	Distant views eastwards to the AONB. The most sensitive visual cone extends to Dunstanburgh Castle and Warkworth Castle
<b>15.</b> Cloudy Crags	NU 147138	Distant views eastwards to the AONB. The most sensitive visual cone extends to Warkworth Castle
<b>16.</b> Bracken Hill, Alnmouth	NU 248109	Views from high ground northwards to Alnmouth Bay and Seaton Point and southwards to Warkworth Castle, Amble and Coquet Island

View	Grid Ref.	Comments
<b>Other 'Key' Views</b>		
17. Redshin Cove	NU 017504	At the northern end of the AONB, views from the Coast Path and National Cycle Network Route No. 1 looking northwest to Spittal Beach and Berwick
18. Cheswick Sands	NU 040470	Views to the hills to the west; dunes prevent immediate views of the coast but provides access to the Coast Path and the beach with views along the coast including Holy Island
19. Emmanuel Head / Lindisfarne Pyramid, Holy Island	NU 139437	Footpath links to the north-eastern edge of Holy Island with dramatic sea views east to the Farne Islands and west to Berwick
20. Beal	NU 067427	Views along the coast and predominantly eastwards to Holy Island
21. Fenhamhill	NU 072411	Views along the coast and predominantly eastwards to Holy Island with distant views to Bamburgh Castle
22. B6353 at West Kyloe	NU 046407	Views along the coast and predominantly eastwards to Holy Island
23. Greymare Farm	NU 077362	Views predominantly eastwards to Holy Island
24. B6349 at Sionside	NU 094332	Views along the coast and predominantly eastwards to Holy Island and Budle Bay, with distant glimpses to the top of Bamburgh Castle beyond intervening ridges and plantations
25. Chesterhill, Waren Mill	NU 138346	Views northwards along the coast although plantations at Ross Links screen most views of Holy Island, and close views of Budle Bay but Bamburgh Castle screened by intervening ridges and vegetation
26. Waren Mill	NU 145345	Close views of Budle Bay but Bamburgh Castle screened by intervening ridges and vegetation
27. East Hill, Waren Mill	NU 158345	Close views of Budle Bay and Holy Island beyond, framed by the Belford fringe and Kyloe Hills to the west
28. Budle Point	NU 163361	Dramatic sea views from the Coast Path to Holy Island, the Farne Islands and Budle Bay, and landward to Bamburgh Castle
29. Glororum	NU 169334	Lies on a slight ridge offering the first views of Bamburgh Castle when travelling east on the B 1341
30. Bellshill	NU 123308	Views of Budle Bay and Bamburgh Castle from the Belford Hills fringe
31. Adderstone	NU 146307	Limited views of Budle Bay and Bamburgh Castle from the coastal plain
32. Elford east	NU 191313	Views into the AONB including the Farne Islands from the coastal plain

View	Grid Ref.	Comments
33. Elford west	NU 185312	First clear view of Bamburgh Castle from this area of coastal plain
34. Dismantled railway west of North Sunderland	NU 200306	First clear view of Bamburgh Castle when travelling north through this area of coastal plain
35. B1340 leaving North Sunderland southbound	NU 222316	View of the coast including Beadnell Bay when leaving the town
36. Beadnell Harbour	NU 237286	Views across Beadnell Bay and southwards to Dunstanburgh Castle
37. Low Newton-by-the-Sea	NU 240248	Dramatic view of Dunstanburgh Castle with Embleton Bay in the foreground from a high vantage point when descending down into the village
38. North of Embleton on B1339	NU 226241	First view of Dunstanburgh Castle and Embleton Bay when travelling south on the B1339 Coastal Route
39. Rumbling Kern	NU 262172	Views from the Coast Path north to Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle, and south to Sugar Sands / Howdiemont Sands and Longhoughton Steel
40. Sugar Sands / Howdiemont Sands	NU 259161	Views from the Coast Path on high ground northwards to Rumbling Kern, Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle, and southwards to Boulmer Steel and Coquet Island
41. Boulmer north	NU 267146	First clear view of Dunstanburgh Castle from the Coast Path / Cycle Route when travelling north
42. The Wynd, Alnmouth	NU 245108	Close view of Alnmouth Bay to the east
43. St. Cuthbert's Cross, Alnmouth	NU 247101	Close view of Alnmouth Bay and the setting of the town from the raised public footpath to the south
44. Alnwick Moor including Corby's Crag Post Office Radio Station	NU 139101	Distant views from various parts of open access land [under the CRoW Act 2000] on Alnwick Moor
45. High Buston	NU 234088	Views of the coast open out on the eastern edge of the village
46. A1068 leaving Warkworth southbound	NU 253054	First views from the A1068 when travelling south of Warkworth / Amble Harbour where the River Coquet joins the coast at the southern end of the AONB
47. Warkworth / Amble Harbour	NU 272051	Panoramic views westwards to Warkworth Castle and the hills beyond, and along the coast northwards along Alnmouth Bay and eastwards to Coquet Island
<b>Sensitive Routes</b>		
East Coast Mainline Railway	Various	Views of the coast from various sections of the railway, in particular from the northern end of the AONB between Berwick-upon-Tweed and Belford, and south of Alnmouth
A1	Mainly	Views of the coast, in particular the Holy

View	Grid Ref.	Comments
	NU 070402 to NU 115347	Island coastline, from sections of the road between Fenwick and Belford
A1068 Coast Route	Various	Views from north of Amble to Warkworth Castle and the hills beyond; and between Warkworth and Amble of the Alnmouth Bay coastline and the setting of Alnmouth in the Lower Aln valley
B1339 Coastal Route	Various	Views are limited to views of the coastal plain from the B1339 between Lesbury and Embleton – there are no views of the sea and coastline or any iconic viewpoints. The coast and Dunstanburgh Castle come into view north of Embleton but the dunes around Embleton Bay and Beadnell Bay prevent most sea views
B1340 Coastal Route	Various	Some limited views of Beadnell Bay from west of Newton and west of Beadnell, becoming clearer on the more open sections between Beadnell and Seahouses and north of Seahouses to Bamburgh where sand dunes frame dramatic views of Bamburgh Castle
B1342 Coastal Route	Various	Dramatic views of the coastline including Bamburgh Castle, Budle Bay and Holy Island between Bamburgh and Waren Mill
B6353 between West Kylee and Fenwick	NU 046407 to NU 060402	Views of the coast and predominantly eastwards to Holy Island from a limited section of the B6353
B6349 between Sionside and Belford	NU 094332 to NU 103336	Views of the coast and predominantly eastwards to Holy Island and Budle Bay, with distant glimpses to Bamburgh Castle beyond intervening ridges and plantations, from a limited section of the B6349
Minor road between Smeafield and Waren Mill	Various	Despite running very close to the coastline along Fentham Flats, views are limited by minor topographic changes, farmsteads, shelterbelts and plantations at Ross Links to predominantly views of farmland and the surrounding hills to the west; views of Budle Bay from sections closer to Waren Mill
Northumberland Coast Path National Trail / North Sea European Long Distance Trail	Various	The trail mostly follows the coast and views are more limited where it passes through built up areas or moves inland between Seahouses and Bamburgh and especially west of Bamburgh and through Belford; there are dramatic views from elevated sections within the Kylee Hills including views of Holy Island and Budle Bay

View	Grid Ref.	Comments
St. Oswald's Way National Trail (where not part of the Coast Path)	NU 243040 to NU244050	Views of Warkworth Castle and the coast from an elevated section south of Warkworth above the River Coquet
National Cycle Network Route No. 1 / North Sea Long Distance Cycle Route	Various	A great variety of views from the cycle route depending on its route within and beyond the AONB; includes the causeway to Holy Island
Other linear routes	Various	Views from other minor roads, tracks, paths and other routes either within or beyond the AONB

## **Appendix 5:**

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## **Appendix 6:**

### **Glossary and Acronyms**

## Glossary

The definitions below of the meaning of the key terms used in the context of this study are drawn from, or closely based upon, current guidance and other documents listed in the bibliography or referenced below:

**Landscape:** *'An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'*.<sup>17</sup>

**Landscape character:** The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, that is, what makes one area 'different' or 'distinct' from another and creates a particular 'sense of place'.

**Landscape character assessment:** An approach which classifies ('landscape classification' is a key part of characterisation and is concerned with dividing the landscape into areas of distinct, recognisable and consistent common character and grouping areas of similar character together) and describes the landscape character of an area (as defined above).

**Landscape Character Type (LCT):** A generic landscape, relatively homogenous in character and which possesses broadly similar combinations of natural and cultural characteristics, including patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern in every area where it occurs. Also referred to as a 'landscape type', they are usually named after the broad geographic features which are common to the landscape character type, such as 'Rocky Coastline'.

**Landscape Character Area (LCA):** A single, unique and discrete geographical area within a particular landscape character type. It shares generic characteristics with other areas of the same type but also has its own individual identity. They are usually named according to place names, rather than names describing generic characteristics, to reflect their distinct identity, such as 'Farne Islands Coast'.

**Landscape capacity:** refers to the degree to which the AONB is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type, or its special landscape features and qualities. Landscape capacity is a professional judgement of the amount of development possible or desirable, reflecting the particular landscape characteristics and features of a given area, and is likely to vary according to the type and nature of the change being proposed. This study refers to the capacity of the AONB to accommodate camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development.

**Landscape sensitivity:** refers to the extent to which a particular landscape character type or area is vulnerable to change due to potentially significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type. Landscape sensitivity is a professional judgement reflecting the particular landscape characteristics and features of a given area, for example landscapes which are rare or unusual landscape types are likely to be more sensitive to change. Sensitivity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed, and in this study refers to the sensitivity of the AONB landscape to camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development.

**Visual sensitivity:** refers to the extent to which views of the AONB and from the AONB are vulnerable to changes in the appearance of the landscape. Visual sensitivity is a professional

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<sup>17</sup> Council of Europe (2000); European Landscape Convention, Article 1;  
<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/176.htm>

judgement of the likely visual effect of camping/caravan/chalet parks, housing, and wind energy development on the special landscape features and qualities of the AONB.

**Landscape effects:** changes in the physical landscape that give rise to changes in its character and how it is experienced, as a result of development or other change. Landscape effects may be beneficial (for example where a characteristic feature is restored) or adverse (for example where a characteristic feature is damaged or lost).

**Visual effects:** changes in the appearance or perceptions of a particular area or view, as a result of development or other change. Visual effects can be beneficial (for example where a new view is opened up) or adverse (for example where an existing view is spoilt by the addition of an intrusive feature such as a wind turbine).

**Cumulative landscape effects:** the combined effects that occur as a result of more than one project being constructed, giving rise to changes in the character of a landscape type and how it is experienced. For example, combinations of wind farms may change the character of a landscape type from 'Smooth Moorland' to 'Smooth Windfarm Moorland' where wind farm development dominates the landscape type such that it has become a 'wind farm landscape'.

**Cumulative visual effects:** the combined effects that occur as a result of more than one project being constructed, giving rise to changes in the appearance or perceptions of a particular area or view. Cumulative visual effects are usually expressed as being seen simultaneously 'in combination' (two or more seen by the observer from the same viewpoint at the same time i.e. in the same field of view) or 'successive' (two or more seen by the same observer from the same viewpoint but not in the same field of view i.e. only by turning to look in a different direction) and 'sequential' (two or more seen by the observer whilst travelling along a route, when no more than one may be seen at the same time).

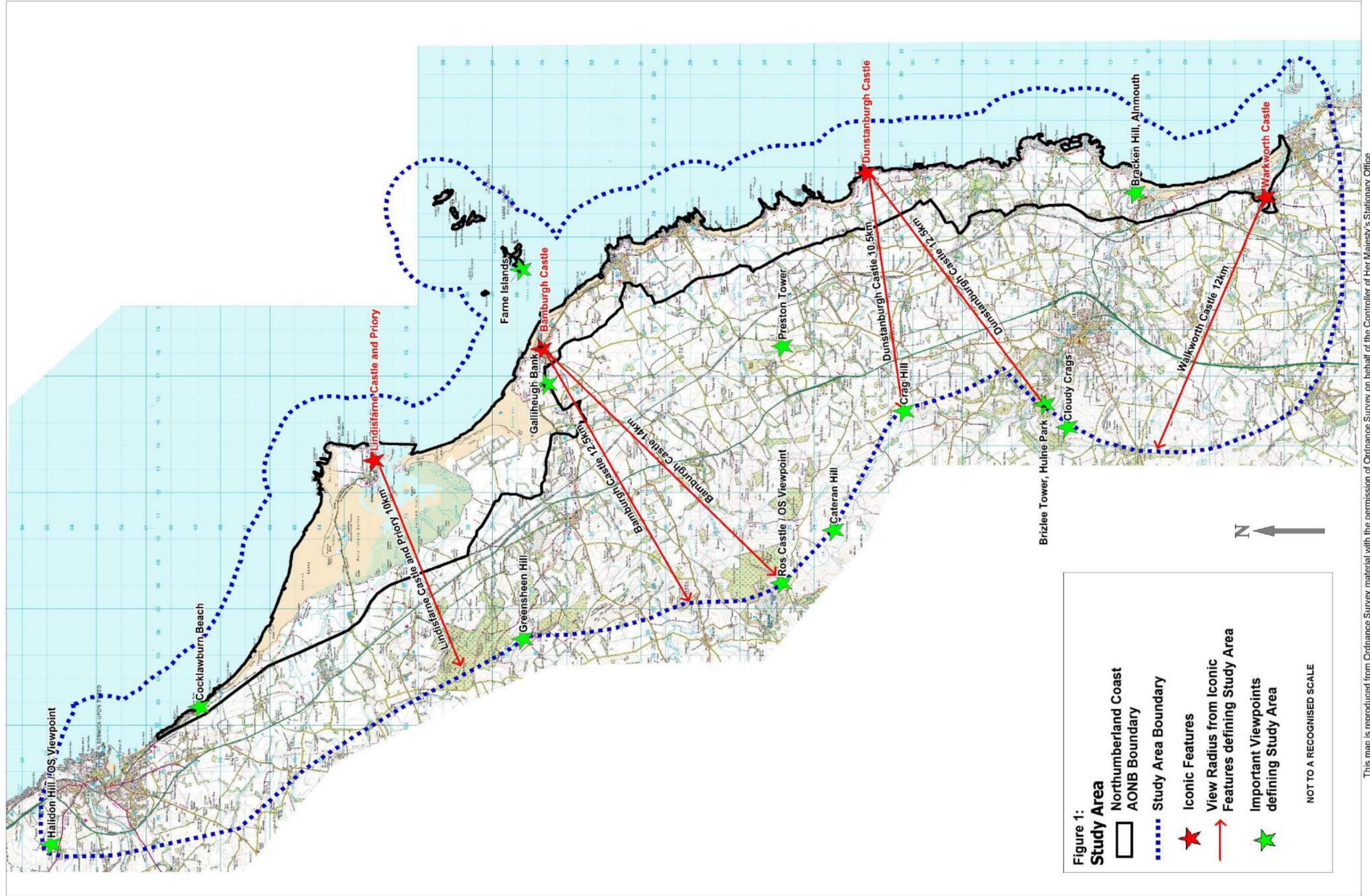
**Visual amenity:** Characteristics or qualities of the landscape which contribute to people's enjoyment of views of the landscape. For example prominent skylines, landmark features or the settings of settlements.

**Zone of Visual Sensitivity (ZVS):** the identified area around an 'iconic' feature within the AONB from where there are significant views of the feature from surrounding land, considered to be areas of the highest sensitivity where there would be a presumption against development.

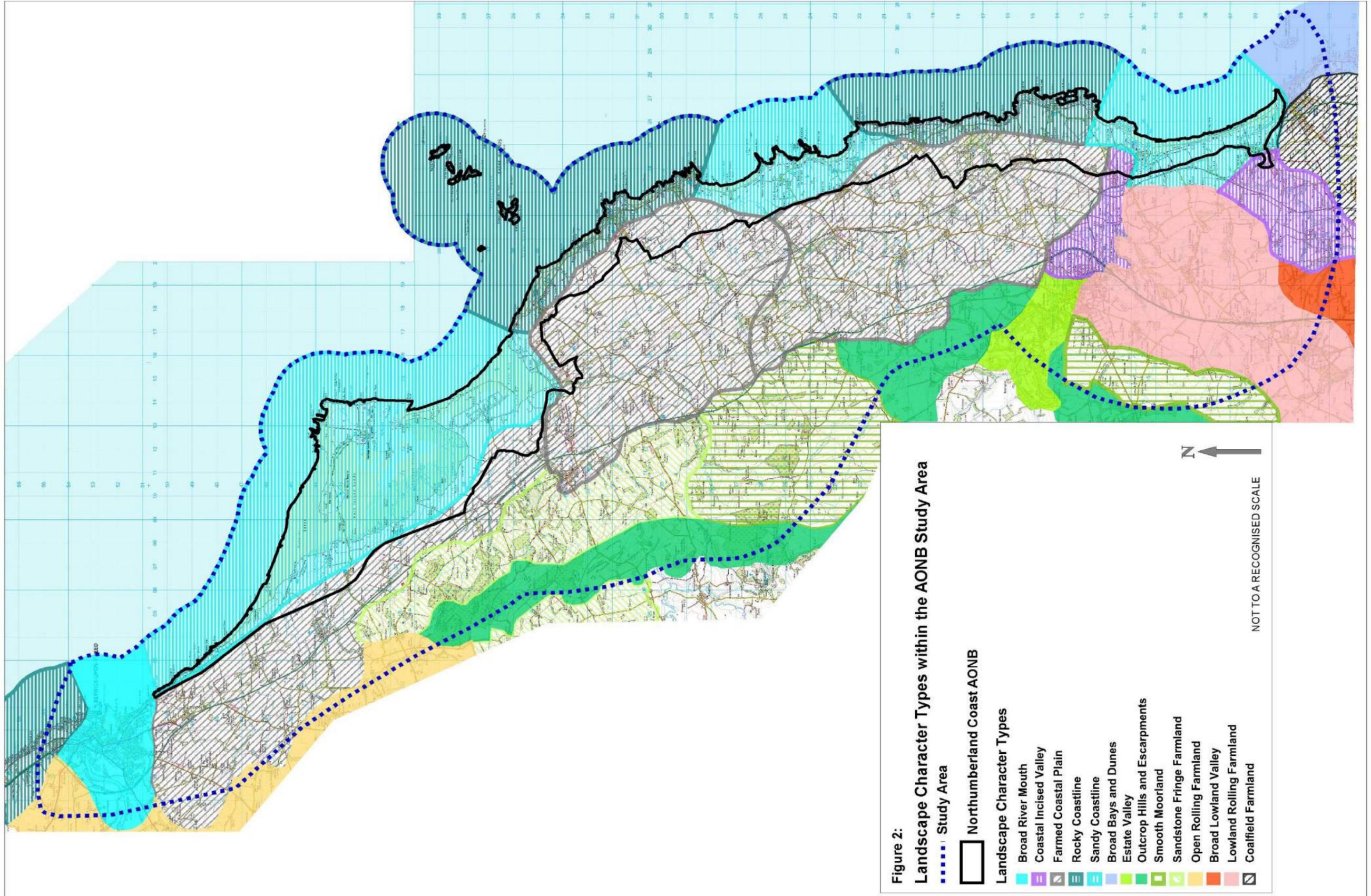
#### Acronyms used in this study:

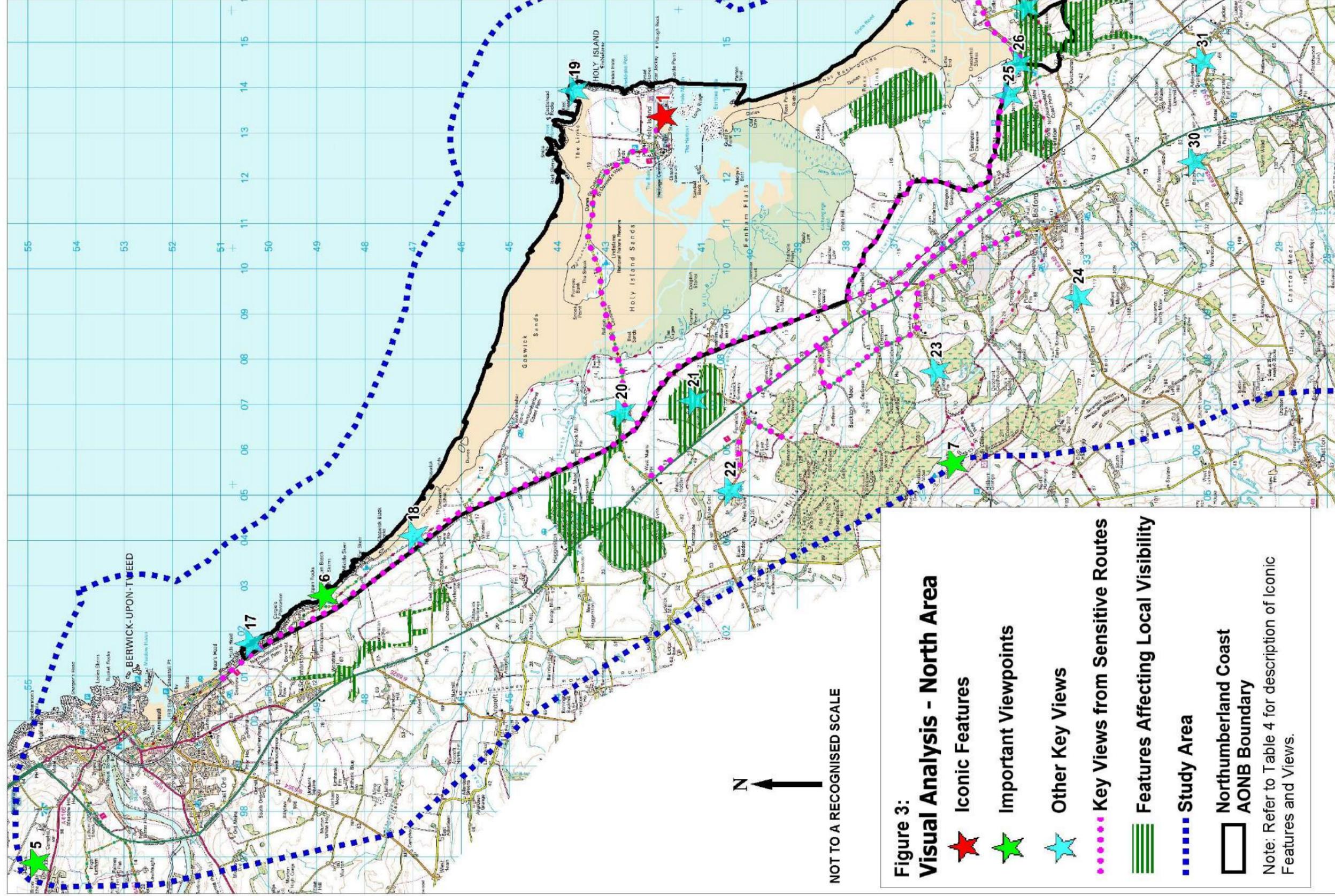
<b>AHS</b> : Area of Highest Sensitivity	<b>MW</b> : Megawatt
<b>AOD</b> : Above Ordnance Datum	<b>NCA</b> : National Character Area
<b>AONB</b> : Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	<b>NLCA</b> : Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment
<b>EMS</b> : European Marine Site	<b>NPPF</b> : National Planning Policy Framework
<b>GIS</b> : Geographic Information System	<b>OS</b> : Ordnance Survey
<b>KW</b> : Kilowatt	<b>SNH</b> : Scottish Natural Heritage
<b>LCA</b> : Landscape Character Area	<b>ZVS</b> : Zone of Visual Sensitivity
<b>LCT</b> : Landscape Character Type	

## Figures

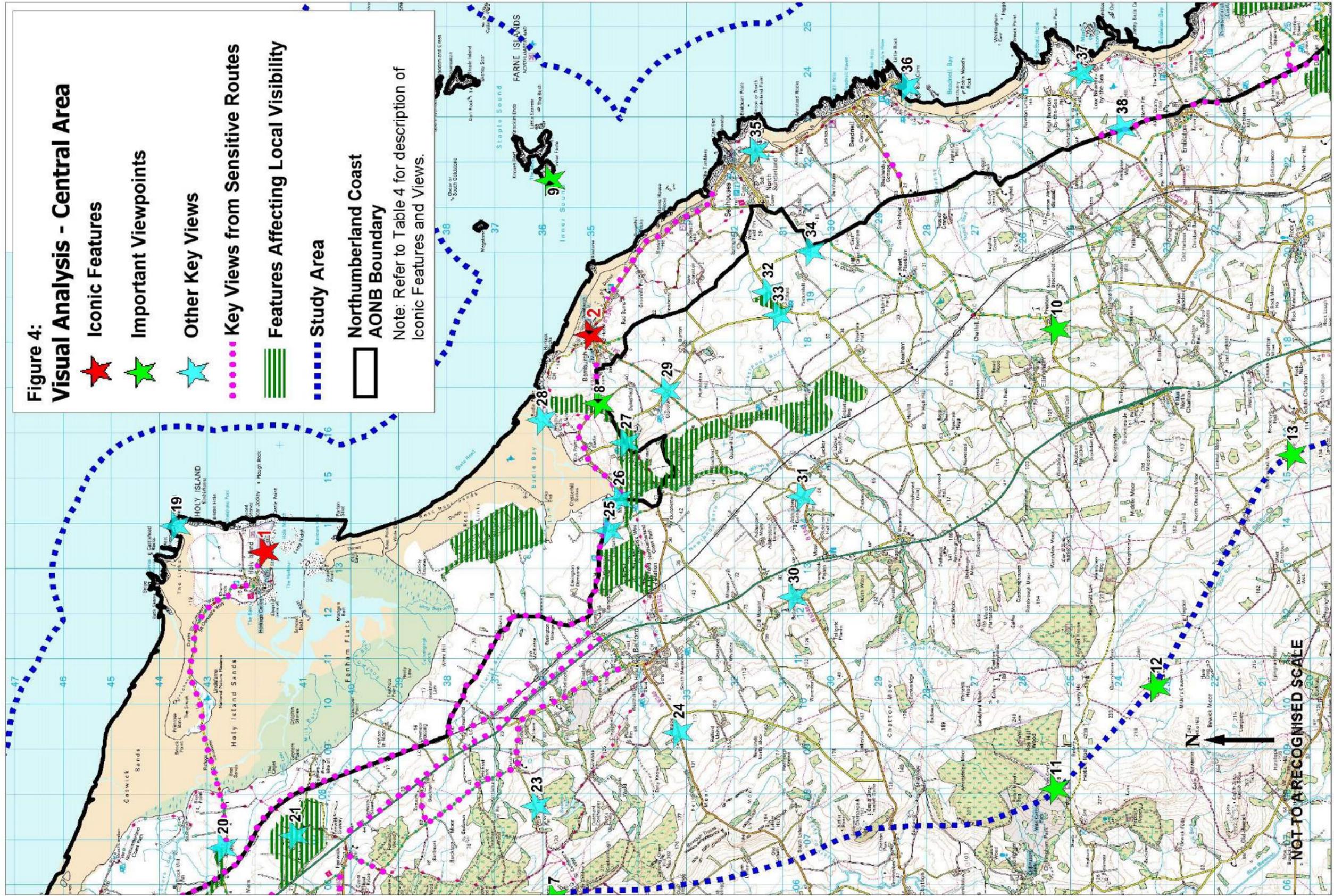


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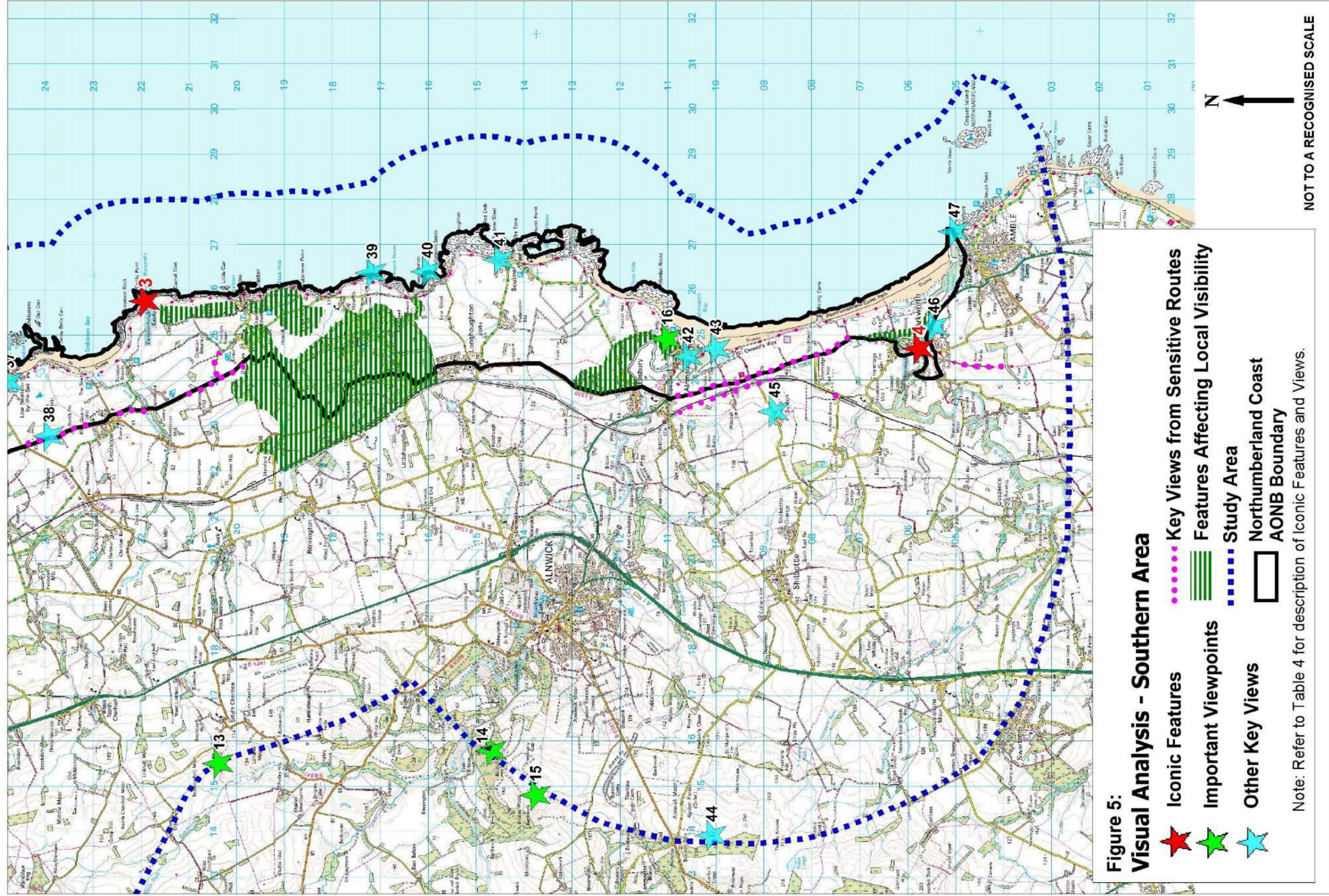




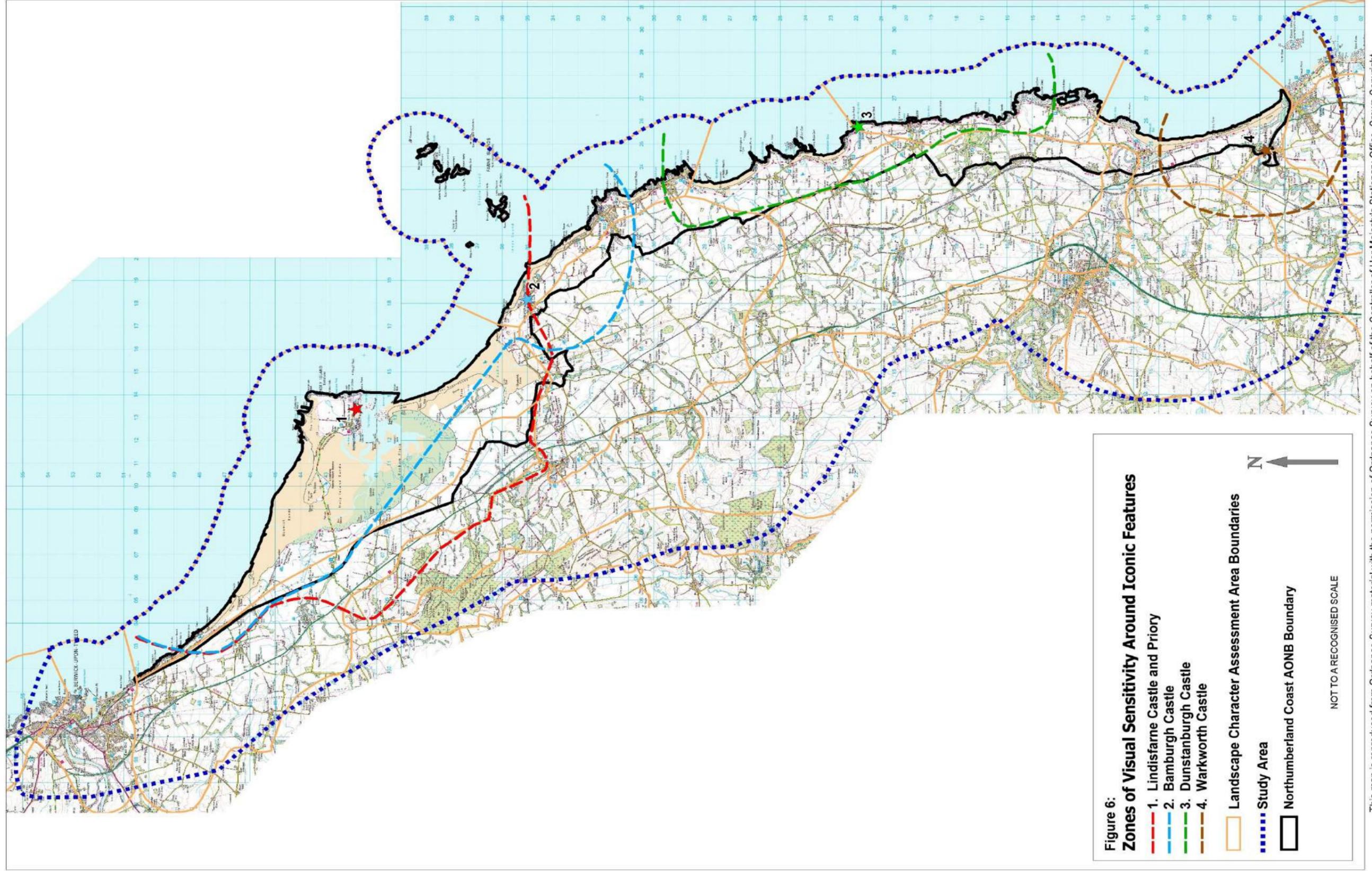
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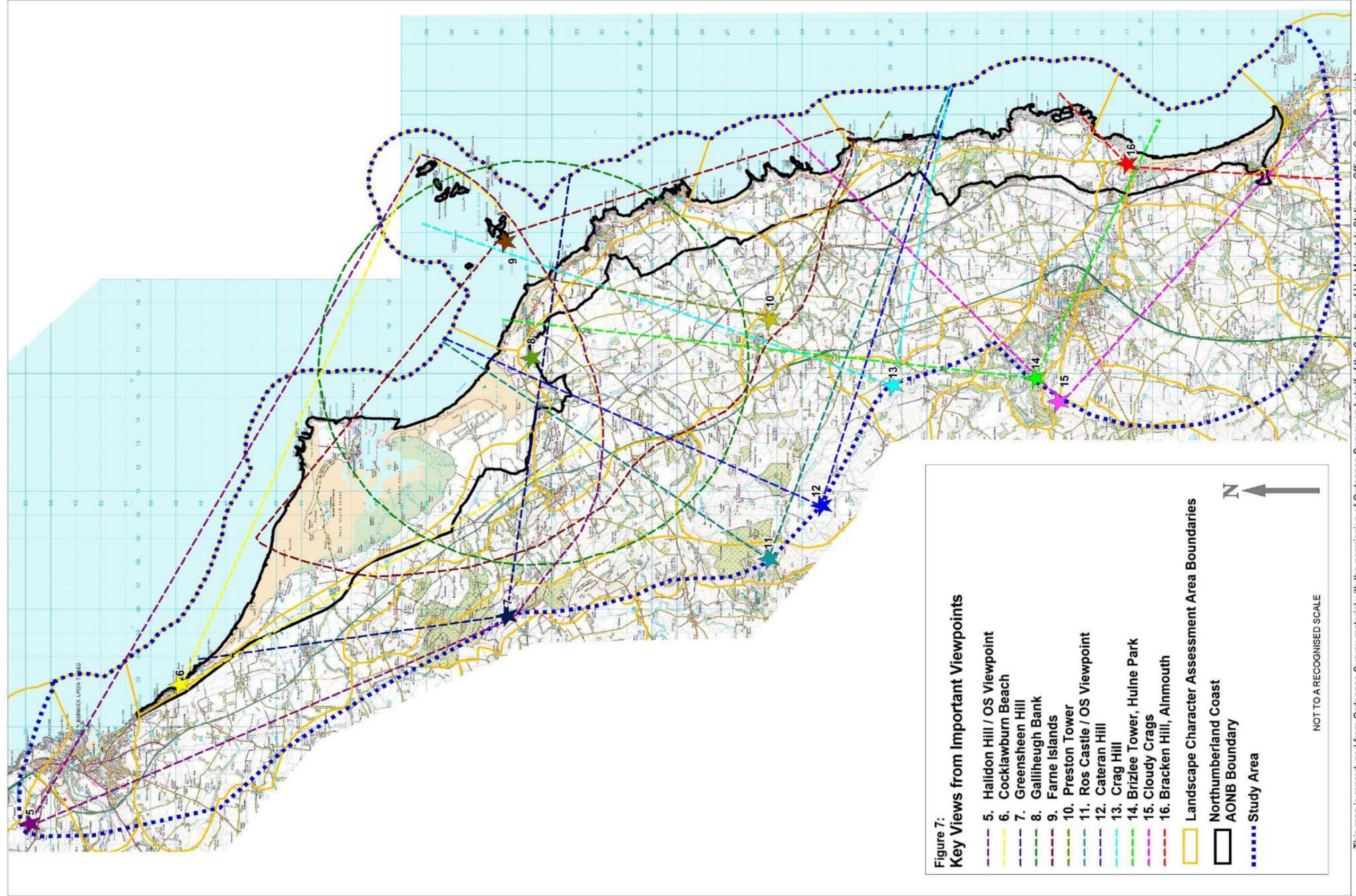
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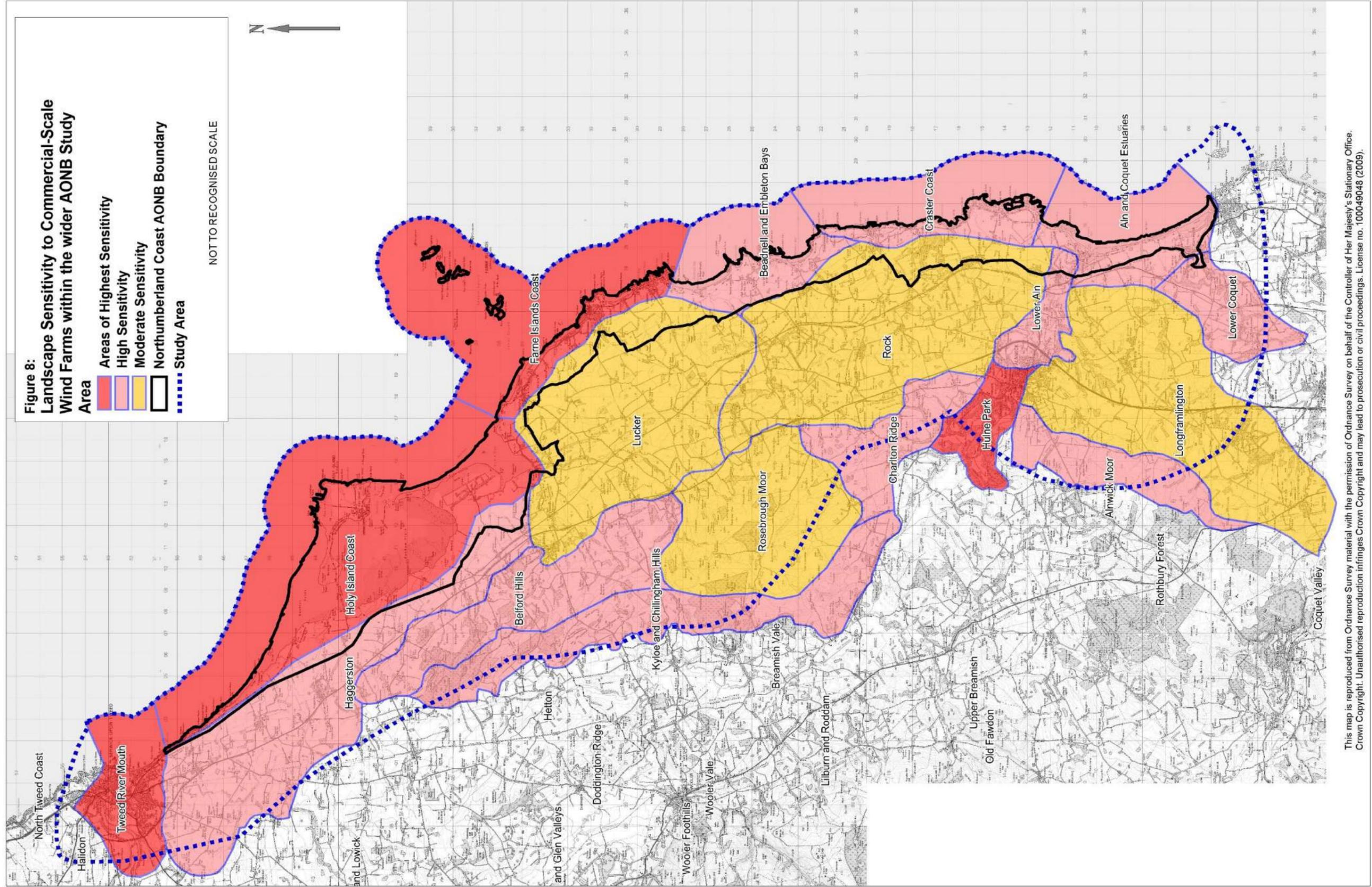
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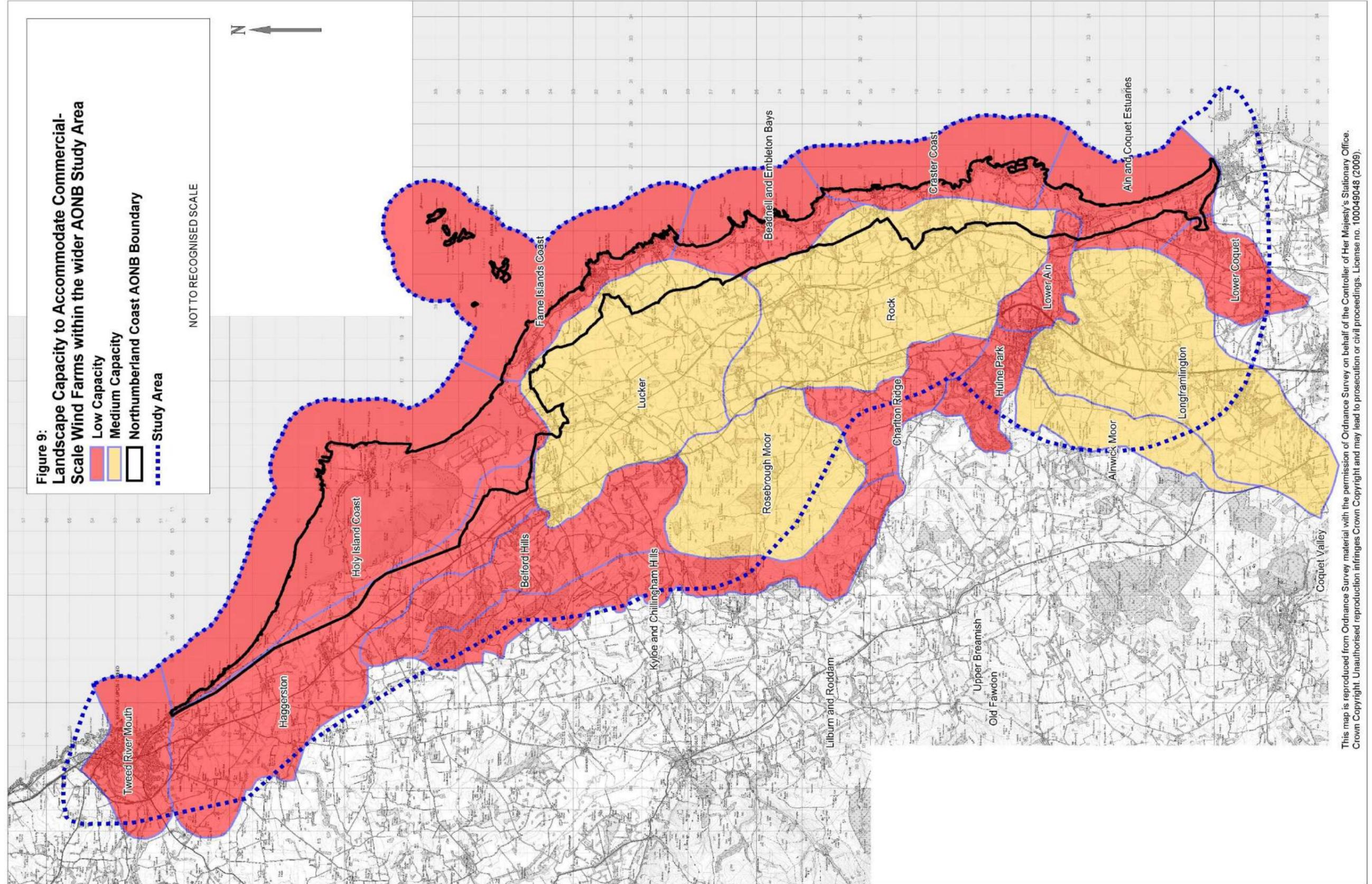
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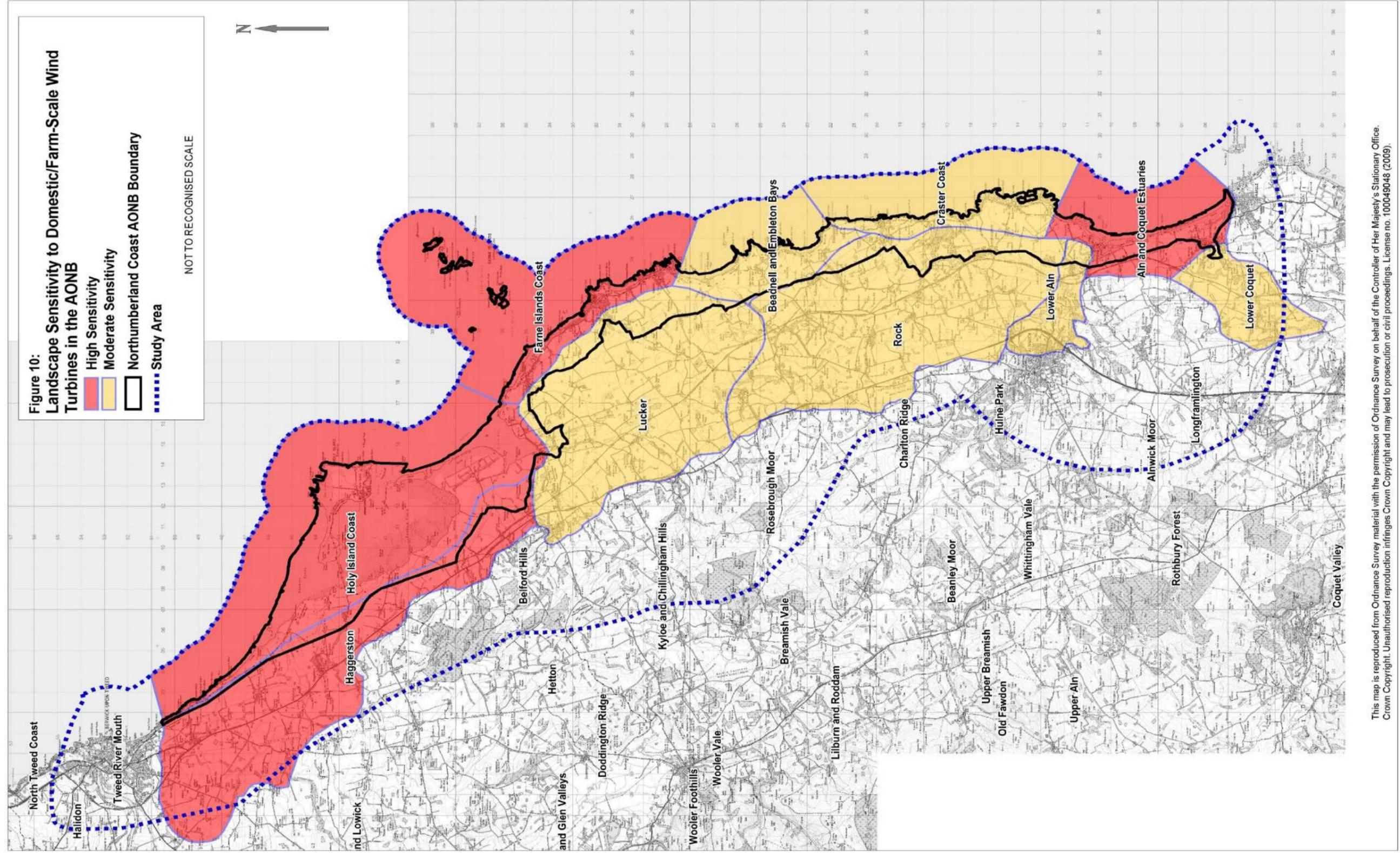
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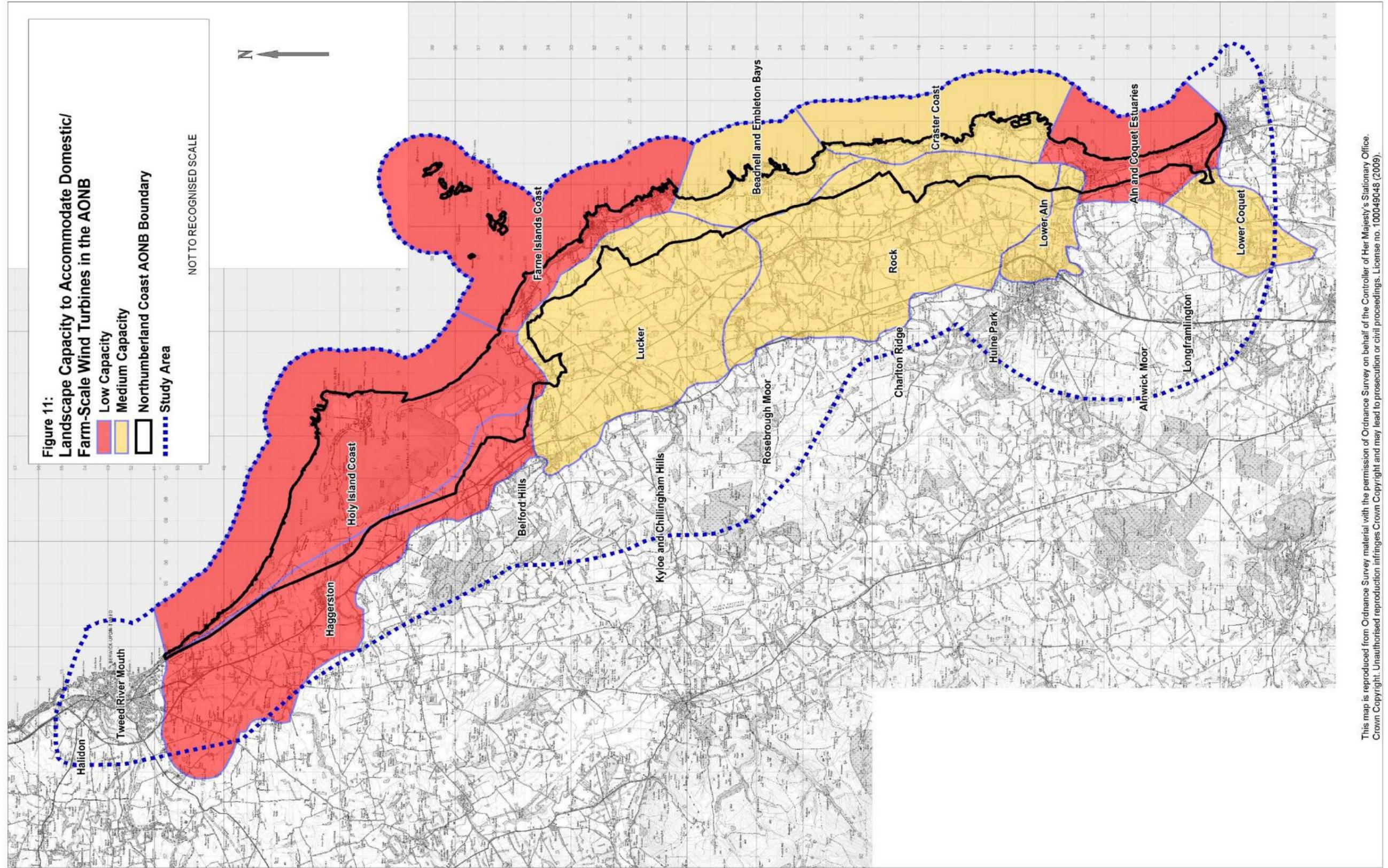
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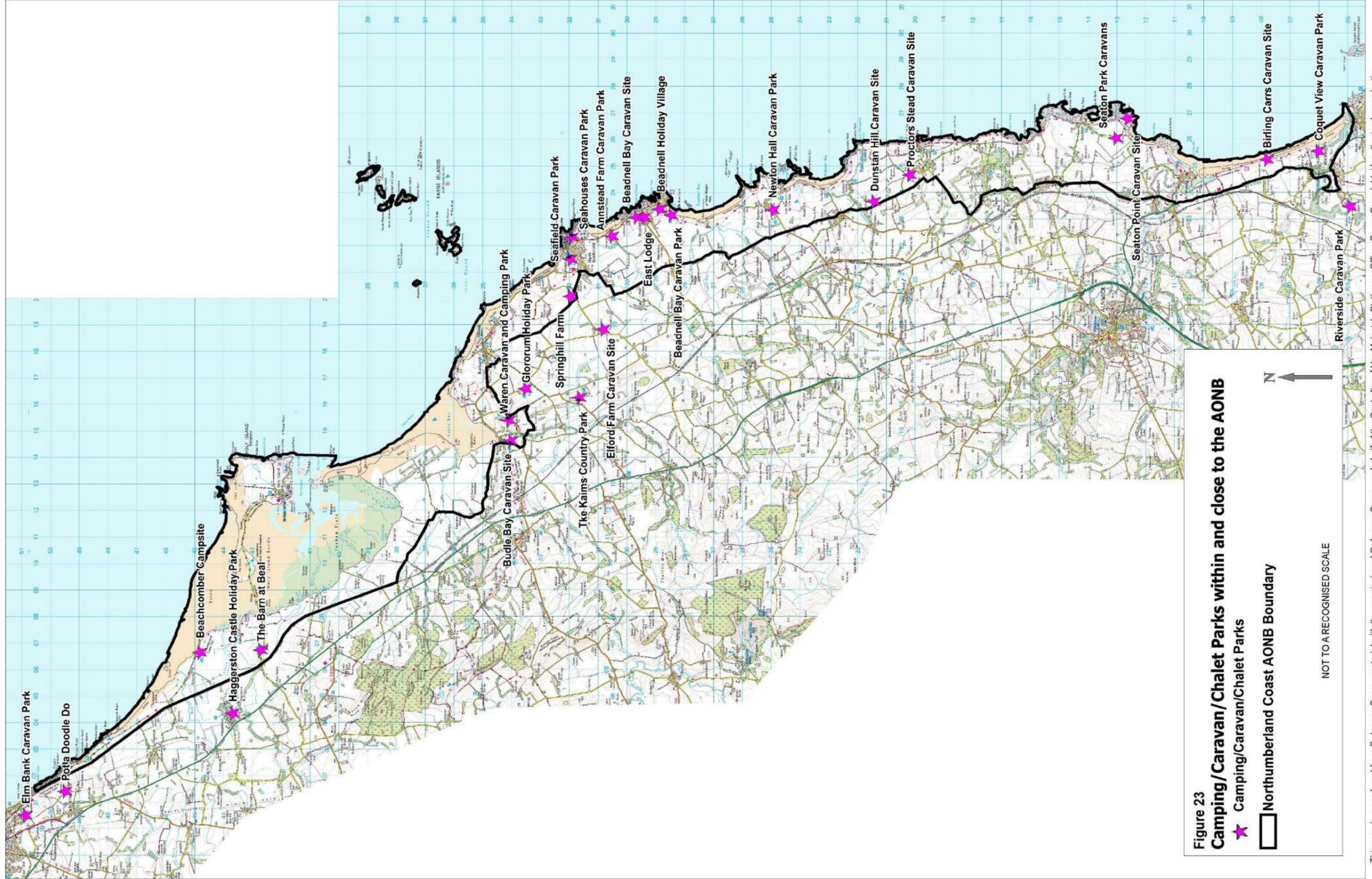
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