



# Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment

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Report to:

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ASSESSMENT (Edit December 2002)**

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## **Executive Summary**

This Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough was undertaken in order to inform the 2002 review of the Unitary Development Plan, to assist the processes of assessing potential locations for new development and policy formation for integrating new development into the wider landscape. This is one of a series of studies that will inform the review of the UDP, as landscape was only one of several topics to be addressed.

Regional Planning Guidance requires that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council provide for approximately 12000 new houses between 2001 and 2016, 49% on brownfield sites and 51% on greenfield sites. To minimise adverse effects of development on the landscape, a robust process of landscape assessment and evaluation was needed.

The Environmental Consultancy University of Sheffield (ECUS) was commissioned by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) in January 2002 to undertake the study. ECUS have worked jointly with Land Use Consultants (LUC) in the implementation of this assessment.

The methodology for the landscape character assessment was developed in line with the accepted method as promoted by the Countryside Agency. Background information on the landscape of Barnsley Borough and the factors that have shaped it over time was reviewed to provide context for the study. A series of map overlays of geology, topography, historic environment, ecological designations, hydrology, woodlands and land use were prepared at 1:25,000 scale. This information was then brought together to define areas of common character. The field survey appraised and refined the areas of common character, informed written descriptions of landscape character, recorded visible forces for change and identified management issues and opportunities.

The landscape of Barnsley Borough was classified into 6 landscape types representing the great diversity of landscapes in the Borough, ranging from the higher undeveloped moorland in the west, to the lower developed and industrialised farmland and river valleys in the east. The 6 landscape types were: Unenclosed Moorland, Upland River Valleys, Lowland River Floors, Settled Arable Slopes, Settled Wooded Farmland and Upland Farmland. These landscape types were further subdivided into 17 landscape character areas, each with a specific geographic location.

The assessment and evaluation identified that certain landscape character areas have greater potential to accommodate development without experiencing significant adverse effects on landscape character than others. The work has highlighted the importance of protecting much of the countryside west of the M1, and protecting and improving much of the remaining open countryside East of the M1.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Environmental Consultancy University of Sheffield (ECUS) was commissioned by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council in January 2002 to undertake a landscape character assessment of Barnsley Borough. ECUS have worked jointly with Land Use Consultants (LUC) in the implementation of this assessment. The report sets out guidance and advice, but ultimately remains the professional view of the consultants.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Study

1.2.1 The purpose of this landscape character assessment is to define the character of the landscape of Barnsley Borough in order to provide a framework for planning and policy development and to inform the translation of that policy into practice. This can be broken down into the following objectives:

- to describe and classify the landscape of Barnsley Borough, including an understanding of landscape evolution and the factors that have influenced that evolution;
- to promote an appreciation of landscape issues within Barnsley Borough;
- to guide and inform policy development, principally the review of the UDP for both landscape protection and land allocations for development;
- to inform development control policy policies relating to the design, integration and mitigation for new development, and;
- to provide a baseline for monitoring future change in landscape character.

## 1.3 Structure of the Report

1.3.1 The report presents the findings of this landscape character assessment as follows:

- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** Introduces the background to and objectives of the study, and the methodology followed.
- **Chapter 2 Formative Influences:** Summarises the factors that have shaped the character of the Borough including physical, human and ecological influences.
- **Chapter 3 The Character of Barnsley Borough:** This is the main body of the report and contains an introduction to each landscape type followed by more in depth assessments for each landscape character area. These consist of descriptions of landscape character, forces for change, evaluations and landscape management issues and objectives.
- **Chapter 4 Overview and Conclusions:** Provides an overview of the landscape assessment and practical applications of the assessment.

## 1.4 Planning Context

1.4.1 This study was carried out as part of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) review process. A review of the landscape designations within the Borough was deemed necessary as part of this process for the following reasons.

- There had not been a landscape appraisal of the Borough for 23 years.

- National Planning Policy guidance (PPG7) encourages local authorities when reviewing their development plan to rigorously consider the function and justification of existing local countryside designations.
  - The current adopted UDP states that the potential for developing a landscape designation to the east of the M1 motorway will be considered in a review of the plan.
  - To investigate potential locations for growth.
- 1.4.2 One of the main reasons for undertaking this work arose from the Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) requirement that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council provides for approximately 12000 new homes between 2001 and 2016. RPG sets a target of accommodating 49% of this growth on brownfield sites. This leaves 51% (approximately 6000 houses) to be built on greenfield sites. RPG identifies the Dearne area as one of 3 regionally significant locations for regional growth based on regeneration need, accessibility and landscape impact.
- 1.4.3 RPG states that the proposals for the Dearne Valley Development Zone and the proposed level of housing development in Barnsley may require a localised review of the Green Belt in that area.
- 1.4.4 Barnsley thus faces a need to accommodate significant levels of housing on greenfield sites. To minimise adverse landscape effects of development a robust process of landscape assessment and evaluation was needed.

## 1.5 Landscape Character Assessment - the National Context

- 1.5.1 The Countryside Character Initiative came about because it was recognised that there was a need for a new approach to landscape assessment that would look at the whole of England's countryside rather than just specific, designated areas. It aims to provide a consistent national framework for more detailed local landscape assessments.
- 1.5.2 The Countryside Agency mapped the whole country into 159 distinct character areas. The features that define the landscape of each area are recorded in individual descriptions that explain what makes one area different from another. It shows how character has been shaped and how it continues to change.
- 1.5.3 Barnsley Borough is covered by three Countryside Character Areas that are: Area 38 **Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield**, Area No. 37 **Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe** and Area No. 51 **Dark Peak**. These national level character areas formed a framework into which this Barnsley Borough Character Assessment fits and this is illustrated in Appendix C.

## 1.6 Methodology

- 1.6.1 The methodology for the landscape character assessment was developed in line with the accepted method as promoted by the Countryside Agency in the document Interim Landscape Character Assessment Guidance 1999, to suit the brief for this project. However, it also complies with the Countryside Agency's Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland 2002 that has been published since.
- 1.6.2 The process for carrying out the study involved five main stages:
- desk study;
  - field survey;

- characterisation;
- evaluation;

1.6.3 Given the short time scale and modest resources for this project, it has not been possible to gain the views of stakeholders.

### Desk Study

1.6.4 Background information on the landscape of Barnsley Borough provided by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) and South Yorkshire Forest Partnership was reviewed to provide context for the study. Further research was carried out into the physical, human and ecological factors that have shaped the landscape of Barnsley Borough over time. In order to scrutinise map data of the Borough, a series of simplified overlays were prepared at 1:25,000 scale. These included surface geology, topography, historic environment, ecological designations and hydrology as illustrated in Figures 1 to 5 respectively. Other overlays that were prepared but which are not illustrated in Figures 1 to 5 were of woodlands, land use and some other human influences. This information was then brought together to define areas of common character that would be tested and validated in the field. This draft classification of **landscape types** and **landscape character areas** was presented and discussed at a steering group meeting and issues that required further appraisal in the field were highlighted.

### Field Survey

1.6.5 The field survey was carried out in teams of two. The aims were:

- to appraise and refine the draft landscape types and landscape character areas;
- to inform written descriptions of their character;
- to record visible forces for change; and;
- to identify management issues and opportunities.

1.6.6 A systematic approach was adopted by recording information on field survey forms (see Appendix A) designed specifically for this project. A comprehensive photographic record of the landscape was compiled.

### Characterisation

1.6.7 The landscape types and landscape character areas were finalised and clear descriptions of each were prepared. The boundaries of the landscape character areas were mapped accurate to 1:25000 scale.

### Evaluation

1.6.8 The landscape characterisation formed the basis for making judgements about future changes to the landscape of Barnsley Borough. An appraisal was made of the strength of character and condition of each landscape character area. The results were used to determine **landscape strategies and management guidelines** for each landscape character area.

1.6.9 A broad statement about the **landscape sensitivity** to change (the degree to which the landscape character area could accommodate development without significant adverse effects on character) and **landscape capacity** for built development (the amount of development the landscape character area could accommodate without significant adverse effects on character) was prepared.



## **2 Formative Influences**

### **2.1 Physical Influences**

- 2.1.1 The basic structure of any landscape is formed by its underlying geology and relief. Weathering, erosion and deposition alter the landscape, drainage and soils and this in turn affects vegetation types and land use.
- 2.1.2 The land in the Borough rises from 15metres AOD in the extreme east near Bolton-on-Dearne to 500 metres AOD in the far west on the upland plateau. The solid geology strongly influences this landform that is made up of layers of sedimentary rocks that were laid down millions of years ago. In later times, these deposits were folded, faulted, uplifted, tilted and eroded. The two major geological formations within the Borough are Millstone Grit and Coal Measures. Millstone Grit forms a small area of underlying geology in the extreme west of the Borough and Coal Measures cover the majority of the area.
- 2.1.3 The Millstone Grit Series is the oldest rock type in the Borough and forms an upland plateau which is deeply dissected by the River Don to form a narrow valley. Millstone Grit consists of hard gritstone beds with softer shale in between. These were originally mud and coarse sand that were deposited in large river deltas and later uplifted and tilted towards the north east. Traditionally Millstone Grit has been a source of grindstones and building stone.
- 2.1.4 The Coal Measures were originally built up within a changing coastal environment on the margins of a sea to the east. Forests grew and then subsided under deposits of mud and sand. This has resulted in the layers of coal seam, shale and sandstone that can be seen today. The western area consists of the Lower Coal Measures that outcrop at the surface and dip eastwards. The eastern area contains Middle Coal Measures underlain by the deeper Lower Coal Measures. The Coal Measures eventually disappear under younger Permian rocks to the east of the Borough.
- 2.1.5 Geological faults are lines of weakness in the earth's crust and are an important feature in the Borough. They are particularly evident in Barnsley Borough due to the scarcity of drift deposits. There are two main sets of faults that trend at right angles to each other to the north west and north east. Visible effects of fault lines include steps in the ground that are often accentuated by mining subsidence, subtle changes in vegetation, lines of springs and boggy ground.
- 2.1.6 The shales and sandstones of the Coal Measures have weathered at different rates to give an undulating landform. The River Dearne and River Dove flowing from the Pennines in the west to the North Sea in the east have carved broad valleys.
- 2.1.7 The Coal Measures have had a very significant influence on the pattern of industrial development and settlement in the area. Coal mining began in the easily accessible seams and it only became practical to exploit the deeper coal in recent times. At one time the Lower Coal Measures were the focus of mining and quarrying. Coal Measures sandstone was quarried for high quality building stone and fire clay was quarried and processed at nearby pipe and brick works. The Middle Coal Measures have numerous coal seams and deeper mines have replaced old outcrop workings. The town of Barnsley grew up near the thickest development of the Barnsley coal seam. Recent influences on surface geology and topography due to deep mining activity include subsidence, resulting in flashes and surface movement along fault lines, and large spoil tips.

2.1.8 The major landscape features in the Borough are determined by rock structure and there are only small pockets of drift geological deposits. These consist of boulder clay, river alluvium and peat. Boulder clay is the varied composition of sediment that is deposited at the base of a glacier. It can contain boulders and stones from distant sources but its composition is mostly derived from the last few kilometres over which the ice moved. River alluvium in the area is confined to the Don, Dearne and Dove valley systems. It mainly consists of silt and clay. Acid hill peat exists on the Pennine plateau in the extreme west of the borough overlying a proportion of the Millstone Grit rocks. Peat results when dead vegetation accumulates on the surface and becomes humified. Acidity, low temperatures, low evaporation rates and poor aeration due to waterlogging suppress further decomposition.

## **2.2 Human Influences**

2.2.1 The physical landscape of the geographical area of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough – the hills and vales, the plateaus and plains, the rocks of which they are made and the soils and vegetation that clothe them - has had an immense influence on the ways in which people over thousands of years have created the complex human landscape that we see today - a landscape gradually filled with farms, hamlets, villages, towns, roads, canals and railways and all the other major and minor features that constitute the landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Not only is the human landscape of the area extremely varied, it also has great depth having developed over thousands of years. Although many early features have been swept away or buried beneath later developments, many have survived and are taken for granted as part of the modern scene. The Barnsley landscape is many-layered and to understand it we need to be able to peel away the layers.

### **Prehistoric and Romano-British periods (7,500 BC – AD 450)**

2.2.2 Although human beings roamed, hunted and sought shelter over hundreds of thousands of years in this area during warm phases between periods of glaciation (the Palaeolithic period), the story of permanent settlement and the beginnings of the shaping of the modern landscape did not begin until several thousand years after the end of the last glaciation about 12,000-10,000 years ago.

2.2.3 Rising temperatures 12,000 years ago resulted in the melting and shrinking of glaciers and ice sheets which led to a rise in sea levels around neighbouring coasts and, by about 6,000 BC, the creation of Great Britain as an island separated from the continent of Europe. The rising temperatures also resulted in the thawing of frozen ground and a gradual change in vegetation culminating, by about 7,000 BC, in the development of a more or less continuous tree cover - the primaevial woods that have become known as the 'wildwood'. As the environment changed from tundra to forest, the human population gradually began to subsist on smaller prey animals (mammals, fish and birds) of forest, marsh, river and lake, and the more abundant fruits, nuts and roots. Mammals included wild cattle, red deer, wild boar, horse, bear and beaver. The impact of these forest hunter-fishermen, the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) peoples, like that of their Palaeolithic predecessors, would have been negligible. Virtually all they have left behind in the Barnsley area were their tools and weapons. Finds have occurred on the moorlands in the west where they have been preserved below peat deposits. Finds have been rarer in the Coal Measure country due to early and continuous disturbance by later cultures and burying under residential and industrial developments. A very important find of artefacts was made in the south-west of the Barnsley area, on the east bank of the River Don across the river from Deepcar in 1962. The find was in what appears to have been a temporary camp beside the river where flint tools had been prepared. The excavation of the site produced 23,000 artefacts and there were signs of a shelter, possibly a windbreak, around three

hearths. The artefacts included sixty-eight microliths, the most characteristic artefacts of the Mesolithic period - worked stones in the shape of very small arrowheads or barbs to be fitted into a wooden shaft to make a multi-faceted arrow, harpoon or spear.

- 2.2.4 While the Mesolithic peoples of the area were following their hunter-fishing-gathering lifestyle, a 'revolution' was taking place in the Middle East and Mediterranean Europe. This was the development of agriculture from about 8,000 BC. This innovation spread to Britain between 3,000-4,000 BC through colonisation and by adoption by hunter-gatherers through contact with farmers, and this marked the beginning of the Neolithic period. Colonists must have introduced sheep and cereals because these are not native to Britain. No Neolithic settlements or sacred monuments have been found in South Yorkshire, and so the presence of a Neolithic population in the area is known largely from chance finds of stone tools.
- 2.2.5 A series of later cultures succeeded the Neolithic in the rest of the prehistoric period and in the succeeding period of Roman rule (the term Romano-British is used to describe native British settlements in this period). The Bronze Age in South Yorkshire, which succeeded the Neolithic, probably began about 1,650 BC. This culture marked the beginning of the use of smelted metals. Bronze tools and ornaments from this period include daggers, axes, spearheads and decorative pins. They have been recovered from barrows on the Millstone Grit moors and as chance finds elsewhere. The Bronze Age was succeeded by the Iron Age in South Yorkshire about 700 BC. Smelted iron tools succeeded those of bronze but this is likely to have been a slow process, as the area was distant from the main centres of technological change in the south of England. Iron Age burials are unknown but the sites of four surviving hill or hill-slope forts have been recognised at Langsett, Roughbitchworth, Stainborough and Brierley Common. These were associated with surrounding farming communities and functioned as regional centres of military power and places of security for humans and animals in times of inter-tribal unrest. Besides the forts, earthwork enclosures and field systems of the Iron Age and the succeeding Romano-British period are features of hilltop and plateau locations in the lower parts of the Millstone Grit country and the neighbouring Coal Measures (e.g. on the Wharnccliffe massif and in Wombwell Woods). It is also clear from air photography that settlement was widespread in the eastern part of the Barnsley area during the Romano-British period. Field patterns of this period have been recognised from aerial photographs in the Goldthorpe and Billingley areas, for example.
- 2.2.6 Despite periods of unrest, local populations in the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods would have been largely engaged in farming activities. Slow population growth would have taken place, settlement would have spread and there would have been considerable impact on the wildwood. Occupation of the Millstone Grit uplands during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages led to widespread woodland clearance which, in periods of colder and wetter climate in the Iron Age and Roman periods, gave rise to the peat covered moorlands that we know today. The intensity of cereal growing in the region can be gauged from the fact that it gave rise to a quern making industry at Wharnccliffe, the name being a corruption of Quern-cliff. Querns were hand-operated grindstones for converting cereal grains into flour. The main phases of operation at Wharnccliffe were in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

### **The Anglo-Saxon and Danish Viking era (c. 400-1066)**

- 2.2.7 Anglo-Saxon raiders had been attacking the east coast of Yorkshire and penetrating up the rivers Tees, Humber and Ouse from the second half of the fourth century. 'Anglo-Saxon' is an umbrella term for colonists originating in northern Jutland (the Jutes who settled largely in Kent), southern Jutland (Angles), the coastal regions of northern Germany and Holland as far as the mouth of the Rhine (Saxons), and the

North Sea coast of Germany (Frisians). South Yorkshire was settled largely by Anglians. By the middle of the fifth century permanent Anglo-Saxon settlement was beginning to take place in the English countryside already populated by the Celtic-speaking native population, but Anglo-Saxon settlement did not take place in the Barnsley area until the seventh century.

- 2.2.8 It is from this time that names were given in Old English (Anglo-Saxon) and this enables some idea to be formed of the mixing of the native Celtic peoples and the new arrivals. By and large the Anglo-Saxons adopted the Celtic (or pre-Celtic) names for the major rivers: in the Barnsley area the Dearne and Dove (the black one). They also commemorated the existence of some pre-existing native settlements in names such as Bretton (as in Monk Bretton and West Bretton meaning the farm of the British), and Penistone where Pen is the Celtic *penno*. (hill or height). The most common Anglo-Saxon place-name elements were *-ton*, *-worth*, *-ley* and *-field* meaning farm, enclosure, woodland clearing and treeless site respectively. These have given us the modern Barnsley names of Darton and Shafton, Cudworth and Dodworth, Ardsley and Tankersley, and Darfield to name but a few.
- 2.2.9 Two hundred and fifty years later another colonisation from mainland Europe, this time from Scandinavia, added another people and another linguistic ingredient to the Barnsley area. These were the Danish Vikings who began to settle permanently in Yorkshire from 875. Their settlements are recognised by such distinctive elements as *-by* (a farm, hamlet or village) as in Barnby; *-thorp* (daughter settlement) as in Goldthorpe and Grimethorpe; and *-thwaite* (woodland clearing) as in Ouslethwaite (blackbird clearing) and Hornthwaite (boar clearing).
- 2.2.10 This period of colonisation by the Anglo-Saxons and Danish Vikings, covering a period of about four hundred years in the Barnsley area, was accompanied by much clearance of primary and secondary woodland as settlements were established, and arable fields, meadow and rough pasture created and expanded.
- 2.2.11 Christianity had reached South Yorkshire before the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in the seventh century and by Domesday fifteen churches were recorded. The first churches were called minster churches and their territories were very large. In South Yorkshire it is believed that churches at Conisbrough, Ecclesfield and Silkstone fulfilled this function in the late Saxon period.

### **The Medieval and Tudor period (1086-1600)**

- 2.2.12 By the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 most of the settlements in the Barnsley area that we know today were already in existence. What needs to be remembered is that the places that were in existence by 1086 were a combination of places and territories that might have been occupied since Iron Age times or before, while others would have been virgin sites or sites long abandoned until re-occupied by Anglo-Saxons and Danes.
- 2.2.13 Whether in the form of farms, hamlets or villages, these settlements were populated by groups of people who largely provided for their basic needs from their immediate locality, though having some links with neighbouring settlements. Each settlement decision would probably have been a compromise, where important decisions had to be made between a number of imperfect sites. Sometimes - perhaps usually - initial decisions proved to be unsatisfactory and settlement sites were moved over short distances. In the upland areas in the west good sites were less common than in the broad vales and minor edges of the Middle Coal Measure country and many settlements were - and were to remain until the present day - individual farms or small hamlets in folds in the landscape and in former wooded valleys. Throughout the medieval period there was a large amount of reclamation of land for farming from ancient woodland, scrub and heath resulting in the creation of many small walled and

hedged fields, particularly in the western half of the area. These are known as *assarts* and have typical names: *ley* (woodland clearing), *storth* (wood), *royd* (clearing), *stubbing* (clearing with tree stumps) and *intake* (land reclaimed from the waste).

2.2.14 In the Middle Coal Measures, the village was to become, and to remain, the main form of settlement surrounded by its open fields, meadows and commons. In the Dearne valley, for instance, from Darton to Bolton upon Dearne villages were located on dry sites on gently sloping outcrops of Coal Measure sandstone. Water would have been obtained from wells. In the medieval period and beyond the villages were surrounded by their open fields, again sited on the gently sloping sandstone with relatively fertile brown-earth soils. Beyond the open fields on the lowest land lay meadows where hay was cut for winter feed and riverside pastures (called by their Old Norse name of *ings*). In these areas wildfowl would also have been hunted and fish caught in the River Dearne. In the highest parts of the territory of each village lay the commons and woods providing pasture, and wood and timber for fuel and building materials.

2.2.15 Woodland cover had been drastically reduced by Norman times and the countryside was not covered by the boundless wildwood of people's imagination. In many areas what we in the twenty-first century think of as the typical English countryside of hedged or walled fields, winding lanes, isolated farms, hamlets and villages and scattered woods was already in existence. Oliver Rackham has calculated that the Domesday survey of England covered 27 million acres of which 4.1 million were wooded, that is 15 per cent. His figure for the West Riding of Yorkshire is 15 per cent. Recent calculations suggest woodland cover in South Yorkshire was only 13 per cent at Domesday. What this means is that in the eleventh century the country generally and the Barnsley area in particular were relatively sparsely wooded even by twenty-first century standards.

2.2.16 All the woodlands in the area are described in the Domesday Book as *silva pastilis* or wood pasture. What this means is that they were exploited for their wood and timber while at the same time being open to grazing throughout the year. This situation was appropriate only while woods remained extensive and the population small. Documentary evidence suggests that coppice management had replaced wood pasture as the dominant type of woodland management in South Yorkshire by the end of the fifteenth century.

2.2.17 By 1200 most villages had a church or a chapel of ease, probably still in timber, built usually by the local lord of the manor, although some churches were 'multi-manorial', built at the expense of a number of landowners. Because the priest's living was based on a tenth (a tithe) of all the produce of the lord and his tenants, there emerged a pattern of churches with surrounding townships or parishes, the parish or township providing the tithe and the congregation. In the Barnsley area the parishes were mostly large whether on the Millstone Grit or the Coal Measures and contain subsidiary townships as in the parish of Penistone, for example, which contained the subsidiary townships of Gunthwaite, Denby, Ingbirchworth, Oxspring, Hunshelf, Langsett and Thurlstone, and the parish of Darfield with its subsidiary townships of Wombwell, Worsbrough, Billingley and Great and Little Houghton.

2.2.18 Monastic influence was significant in the development of the area in the medieval period. Monk Bretton Priory was established in 1154. The influence of monastic establishments was felt far beyond their precincts. They were showered with gifts of land by landowners who wanted to pave their way into heaven and until the mid-fourteenth century the monasteries directly farmed their lands and engaged in industrial enterprises. After that date they rented their lands to tenants. Their outlying farms and industrial enterprises (which could range from stone quarrying and ironstone mining to corn milling and iron making) were called granges. Monk Bretton

Priory had four granges in the surrounding area. Monastic establishments from outside South Yorkshire were also major landowners and entrepreneurs in the Barnsley area. Nostell Priory had land in Great Houghton and Thurnscoe, and in the twelfth century, Rievaulx Abbey obtained the rights to the ironstone and the woods for making charcoal in the manor of Stainborough. It is also likely that Dodworth, which had been presented to Pontefract Priory about 1090 by the Norman lord, Robert de Lacy, was replanned by the monks. The main part of the village, on either side of Town Street (now High Street), has the characteristics of a planned medieval village with the plots of the former farmhouses (tofts) on both sides of the long village street lying at the end of long narrow and straight-sided enclosures (crofts). The town of Barnsley's development was also greatly influenced by its monastic ownership during the medieval period when it emerged as the major settlement of the area. The town had been presented by the Norman lord to the Monks of the Priory of Pontefract about 1150 and they obtained a market charter for the town in 1249. From its original site in Old Town, the town spread down Market Hill, across the Sough Dike to Cheapside and May Day Green. Coal mining was first recorded in Barnsley in 1313 and iron founding had become the staple industry of the town by 1380.

2.2.19 Medieval deer parks were symbols of status and wealth. They were created by kings, by the nobility, by bishops and by the heads of monastic institutions. As all the deer belonged to the Crown, from the beginning of the thirteenth century it was necessary to obtain a licence from the king to create a park. A 'grant of free warren' was given which gave a landowner a general right to hunt on his demesne (the land on his estate which was not in the hands of tenants), and this general permission was often converted into the creation of a specially enclosed area: the deer park. In the Barnsley area there were five medieval deer parks (at Wortley, Tankersley, Stainborough, Woodhall (Wombwell) and Brierley) and seventeen grants of free warren where it is not known whether or not a park was created. Deer parks were not primarily created for hunting, although hunting did take place there – the first record of the existence of Tankersley Park, for instance, was in 1527 when the owner, Henry Saville, was recorded as having been 'hunting at dere wythe hounds in hys parke of Tankersley'. Their main function was to provide for their owners a reliable source of food for the table (venison, rabbit and fish), and supplies of wood and timber from the compartmented coppice woods within the parks and ancient pollarded trees growing in the otherwise treeless 'launds'.

2.2.20 Large tracts of the English countryside were turned into Royal Forests in the medieval period. In this connection the word forest does not imply woodland. Forest here is a legal term meaning that Forest Law applied relating to the hunting of deer, the grazing of animals, the clearing of land and the felling of timber. Forests were not fenced and could include within their boundaries woodland, heath, fen, farmland and settlements. Although there were no Royal Forests in the Barnsley area there was one *chase* which was the private equivalent of a Royal Forest – Wharnccliffe Chase. This chase was the private forest of the Wortley family and was developed on the high plateau above the River Don bounded by the dramatic Wharnccliffe Crags. It was probably created in the second half of the thirteenth century following the granting of the right of free warren in 1252. It was extended southward in Elizabethan times. In order to create the New Park, as the extension was called, tenants were evicted and two hamlets violently depopulated. The struggle between Sir Richard Wortley and the local population has been immortalised by the seventeenth century ballad *The Dragon of Wantley*.

## **The Post-Medieval period (1600-1800)**

- 2.2.21 The agricultural landscape underwent considerable change in this period. The break up of the open field system was under way in some localities before the end of the medieval period and there was considerable enclosure in the Tudor period throughout the country. Most of this was by private agreement. This early enclosure is still clearly evident in the landscape at Thurlstone and Oxspring in the form of long narrow fields with boundaries in the reverse S shape betraying the enclosure of bundles of open field strips. By the middle of the eighteenth century with a rising population, rising prices for agricultural products, agricultural innovation and increasing regional specialisation there was a movement to enclose the remaining open field land and associated meadows and commons. This last round of enclosure was achieved by thousands of private acts of parliament. This was the so-called 'parliamentary enclosure' which was accompanied by the building of new farmhouses amongst the new allotments. In some villages all of the open field had already been enclosed by 1750 (as at Darfield, Wombwell and Billingley, for example) and only commons needed to be enclosed, while at Bolton upon Dearne, for example, three major open fields were still in existence. Commissioners were appointed, the land was surveyed and allotted to owners on the basis of land held in the open fields, meadows and commons. The new allotments, recognised by their regular shapes, were enclosed by single-species (hawthorn) hedges and stone walls – most clearly seen today in the area west of Ingbirchworth.
- 2.2.22 The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were periods of re-building of the common people's cottages and farms (increasingly of stone with stone roofs rather than timber and thatch) and the country houses of the gentry and aristocracy. Mid- and late seventeenth century houses of note are Bullhouse Hall near Penistone, an atmospheric building constructed of sandstone ashlar blocks with a series of steep gables and mullioned windows, and Cannon Hall, built for the Spencer family, leading members of the syndicate that almost monopolised the charcoal iron industry in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire. Of the present Cannon Hall, the central five bays, two and a half storeys high and topped by a balustrade, are of late seventeenth century date. At a smaller scale is Houndhill, a partly timber-framed manor house. The eighteenth century saw the building of a number of country houses in local stone including most notably Wentworth Castle and Wortley Hall. These two houses, together with Cannon Hall and Bretton Hall, were surrounded by newly designed parks created under the influence of contemporary landscape designers as aesthetic extensions to the country house.
- 2.2.23 Industrial development in this period included small-scale but widespread coal mining near the outcrops of the Silkstone and Barnsley seams in particular. Ironstone was also mined from bell pits. Also of importance at water powered sites were forges and wire mills, of which Wortley Top Forge, dating from 1727, survives in a restored state. There is also a surviving charcoal fired blast furnace at Rockley that was erected in 1652. South Yorkshire was also noted for its leather tanning industry in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with the most important tanneries located in or near the villages of Cawthorne, Dodworth and Silkstone. Further west the wool textile industry was a not unimportant feature of the local economy. Penistone had acquired a name for a special kind of wool product called a 'Penistone', by the end of the eighteenth century there were four fulling mills on the River Don, and in 1763 a cloth hall was built in the town. Traditional long wool weavers' windows on the upper floors of cottages can still be seen in Thurlstone, evidence of the presence of a domestic weaving industry there.
- 2.2.24 One consequence of the growing importance of iron manufacturing and of the presence of the leather industry, was that the coppice management of surviving

woodlands entered a golden age, providing, on a 20-25 cycle, cordwood for charcoal making, oak bark for leather tanning, and wood and timber for a myriad of small crafts. Many of these former coppice woods survive, most notably in a wide belt in the Lower Coal Measures and western part of the Middle Coal Measures from Wortley in the south to Cawthorne in the north.

2.2.25 Linen manufacturing was introduced to Barnsley in 1774 by Quakers from Cheshire and its steady growth ousted wire drawing from its position as the town's main manufacturing industry. Although the world's first steam-powered mill was established in Leeds in 1792, the weaving of the yarn into linen fabrics was still mainly a domestic industry until the second half of the nineteenth century. The first power loom in Barnsley did not begin production until the 1830s and linen weaving on power looms in mills did not become the main means of production in the town until well into the 1860s. Until then most linen was made on handlooms (worked by manual labour) set up in a loomshop in the cottage of a domestic weaver. The domestic weaver fetched yarn from the warehouse of a 'manufacturer' and wove his piece on a piecework basis to the directions of the manufacturer, before delivering the finished article, receiving payment, and collecting a further consignment of yarn. The manufacturers were usually owners of the cottages and looms.

2.2.26 The large-scale exploitation of the massive coal reserves of the Middle Coal Measures required easy access to markets within and beyond South Yorkshire. It was canals which began a long period of industrial development, population growth and settlement expansion. However, it was not until the 1790s, with the opening of the Dearne & Dove Canal, that large areas of the coalfield where the Silkstone and Barnsley seams outcropped, were opened up on any scale. The Dearne & Dove Canal left the navigable Don at Swinton and followed the Dearne valley for well over nine miles before terminating at Hoyle Mill near Barnsley. Two cuts, each just over two miles long, were made to Elsecar and Worsbrough, both of which were connected by railroads with ironstone and coal mines further west. A second canal system, the Barnsley Canal, built by the Aire & Calder Navigation Company, with its terminus at Barnby Basin near Barugh three miles north-west of Barnsley, connected the Dearne & Dove system with West Yorkshire. This canal was opened between the River Calder and Hoyle Mill in 1799 and to its terminus at Barnby Basin in 1802.

## **The Nineteenth Century**

2.2.27 Despite trading setbacks during the Napoleonic Wars and in the subsequent three decades up to 1847 during which the Corn Laws discouraged other trading nations from importing British goods, Barnsley became one of the greatest centres of linen production. At the time of the 1851 census Barnsley contained the greatest concentration of domestic linen weaving in Yorkshire, with over 4,000 handlooms located in the town in nearly 800 loomshops. Although these loomshops were distributed throughout the town, the greatest concentration lay between the bottom end of New Street in the north, Wood Street in the south, Silver Street in the west and Duke Street in the east, that is, the area known as the 'Barebones', with extensions eastwards along Copper Street and Union Street to Sheffield Road and beyond to Taylor Row, King Street and Rodney Row. Domestic linen weaving was also established in neighbouring villages such as Cawthorne, Dodworth, Monk Bretton and Worsbrough Common.

2.2.28 The linen weaving industry in Barnsley and in the country as a whole steadily but remorselessly became a factory industry in the second half of the nineteenth century, with spinning mills, bleachworks and calender works (where the cloth was rolled, smoothed and glazed). But while the industry prospered in Belfast and held its own in Leeds, the industry in Barnsley failed to respond to new requirements and began a long and steady decline. The numbers employed in the industry declined from 3,729



in 1851 to 2,538 in 1861. By 1875 there were only eight firms left in the town and by 1908 this had declined to only four. By 1911 what had become an entirely factory-based industry employed only 775 persons, mostly girls and women.

- 2.2.29 Important as the canal system was in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in opening up the coalfield and launching the area comprehensively into the Industrial Revolution, it was the coming of the railways, complemented by technological advances in shaft sinking, ventilation and underground haulage, that ensured that industrial development would continue to take place on a large scale.
- 2.2.30 The railway network, completed over a period of about seventy years, was complex. There was a flurry of development by competing companies in the 1840s and 1850s and then another major development in the 1880s. The network was completed in the early 1900s.
- 2.2.31 The earliest line was the Midland Railway route of 1840 entering the area from the direction of Rotherham to the south, following the Don valley as far as Swinton and then crossing the coalfield via Darfield and Cudworth on its way to Leeds. This was followed by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway's trans-Pennine route, opened in 1845, entering our area via the Woodhead Tunnel en route for Penistone and the Don valley to Sheffield, from where it was extended to Grimsby in 1847. A branch line from Penistone to Barnsley was opened in 1857. The South Yorkshire Railway Company, formed by the Don Navigation Company, opened a route from Swinton to Doncaster in 1849 and then extended this westwards up the Dearne valley to Barnsley in 1851, with branch lines to Elsecar and through the Dove valley to Worsbrough. The same company also saw the potential of the area to the south of the Dearne valley and in 1854 opened another line from the Blackburn junction on the Sheffield-Rotherham Railway which ran northwards to the Aldham junction east of Barnsley on the company's Dearne valley route. Another Sheffield to Barnsley route was opened by the Midland Railway in 1897 via Chapeltown, Hoyland-Elsecar and Wombwell.
- 2.2.32 A very important railway development in the last quarter of the nineteenth century was the Hull & Barnsley Railway with its main route entering the Barnsley area to the north of Brierley before turning south to Cudworth. An important branch line, which was opened in 1902, ran south from Wrangbrook junction to Wath via Thurnscoe. The last railway development running through the heart of the Barnsley coalfield was the Dearne Valley Railway sponsored by a number of mining companies in the area. It ran from Shafton in the north in a south-easterly direction near to Grimethorpe, Houghton Main and Hickleton Main collieries to Cadeby and beyond to Doncaster. The Shafton to Cadeby section was opened between 1902 and 1906.
- 2.2.33 The coming of the railways brought with it a great expansion in colliery development and associated mining settlements. The period from 1861 to 1881 saw the opening of seventeen deep shaft collieries in the Middle Coal Measures with the attendant growth of population and the engulfment of former agricultural villages by miners' cottages. By the end of the century in many parts of the Coal Measure country the whole landscape was dominated by the coal industry. For example, by 1900 in a rectangular area of just thirteen square miles centred on the town of Wombwell in the middle Dearne valley, there were twelve collieries with their spoil heaps, eleven miles of double track railway, six miles of mineral railway (not including sidings), ten miles of canal, together with the blackened town itself (which had grown in population from 614 in 1801 to 13,252 in 1901) and sundry smaller mining settlements.
- 2.2.34 Ironstone was also mined until the early 1880s in the Tankersley area for the Milton and Elsecar ironworks in Hoyland Nether and in the Rockley area for the ironworks at Worsbrough. A good deal of the mining until the end of the 1850s was from shallow bell pits and this has left its mark on the present landscape. On Tankersley Park golf

course there still remain the spoil heaps around the shafts of bell pits, like rows of giant mole hills. In other parts of the Tankersley area the bell pit spoil heaps were planted with trees, giving us today Hood Hill Plantation, Newbiggin Plantation, Potter Holes Plantation, Twelve Lands Plantation, Tankersley Plantation, and Bell Ground, the last of these plantations being the one in which Billy Casper in Barry Hines' *Kes*, goes bird nesting and emerges to find the kestrel entering its nest in the ruins of Tankersley Old Hall.

2.2.35 Barnsley at the centre of the productive coalfield dominated the settlement pattern in the nineteenth century. Linen's place for male employment had been taken by the coal mining industry and by the end of the nineteenth century there were nearly 6,000 coal miners living in the town. By that time the town's population exceeded 50,000. Barnsley's pride and joy was Locke Park, opened in 1862. The benefactor was the widow of Joseph Locke, railway engineer, a leading figure in the profession that directly and indirectly had transformed the town and its surrounding area during the last sixty years of the nineteenth century.

2.2.36 A major development in the last quarter of the nineteenth century in the Millstone Grit moorlands was the construction of reservoirs for the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Waterworks Board: Lower Windleden (1872); Upper Windleden (1890) and Dunford Bridge (now Winscar), Harden and Snailsden (all 1899). This area became part of the Peak District National Park in 1951.

### **The Twentieth Century to the present day**

2.2.37 The linen industry in Barnsley continued its relentless decline in the first two decades of the twentieth century. By the end of the First World War only two firms remained in the town and the last mill closed in 1957. Almost all of the evidence of linen manufacturing in the area has disappeared. The handloom weavers' cottages have been swept away by slum clearance schemes, and the weaving mills which were once such major features of Barnsley's townscape have long since been demolished. All that remains is a manufacturer's warehouse in Westgate, a small number of bleachworks ponds and the more substantial remains of Cudworth bleachworks.

2.2.38 Coal mining continued to be the major employer in the Barnsley area until the last quarter of the century, almost exclusively through continued production from collieries originally sunk in the second half of the nineteenth century. As late as 1969 there were twenty-one collieries in production within the boundaries of the present Metropolitan Borough employing almost 20,000 men. Today there are none.

2.2.39 With a few notable exceptions (e.g., surviving spoil heaps at Dodworth, Lidgett Colliery at Skiers Spring, Elsecar and Thurnscoe) large scale evidence of the coalmining industry has largely disappeared. Sites have been masked, altered or obliterated altogether. Nowhere is this obliteration of a long-developed industrial landscape more evident than in the area between Hoyland and Bolton upon Dearne, largely in the lower Dearne valley, where large-scale re-contouring, landscaping, the development of new residential areas, industrial estates, a wetland nature reserve and the development of a new road system have created a largely new landscape.

2.2.40 At the beginning of the twenty-first century the landscape of the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley lies in two clear halves separated by the M1 motorway. To the east of the motorway the built-up area spreads continuously from the centre of the town as far north as Mapplewell and as far south as Worsbrough and to Cudworth in the east. Much of the rest of the area to the east of the motorway is also covered by residential development, the result of the expansion of nineteenth century mining settlements in the twentieth century by private mining companies, the National Coal Board, local authorities, and more recently by private developers – mostly in brick.

2.2.41 To the west of the M1 motorway, there are areas of expanded residential development at Darton, Dodworth, Silkstone, Pilley, Penistone, Thurlstone and Millhouse Green, and reservoirs at Midhope (1903), Langsett (1905) Scout Dike (1928), Royd Moor (1934) and Ingbirchworth (1968) but the landscape still has a largely rural aspect. There are large swathes of ancient countryside with walled and hedged fields, small broadleaved woods ( on the Coal Measures) and hamlets and individual farms still largely of stone, linked by country lanes studded with hedgerow trees. But even here the landscape is increasingly suburbanised with the hamlets and converted farm buildings housing commuters who work in the surrounding urban settlements.

## 2.3 Ecological Character

### Context

2.3.1 **Natural Areas** are defined by English Nature as unique due to their physical, wildlife, land use and cultural attributes. Barnsley Borough falls within two Natural Areas:

- Area 24: Coal Measures
- Area 25: Dark Peak

2.3.2 Natural Area 24, Coal Measures covers most of the district and corresponds to the underlying coal measures geology. This area has a high proportion of urban areas that have developed as a result of the underlying coal fields. The habitats that characterise this area are acidic ancient and secondary woodlands, neutral and acidic grasslands, mixed agriculture, valley wetlands, rivers and canals.

2.3.3 Natural Area 25, Dark Peak relates to the underlying geology of Millstone Grit and the Peak District National Park. Upland heathland, rough grassland, hay meadow and pasture are characteristic habitats here and the area supports internationally important breeding bird populations.

### Barnsley Borough Wildlife Habitats

2.3.4 Important wildlife species and habitats within Barnsley Borough are identified in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan. These Broad Habitats categories and the more detailed Priority Habitats within them form the basis of the description of the ecological character of the Borough. The Priority Habitats are targeted for local action and many of them are targeted for action at a national level. The Broad Habitat categories and Priority Habitat types are drawn from the national UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.3.5 These Priority Habitat types provide the framework for biodiversity planning throughout the UK and the table below provides an indication of the types that are represented within the Barnsley Borough, including habitats that are considered as local priorities for biodiversity conservation.

<b>Broad Habitat</b>	<b>Priority Habitat</b>
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	Upland oak woodland Upland mixed ash woodland Wet woodland Parkland
Boundary and Linear Features	Ancient and/ or species rich hedgerows
Arable and horticulture	Cereal field margins
Improved grassland	Floodplain grazing marsh
Neutral grassland	Lowland meadows
Acid grassland	Lowland dry acidic grassland
Dwarf shrub heath	Lowland heathland Upland heathland
Fen, marsh and swamp	Rush pastures Reedbeds
Standing Open Water and Canals	Standing water <i>Ponds and canals</i>
Rivers and Streams	<i>Running water</i>
Built Up Areas and Gardens	<i>Urban built up areas</i> <i>Industrial and post-industrial derelict and degraded land</i>

Habitats listed under priority habitat list written in italics are local but not national priority habitats.

## **Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland**

2.3.6 Woodland habitats are well represented in Barnsley Borough mainly in the south and west, although the largest single woodland, Wombwell Wood is found in the east. There are thirty upland oak woodlands, twenty eight upland mixed ash woods or parts of woods, sixty seven streamside woods and eighteen carr woodlands. There are also a number of former parkland estates that may contain mature trees and woodland pasture, including Stainborough that is a Grade 1 listed parkland. These are important habitats for the Priority Species of bluebell, pipistrelle bat, otter, great crested newt, tree sparrow and barn owl.

## **Boundary and Linear Features**

2.3.7 Hedgerows are concentrated towards the eastern side of the Borough. Neglect due to changes in agricultural practices and loss to development is causing a decline in this habitat. There are a small number of recognised important hedgerows in the Borough. They are widely distributed and include, 13 species rich old lanes, 6 species rich hedgerows and 2 hedgerow banks. Hedgerows are important habitats and associated Priority Species include brown hare, great crested newt, grey partridge, song thrush, tree sparrow, linnet, corn bunting, pipistrelle bat, barn owl, bluebell and glow worm.

## **Arable and horticulture**

2.3.8 Cereal field margins are strips of land lying between cereal crops and the field boundary. The quantity of this type of habitat in the Borough is not recorded, but a number of farmers do include headland strips for wildlife. This habitat is important for the Priority Species of brown hare, grey partridge, tree sparrow, linnet, corn bunting and barn owl.

## **Improved grassland**

2.3.9 The Priority Habitat found within this category is Floodplain Grazing Marsh that is periodically inundated pasture or meadow with ditches that maintain water levels containing fresh standing water. There are 13 important habitats of this type located within the Dearne Valley and many of them are protected nature reserves. Priority Species associated with this habitat are the lapwing, barn owl, little ringed plover, skylark and water vole.

## **Neutral grassland**

2.3.10 Lowland Meadow habitats include most forms of unimproved neutral grassland in the lowlands. There are a total of 76 sites of neutral grassland and one of these at Pye Flatts, Silkstone is a SSSI. The lapwing, barn owl, glow worm, grey partridge, skylark and linnet are Priority Species associated with this habitat.

## **Acid grassland**

2.3.11 Acid grassland includes Lowland Dry Acid Grassland that is found in the coal measures natural area. It is often found in a mosaic with heathland resulting from soil and management differences. It is normally managed as pasture. There are 27 known sites of this type. The Priority Species associated with this habitat include barn owl, brown hare, grey partridge and skylark.

## **Dwarf shrub heath**

2.3.12 Lowland Heath characterised by plants such as heather, dwarf gorses and cross-leaved heath at an altitude of 300 metres or below is a nationally rare and threatened habitat. There are 19 recorded remnants of this habitat in Barnsley Borough. The

most diverse of these habitats is found at Gypsy Marsh in the Dearne Valley to the south of the Broomhill. Upland heath is found above 300 metres on deposits of peat and is dominated by dwarf shrubs such as heather, bell heather and bilberry. There are 14 such sites in the Borough including the high moorland within the Peak District in the far west that is notified as a SSSI. This habitat is internationally important for upland breeding birds including merlin, golden plover, curlew, dunlin, ring ouzel and twite. Priority Species associated with this habitat include the brown hare, linnet and twite.

### **Fen, marsh and swamp**

2.3.13 Rush pastures occur on poorly drained, usually acidic soils in lowland areas of high rainfall. In Barnsley Borough, this habitat differs from the national classification but covers the locally important moorland fringe. The land between Crow Edge and the upland reservoirs of Royd Moor, Ingbirchworth and Broadstone contain only remnants of this habitat, as it has been the subject of land drainage and grassland improvements. The lapwing, brown hare, skylark and twite are Priority Species associated with this habitat.

2.3.14 Reedbeds are wetlands dominated by the common reed and include areas of open water, ditches, wet grassland and carr woodland. There are several small naturally occurring reedbeds in river valleys or in former colliery lagoons. The largest natural reedbed in the Borough is at Worsborough Reservoir. Reedbeds have been established at the Old Moor Wetland Centre, Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve, Wath Ings and the canal at Royston. This habitat is one of the most important habitats for birds in the UK. It supports a distinctive breeding bird population including nationally rare Red Data Birds such as the Bittern and the Corn Bunting that are also Priority Species. Other priority species found in this habitat are the otter and water vole.

### **Standing Open Water and Canals**

2.3.15 Barnsley Borough contains acidic moorland reservoirs, lowland reservoirs, ponds, lakes, mainly in the Dearne Valley as well as canals, ditches and springs. Much of this is of high wildlife value for fish, wintering waterfowl, breeding ducks, and mammals. There are several priority species associated with these habitats and they include white-clawed crayfish, great crested newt, otter, water vole, pipistrelle bat and barn owl.

### **Rivers and Streams**

2.3.16 The running water in the Borough consists of streams and small rivers. The largest rivers are the Dearne and Don and both have a number of important tributaries. Priority species include the otter, water vole, barn owl, pipistrelle bat and white-clawed crayfish.

### **Built up Areas and Gardens**

2.3.17 Urban gardens, road verges and public open spaces cover 22% of the Borough. pipistrelle bat, tree sparrow, song thrush and great crested newt are Priority Species found in this habitat.

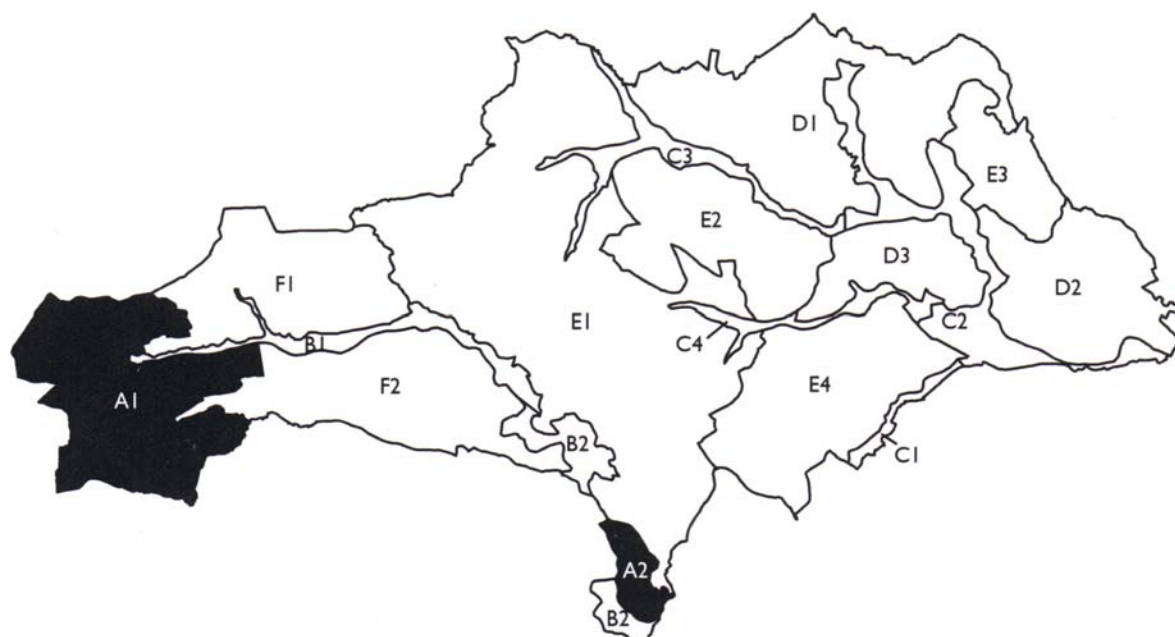
2.3.18 Industrial and post-industrial derelict land includes colliery shale tips, disused railways and mineral extraction sites. Sites that have not been reclaimed are characterised by gravelly surfaces with sparse vegetation. Those that are closest to water are the most valuable habitats. Priority Species found in this habitat are the brown hare, great crested newt, grey partridge, little ringed plover, skylark, linnet and barn owl.

### 3 The Landscape Character of Barnsley Borough

3.1.1 The landscape of Barnsley Borough has evolved over thousands of years as the result of complex interactions between physical, natural and cultural forces. This diversity is represented by 6 landscape character types divided into 17 landscape character areas that have been identified within the Borough. These are illustrated on Figures 6 and in the table below.

Character Types	Character Areas
A Unenclosed Moorland	A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland A2 Wharnccliffe Unenclosed Moorland
B Upland River Valleys	B1 Upland Don River Valley B2 Wooded Don River Valley
C Lowland River Floors	C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor C4 Dove Lowland River Floor
D Settled Arable Slopes	D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes
E Settled Wooded Farmland	E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland
F Upland Farmland	F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland F2 Penistone Upland Farmland

## A: UNENCLOSED MOORLAND



The *Unenclosed Moorland* landscape type is highly distinctive as a result of its high elevation (generally above 300m AOD) and unenclosed nature that evokes a distinct sense of exposure and provides expansive panoramic views. The simplistic land use, dominated by sheep grazing, provides a harmonious land cover of unimproved grassland and moorland over a rolling, flowing landform. The large scale landform is subdivided by deep cloughs containing dikes or, where they have been dammed, large reservoirs. Despite the remote nature of the landscape there are some obvious human influences including communication towers and pylons, which occur as striking vertical elements. Although there is an overriding sense of wilderness, there are often views to nearby settlements that are a reminder of the proximity of urban development.

*Unenclosed Moorland* is found in two areas:

A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland

A2 Wharnccliffe Unenclosed Moorland.



# A1: THURLSTONE AND LANGSETT UNENCLOSED MOORLAND

## Landscape Character

### Key Characteristics

<p><b>Open and exposed moorland</b> with wide and expansive panoramic views.</p> <p><b>Upland, elevated and gently undulating landform</b> evoking a wild character.</p> <p><b>Underlain by a geology of Millstone Grit and Peat.</b></p> <p><b>Perceived sense of water</b> in the landscape due to presence of reservoirs and numerous tributary streams.</p> <p><b>Detailed network of cloughs, dikes and butts</b> creating subtle sinuosity in the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sheep grazing and grouse shooting</b> are dominate land use activities.</p> <p><b>Obvious absence of tree cover</b> resulting in a visually simplistic and vulnerable landscape.</p> <p><b>Disused quarries</b> to the north-west offering enclosure and an intimate scale to the landform.</p> <p><b>Busy A628T road</b> dramatically increasing the pace and reducing the tranquillity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Pylons carrying overhead wires</b> are prominent features in a landscape of few vertical elements.</p> <p><b>Reservoirs</b> associated with the upland reaches of the Don River Valley.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage and SSSI status.</b></p>
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### Location and Boundaries

The landscape character area, classified as *A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland*, is located in the far west of the Barnsley Borough and forms part of the Peak District National Park. The Barnsley Borough administrative boundary provides the arbitrary extents of the character area to the west, north and south while the boundary to the east is defined where unenclosed moorland meets the stone wall-enclosed field system belonging to the landscape character areas classified as *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland* and *F2 Penistone Upland Farmland*.

### Description

This character area falls within the Countryside Character Area 51: Dark Peak (as defined by the Character of England Map) and is distinguished by its elevated position, landform patterning, homogenous land cover and land use qualities. It forms part of one of the most extensive areas of semi-natural wilderness in England.

Topographically, the landscape ranges from 300m AOD to 500m AOD with land generally falling in an east to west direction. Cutting across the landscape are a number of incised cloughs and dikes only obvious at close range. The moorland rolls down to the open waters of Snailsden, Haden, Winscar, and Upper and Lower Windleden Reservoirs. These reservoirs characterise the upland reaches of the River Don and bring an engineered quality to the landscape due to manmade dams and their associated works. In addition, coniferous plantations on the river valleys sides introduce vertical interest and striking colour change.

The underlying geology comprises Peat and Millstone Grit. Millstone grit consists of hard gritstone beds that sandwich softer shales and occurs to the west of the character area. Disused quarries are a feature here and bring local variation to landform in the form of hummocky spoil heaps that offer a sense of enclosure, atypical of the moorland as a whole. Scars on the surface of the moorland are visual clues to previous peat cutting.

The unenclosed nature of the moorland is perhaps its most distinguishable feature; offering dramatic and expansive panoramic views, a strong sense of exposure and open skies. Sheep are dotted across the landscape and, along with grouse shooting, dominate the land use of the moors. The sheep roam freely, unrestricted by field boundaries except where post and wire fences align the A628 trunk road, or stone walls or fences enclose fields belonging to the landscape character areas classified as *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland* and *F2 Penistone Upland Farmland*. The busy A628 trunk road, carrying much overland freight, cuts east to west across the character area and significantly disturbs the tranquillity and otherwise gentle pace of the open moor. Snow fences also align this road and are strong angular features in an otherwise soft and rolling landscape. Pylons carrying overhead wires are strong vertical elements in a landscape largely devoid of man-made structures. There is a distinct lack of roads and tracks with one secondary road providing the only other vehicular route in addition to the A628. There are no farmsteads or rural outbuildings.

Distant views to urbanised areas at lower elevation tame the otherwise wild character of the moor.

## Forces for Change

**Increasing volume of traffic along the A628T**, further disturbing the tranquillity of the landscape.

**Litter aligning the A628T** bringing with it a sense of decline.

**Further decline of stone walling** on the edge of the character area threatening to increase the size of the unenclosed moorland and reduce its distinction from the adjacent upland farmland.

**Over and under grazing** threatening to change the character and quality of vegetation cover.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland is highly typical of the *Unenclosed Moorland* landscape Type. The seamless homogeneity of vegetation, land use and landform evokes a dramatic, unified landscape. Some man-made elements of the landscape are intrusive such as the busy A628 trunk road but are not enough to detract from the undeveloped, **strong** character of the landscape.

## Condition

There are some minor intrusions that impinge upon the intactness of the moorland such as litter along the A628 but these are subtle threats within a landscape of **good** overall condition.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The very open nature of the moorland results in a landscape highly sensitive to change having little in terms of vegetation to buffer or mitigate visual effects of built development. The moorland forms part of the Peak District National Park, is a Nature Conservation Site, has SSSI status and forms part of the Barnsley Borough Greenbelt. The landscape therefore holds significant ecological value and plays an important strategic role in terms of landscape planning.

The unenclosed moorland is recognised for its scenic landscape qualities and the sense of wilderness making it a highly sensitive and inappropriate landscape for development considerations. Landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is judged to be **none**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to conserve the landscape of *A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	<b>GOOD</b>	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	<b>CONSERVE</b>
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

The *A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland* character area is an important physical and cultural landscape resource.

The overall landscape strategy should be to **conserve** the open, wild and tranquil character of the moorland landscape and to retain the quality of its far reaching views. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Seek to conserve the open quality and wild character of the open moor.**

**Recognise the importance of a balanced grazing regime** to ensure retention of moorland land cover.

**Adhere to SSSI management and maintenance guidelines.**

**Restrict activities such as large scale quarrying** which would have a dramatic influence on landform and ecological intactness.

**Encourage management and maintenance regimes** to ensure human influences such as litter do not pollute and detract from the scenic beauty of the landscape.

**Restrict tree planting** which threatens to change the open character of the moorland.

**Recognise the historic/cultural importance** of the disused quarry sites and encourage research into their value?

**Resist development** within that would have a negative effect on the open character of the moorland.

**Resist development in adjacent character areas** that would adversely influence the wild character of the landscape.

**Promote management of moorland reservoirs** to enhance their value to wildlife and recreation.

**Monitor levels and types of recreational activity** to control the impacts of visitor pressures.

## A1: THURLSTONE AND LANGSETT UNENCLOSED MOORLAND



## A2: WHARNCLIFFE UNENCLOSED MOORLAND

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Open moorland** with wide and expansive views to surrounding landscapes.

**Undulating ridgetop at high elevation** evoking a distinctly exposed character.

**Unimproved grassland**, grazed by sheep, forming the predominant vegetation cover.

**Small blocks of mixed woodland plantation**, dotted across the moor, bringing visual contrast and enclosure.

**Hague's Wood, to the south**, connecting the moorland with the wooded sides of the adjacent valley of the River Don.

**Dilapidated stone walls** on the edge of the moorland reducing the distinction between unenclosed and enclosed land.

**Disused quarries** are visual clues to the industrial archaeology of the area.

**The lack of built development** evoking an untamed, wild character.

**Pylons and communication masts** are strong vertical elements and landmarks.

**Wharnccliffe Chase Deer Park** provides clues to historic land use.

#### Location and Boundaries

The character area defined as *A2 Wharnccliffe Unenclosed Moorland* is located to the far south of Barnsley Borough. The boundaries demarcating the character area from adjacent landscapes have been determined by the strong topographic contrast of the ridge. The western and southern edges are defined by the ridgeline where the landform sinks to form the steep sloping sides of the River Don Valley. The SSSI of Wharnccliffe Craggs adds definition to this boundary by forming a linear ragged outcrop along the ridge. To the east, the boundary follows the line of the secondary Woodhead Road and a public footpath where fields become enclosed and the moorland character is lost.

#### Description

As with character area *A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland*, this landscape falls within the Countryside Character Area 51: Dark Peak (as defined by the Character of England Map) and is distinguished by its high elevation, landform patterning, homogenous land cover and land use qualities.

This character area represents a relatively small pocket of isolated moorland occupying an elevated, gently rolling ridge between the strong valley cutting of the River Don to the west and the more subtle valleys of Hall Wood Dike and Mark Brook to the east. Topographically, the land ranges from 317 AOD at its highest point (Wharnccliffe Chase) to approximately 250 AOD, marking the ridgeline at Wharnccliffe Craggs. Wide panoramic views can be gained to the ridge near Stocksbridge, to the west, and across to the suburbs of Sheffield to the east.

The underlying geology comprises Lower Coal Measures formed of alternating bands of sandstone and shale. Two disused quarries, Bimshaw and Laycock, provide visual clues to industrial archaeology of the area. Another historic landscape component is Wharnccliffe Chase. The chase, probably created during the second part of the thirteenth century, was the private equivalent of a Royal Forest and belonged to the Wortley family. The chase would have been used for deer hunting and grazing and continues to function as a deer park today. Grouse butts, scattered over the moor, indicate that the moor is used for grouse shooting.

Due to the elevation and distinct land cover, the moorland evokes a wild character. Sheep grazing forms the predominant land use activity and development is an uncommon characteristic. Only one farmstead, Wharnccliffe Farm, exists to the west and there are no major roads; simply a series of informal tracks winding across the landscape. The combination of these elements results in a simple and tranquil landscape.

The vegetation predominantly comprises unimproved grassland, although small blocks of mixed plantation woodland (such as those of Burnt Hill and Hollow Plantation) bring vertical interest, colour, contrast and a change in texture. The woodland interrupts, to a degree, the unified and open character of the rolling moorland. Hague's Wood, to the south, is a large woodland block connecting to Wharnccliffe Wood; forming a visual and physical link with the character area *B1 Upland Don River Valley*.

Two communication masts and a line of pylons carrying overhead cables bring obvious human influence upon the landscape, diluting to a degree, the sense of wilderness. Human activity on the boundary of the area also influences its character. Here the decline of traditional stone boundary walls and unmanaged fields around farm buildings, bringing a sense of decline to the landscape.

## Forces for Change

**Broken stone walls on the boundary of the area** reducing the condition of the landscape and reducing the obvious transition from unenclosed moorland to enclosed farmland.

**Threat of further compartmentalisation of moorland and improvement of pasture.**

**Threat of continued introduction of vertical, manmade structures** to the landscape.

**Threat of character change posed by a potential increase in coniferous and woodland plantation** e.g. the extension of Hague's Wood.



# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area *A2 Wharncliffe Unenclosed Moorland* exhibits typical characteristics of the Unenclosed Moorland landscape type. Although man-made additions to the landscape reduce to some degree the sense of wilderness, there is an overriding unity of landscape character as a result of the rolling landform, high elevation and open unimproved grassland unique to a moorland landscape. Landscape character is therefore judged to be **strong**.

## Condition

With the exception of stone wall decline on the boundary of the character area (e.g. along Woodhead Road), there is little to reduce the sense of intactness within the character area. As such the condition of the landscape is considered to be **good**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The open, undeveloped character of the moor makes it vulnerable to change in visual terms. Due to its high elevation, the prominent ridgeline is particularly visible when viewed from surrounding areas on lower ground. The presence of woodland provides the only vertical component offering potential to screen development. In terms of the landscape as a resource, the moorland is highly sensitive. This is manifested by its presence as an isolated and distinct pocket surrounded by landscapes of very different character, all exhibiting different pressures for change. The proximity of Wharncliffe Craggs SSSI brings another dimension to increase the character area's overall sensitivity to change.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **none**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to conserve the landscape of *A2 Wharnccliffe Unenclosed Moorland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	<b>GOOD</b>	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	<b>CONSERVE</b>
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

The overall landscape strategy should be to **conserve** the open, wild and tranquil character of the moorland landscape and to retain the quality of its far reaching views. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Resist development** that would have negative effects on the open character of the moorland.

**Conserve disused and quarries** in the landscape as visual references to industrial archaeology and encourage research into cultural value.

**Restore stone walls on the boundary of the character area** to improve the contrast between unenclosed moorland and enclosed farmland.

**Limit activities such as large scale quarrying** which would have a dramatic influence on landform and ecological intactness.

**Resist further encroachment or connection of woodland plantations**, which would threaten the open quality of the landscape.

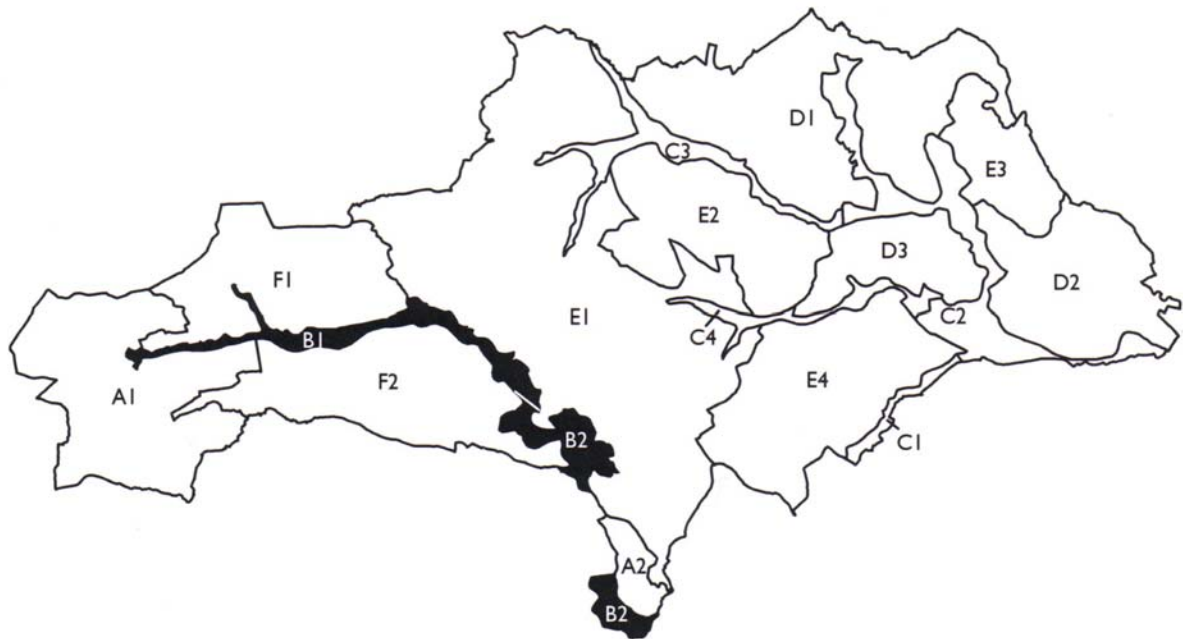
**Maintain a balance of grazing** to maintain Wharnccliffe Chase as an open grassy heath.

**Consider views from the moorland** in planning change in adjacent character areas.

## A2: WHARNCLIFFE UNENCLOSED MOORLAND



## B: UPLAND RIVER VALLEY



The *Upland River Valley* landscape type is defined by a distinctive valley landform containing the upper reaches of the River Don. The upland river valley can be steep or shallow-sided, but is always enclosed by sloping valley sides that provide a sense of enclosure and human scale that often contrast with adjacent large scale open upland landscapes. The extent of the valley is usually defined by the apparent ridgeline of the valley sides as seen from the valley floor, i.e. the area within which there is a perception of being 'in the valley'.

The valley sides are often clothed in deciduous woodlands that enhance the sense of enclosure. This is a rural upland landscape where pastures, bounded by stone walls, reach down to the water side and unimproved waterside meadows are important wildlife habitats. Generally the fields are smaller where they abut the water, increasing in size as they ascend the valley sides.

The upland river valley contains fast running rivers that have been exploited for their power. Mill races, sluices, weirs and old mill buildings are features of the valley floor. Commercial or industrial development is sometimes found on the valley floor, particularly next to roads that cross the valleys, or on reclaimed land. Residential settlement on the valley floor is rare, but scattered stone farmsteads, hamlets and villages are familiar features of the valley sides. The upland valleys are often corridors of movement through the upland landscape and contain roads and railways. The presence of dismantled railways, disused mines and shafts on the valley sides are also clues to historic land use activity within these valleys.

*Upland River Valley* is found in two areas:

- B1 Upland Don River Valley
- B2 Wooded Don River Valley

The valley of the River Don within Barnsley Borough has been divided into two areas to differentiate between the upper reaches of the Don (*B1 Upland Don River Valley*) and the heavily wooded, larger scale lower reaches of the Don (*B2 Wooded Don River Valley*).

# B1: UPLAND DON RIVER VALLEY

## Landscape Character

### Key Characteristics

**Faster flowing upper reaches of the River Don** extending into the open moorland.

**Meandering river set within a valley** that is of varying width and depth, and which provides enclosure.

**Deciduous woodland belts** located on the steeper valley sides and alongside the course of the river.

**Largely undeveloped character** with pasture occurring on the valley sides and floor up to the water's edge.

**A dismantled railway line** defines the edge of the valley to the south.

**Weirs, sluices and mills** are indications of the former wool weaving industry.

**Settlements of Penistone, Thurlstone and Millhouse Green** on the valley side with strong connections to the river.

**Stone bridges and stone walls** are attractive man-made elements.

**Transport corridors (road and rail)** are features of the valley in the lower reaches.

### Location and Boundaries

The landscape character area classified as *B1 Upland Don River Valley* follows the course of the River Don along its upper reaches from Dunford Bridge, on the edge of the open moorland, to the point where the disused railway crosses the river south of Thurgoland. South of this point the river enters a much steeper and more heavily wooded valley classified as character area *B2 Wooded Don River Valley*.

Along the majority of the valley the boundaries of this character area are defined by the apparent ridgeline of the valley sides as seen from the valley floor i.e. the area within which there is a perception of being 'in the valley'. However, in the upper reaches the river valley becomes part of the wider landscape, the valley sides being perceived as part of the surrounding upland rolling hills. Here, the boundary of the character area has been drawn closer to the river and broadly defines the valley floor. A dismantled railway line coincides with the boundary of the character area to the south.

### Description

Landscape character area *B1 Upland Don River Valley* is distinguished from the surrounding landscape by its strong landform, sense of enclosure and dominant presence of the River Don. Topographically, the valley floor ranges from over 300m AOD at Dunford Bridge to 162m AOD at Thurgoland. The upper reaches of the river, west of the A616, have carved its course through the hard Millstone Grit of the open moorland. Here the river runs its upland course along a narrow floodplain and the valley sides form part of the wider dramatic upland landscape. East of the A616 the river has carved its course through the

complex geology of the Lower Coal Measures formed of alternating bands of sandstone and shale, and this has resulted in an uneven valley. However, the course of the River Don, and the fertile pastures that have arisen on the alluvium alongside the river, unify the valley.

This is an upland river valley where the river runs fast and as a result has been exploited in the past for its power. Fulling mills were established anywhere there was a stream of sufficient power to drive the water wheel and, because they were already mechanised, often became the nuclei of later woollen factories. Mill races, sluices, weirs and old fulling mills are all features of this part of the Don Valley today, and the settlements of Penistone, Thurlstone and Millhouse Green all have connection to the woollen industry. For example, the centre of Thurlstone is a Conservation Area and traditional long wool weavers' windows may still be seen on the upper floors of cottages within the village. A dismantled railway follows the valley along its length and provides a visual clue to the importance of the valley as a transport corridor. The presence of disused mines and shafts on the valley sides are also clues to historic land use activity.

The topography of the valley evokes a strong sense of enclosure, particularly where valley side woodlands have survived. These deciduous woodlands, and unimproved riverside meadows, are particularly important habitats for wildlife. This is a rural upland landscape where pastures, bounded by stone walls, reach down to the waterside. Generally the fields are smaller where they abut the water, increasing in size as they ascend the valley sides. Scattered stone farmsteads are familiar features of the valley sides.

Minor roads follow the valley side, usually running parallel to the river, and linking the settlements of Oxspring, Penistone, Thurlstone and Millhouse Green. There are several crossing points of the river at these settlements, and distinctive stone bridges mark these. Stone as a building material unifies built character in the landscape with buildings and walls constructed out of the same local stone.

## Forces for Change

**Increasing recreational use of the disused railway** and potential impact on the ecology of this wildlife corridor.

**Decline in the condition of stone walls.**

**Dereliction of old mills and weavers cottages.**

**Compartmentalisation of field units on the flood plain** for horse and pony grazing and the introduction of temporary 'suburban' style boundaries.

**Loss of deciduous valley woodlands.**

**Pressure for built development on the floodplain**, particularly close to existing settlements.

**Overgrazing or undergrazing of pastures along the valley.**

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area *B1 Upland Don River Valley* exhibits key characteristics of the *Upland River Valley* landscape type. The strong topographic character, framed views and human scale of landscape features such as old mills, stone walls and bridges combine to create a landscape of **strong** character.

## Condition

There are some intrusions that have adverse negative effects on the landscape such as the erection of temporary field boundaries, and the apparent decline of some stone walls and valley side woodlands. However, these are minor and do not have an obvious impact on the overall condition of the landscape, which is considered to be **good**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The strong landform creates a sense of enclosure within the valley. This would suggest that there is some capacity for accommodating some built development without loss of character. However, the rural upland nature of the valley is integral to its character and could be under threat from any substantial new built development. In terms of landscape resources, the aquatic and woodland to grassland habitat transitions are also a key consideration. The proximity to the Natural Heritage Site at Thurlstone Moor and the Conservation Areas at Thurlstone and Penistone also emphasise the sensitivity of the landscape.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to conserve the landscape of *B1 Upland Don River Valley* as shown in the table below.

Condition	<b>GOOD</b>	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	<b>CONSERVE</b>
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

The overall landscape strategy should be to **conserve** the intimate, rural quality of the valley and to retain its recreational value, historic features and industrial archaeology. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Encourage investigation into the ecological and recreational value of the dismantled railway line** and promote management plans if appropriate.

**Conserve and maintain the stone walls and stone bridges** that accentuate the field patterns on the valley floor and sides and provide a human scale to the valley.

**Maintain a balance of grazing** in the valley and resist extensive compartmentalisation of field units on the flood plain for horse and pony grazing, and the introduction of temporary 'suburban' style boundaries.

**Seek to conserve the vernacular buildings including the old mills and weaver's cottages** that are integral to the character of the valley, and seek opportunities to provide historic interpretation of these buildings.

**Enhance the wooded character** of the landscape, seeking opportunities for planting new deciduous woodlands on the valley sides.

**Resist development on the floodplain** and maintain the rural, undeveloped character of the valley.

**Increase recreational worth of the landscape** by exploring the possibility of increased public access to the river.



## B1: UPLAND DON RIVER VALLEY



## B2: WOODED DON RIVER VALLEY

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Narrow and steeply incised valley** providing a strong sense of enclosure and framed views.

**River Don** runs a strongly meandering course.

**Large mixed woodland plantations** in continuous blocks, clothing the valley sides.

**Smaller deciduous woodland belts** located on the steep valley sides and alongside the river.

**Wharnccliffe Wood** with its mosaic of birch and conifer planting creates a striking and irregular patchwork on the valley side.

**Largely undeveloped character**, with pasture occurring on the valley sides and floor up to the water's edge.

**A dismantled railway line** forms an ecological and recreational corridor.

**Weirs and areas of open water** offer recreational opportunities including fishing.

**Stone bridges and stone walls** are attractive man-made elements.

**Transport corridors (road and rail)** follow the valley sides, crossing the river on stone bridges.

#### Location and Boundaries

The landscape character area classified as *B2 Wooded Don River Valley* occupies a south-central location within the Borough and, using settlements as a guide, roughly extends north from Oughtibridge to Thurgoland.

Boundaries drawn to define the character area are largely influenced by topography but are also dictated by the administrative boundary of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough (to the west). The latter is an arbitrary limit and it is recognised that the character area extends beyond the bounds of the study area. In topographic terms, the boundary represents the top of the valley side (ridgeline) beyond which the sense of being within a valley is lost.

#### Description

Landscape character area *B2 Wooded Don River Valley* is distinguished by its strong landform and land cover. Topographically, the valley floor ranges from 162m AOD at Thurgoland to 90m AOD at Oughtibridge. The river valley is defined by steep sides and a narrow valley floor along its length. The river has carved its course through the complex geology of the Lower Coal Measures from Thurgoland to Stocksbridge, reaching the more resistant Millstone Grit south of Stocksbridge. The Millstone Grit produces some dramatic scenery, the valley sides rising to some 150m above the valley floor at Wharnccliffe Crags.

The river has deposited alluvium along the valley floor and this is visible as fertile pastures along the valley bottom.

The narrow valley evokes a strong sense of enclosure and this is made particularly evident where woodland is a prominent feature such as at Todwick Wood, Redmires Wood and Oughtibridge Hagg. Here extensive wooded areas are an intense patchwork of deciduous and coniferous plantation, clothing the valley sides as a continuous block. These woodlands extend to meet Wharncliffe Wood on the ridge, which defines the skyline.

To the north of the character area woodland, although a key landscape feature, takes on a different character and form. Unlike the solid and continuous swathes of the plantations to the south, woodland areas are smaller, more sporadic and interspersed with areas of open farmland that sweep down to the water side. There is also a transition from a mixed plantation to a softer deciduous character. The valley sides are also less steep here, but the sense of enclosure provided by the valley remains strong.

The valley is a detailed interplay of natural features and human infrastructure. Where the river changes its course, deep cutting meanders are apparent as the water traverses across the landscape. In conjunction with the winding pattern of the river, weirs, dams and areas of open water (used for fishing) are key landscape elements. Roads follow the valley side, usually running parallel to the river, with only one field's width separating road from river along much of its length. This allows channelled views up and down the river and a perception of being within the river valley. At junctions, the roads cross over the water and, at these points, stone bridges are a positive contribution to the appearance and overall character of the landscape. Stone as a building material unifies built character in the landscape, with buildings and stone walls of the same material.

In areas where the landscape is not under woodland cover, pastoral farming is the predominant land use activity with individual farmsteads such as Harper Hill, Woodman and Trunce Farms located on both the valley sides and floor; separated by a geometric but irregular network of field units of small to medium size. Generally the fields are smaller where they abut the water, increasing in size as they ascend the valley sides.

In terms of archaeology, a dismantled railway provides a visual clue to the previous industrial workings in and around the valley. The presence of quarries both on and over the character area boundary are also indicators of historic land use activity.

## Forces for Change

**Increasing recreational use of the disused railway** and potential impact on the ecology of this wildlife corridor.

**Decline in the condition of stone walls.**

**Restoration of old quarries and tips** in the valley that could lead to changes in character of the valley floor.

**Compartmentalisation of field units on the flood plain** for horse and pony grazing and the introduction of temporary 'suburban' style boundaries

**Expansion of coniferous planting on the valley sides** creating a change in character of the valley.

**Pressure for built development on the floodplain**, particularly close to existing settlements.

**Threat of industrial workings in the south expanding further north** along the course of the River Don.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

Landscape character area *B2 Wooded Don River Valley* exhibits key characteristics of the *Upland River Valley* landscape type. The strong topographic and woodland character, enclosed views and human scale of landscape features such as stone walls and bridges, combine to create a landscape of **strong** character.

### Condition

There are some intrusions that have negative effects on the landscape such as the erection of temporary field boundaries and the apparent decline of some stone walls. However, these are minor and do not have an obvious effect on the overall condition of the landscape, which is considered to be **good**.

### Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The strong landform and high woodland cover create a strong sense of enclosure and 'hidden' character. This would suggest that visual sensitivity is low and that there is some capacity for accommodating some built development without loss of character. It is however, the pervading intimacy and largely undeveloped quality of the landscape when viewed from within, that highlights the threats to character posed by development. In terms of landscape resources, the aquatic and woodland to grassland habitat transitions are also a key consideration. The designation of the landscape as a Natural Heritage Site, and the proximity of the Wharnccliffe Craggs SSSI on the character area boundary, all emphasise the importance of the landscape as a resource.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

### Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve** the landscape of *B2 Wooded Don River Valley* as shown in the table below.

		<b>GOOD</b>	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	<b>CONSERVE</b>
		Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
Condition	Poor		Creation	Restore & enhance	Restore
			Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
Strength of Character					

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

The overall landscape strategy should be to **conserve** the intimate, rural and undeveloped quality of the valley and to retain its distinct woodland character and sense of enclosure. Landscape strategy objective should include:

**Conserve the wooded character** of the landscape, seeking to enhance the deciduous content of valley side woodlands. Any coniferous plantations should be located with care and effects on landscape character or sensitive viewpoints fully assessed.

**Conserve and maintain the stone walls and stone bridges** that accentuate the field patterns on the valley floor and sides and provide a human scale to the valley.

**Resist extensive compartmentalisation of field units on the flood plain** for horse and pony grazing and the introduction of temporary 'suburban' style boundaries.

**Ensure restoration of old quarries and tips in the valley is in keeping with the valley character** in terms of landform, planting mix and land use.

**Encourage investigation into the ecological and recreational value of the dismantled railway line** and promote management plans if appropriate.

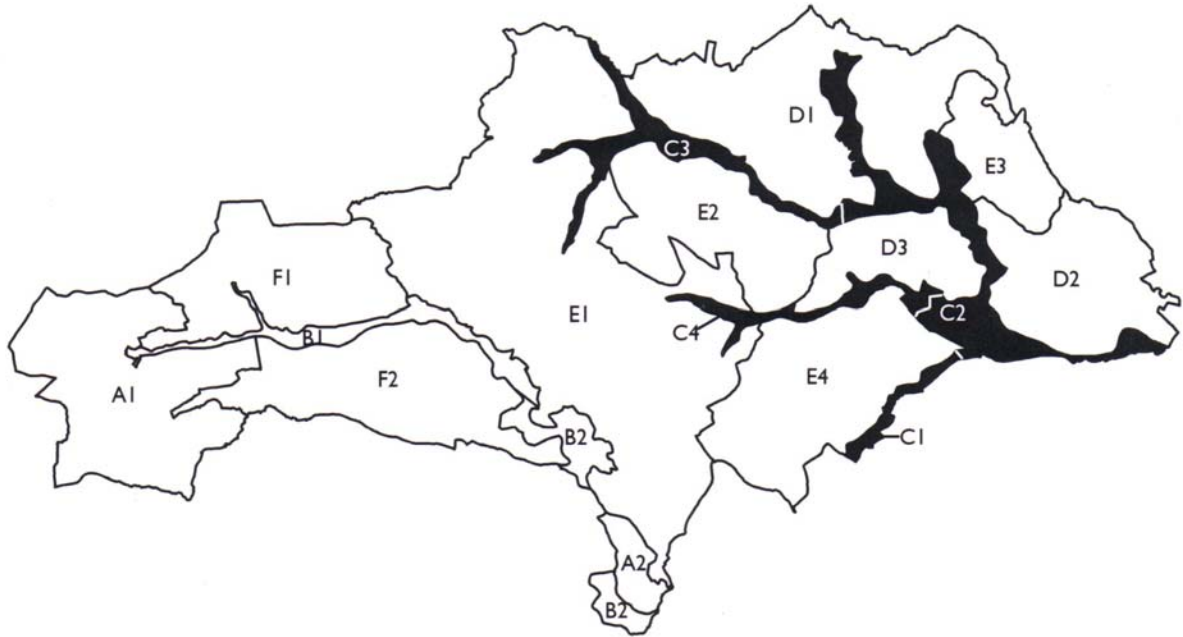
**Resist development on the floodplain** and maintain the rural, undeveloped character of the valley.

**Increase recreational worth of the landscape** by exploring the possibility of increased public access to the river.

## B2: WOODDED DON RIVER VALLEY



## C: LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR



The *Lowland River Floor* landscape type is mainly defined by landform, consisting of flat valley floors, and by the presence of water in the forms of rivers, lakes, reservoirs and canals. The valley floors can be narrow or broad and are enclosed by sloping valley sides that are part of adjacent character areas, or land outside the Borough. Residential settlement on the valley floor is scarce, but frequent on the valley sides immediately outside the landscape type. Commercial or industrial development is quite common, particularly next to roads that cross the valleys, or on reclaimed land. Other characteristic features include dismantled and active railwaylines, evidence of past industrial development (e.g. old industrial stone buildings, reclaimed land, disused canals and railwaylines), and trees, woodland and scrub which is often dominated by species associated with wet ground (such as willow and alder).

*Lowland River Floor* is found in four areas:

- C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor
- C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor
- C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor
- C4 Dove Lowland River Floor

These areas are joined, as they are all part of the River Dearne system. Together they form almost continuous green corridors running from the rural landscape of character area *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* west of the M1 motorway, weaving through and between the heavily developed character areas east of the M1, and out of the Borough and into Doncaster Metropolitan Borough in the south west.

The system has been divided into four landscape character areas to differentiate between:

- the valley floors of the River Dearne (C2 and C3) and its two significant tributary valleys (C1 and C4), and;
- the broad, open lower stretches of the River Dearne (C2) and the more enclosed parts of the valley floor (C1, C3 and C4).



# C1: ELSECAR LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR

## Landscape Character

### Key Characteristics

**Narrow flat valley floor** enclosed by sloping valley sides outside the character area.

**Diverse range of land use**, including agriculture, recreation, residential, industry, industrial heritage, communication, landscape renewal and nature conservation.

**Dense covering of trees and scrub** in many areas, much of which is comprised of species associated with wet ground (such as willow and alder).

**Disused and active linear transport/communication routes** including canal (disused), railway (disused) and bridleway along the old canal towpath (active).

**Old stone buildings, walls bridges etc** associated with industrial heritage.

**Open water** in the form of the disused Dearne and Dove Canal, and Elsecar Reservoir.

**Roads**, including minor roads crossing the valley, and the major new A6195 running across and along the valley at the northeastern end.

### Location and Boundaries

The extent of landscape character area *C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor* is mainly defined by the narrow width of flat valley bottom. The boundary is drawn where the ground starts to slope up, and the land becomes part of the valley sides. The eastern boundary of C1 follows the Borough boundary, which happens to broadly correspond with the change in landform at the side of the valley floor. At the north west end the boundary with character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* is drawn where the B6089 crosses the valley, and the valley starts to broaden out character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*.

### Description

The landscape character area classified as *Elsecar Lowland River Floor* is a long, narrow flat valley floor with water present along its length. Immediately outside the character area the land slopes up to form valley sides, giving a sense of enclosure. The underlying geology is middle coal measures, overlain in places with alluvium. The elevation of C1 is fairly constant, dropping gradually from approximately 70m AOD at Elsecar Reservoir in the south west, to approximately 30m AOD at the north west end where it meets character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*.

Landform and vegetation limit views to the valley sides and short distances along the valley. To the north of C1 the settlements of Elsecar, Hemingfield and Wombwell, and agricultural land in the adjoining character area *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* can be seen. To the south farmland, woodland, tree covered steep slopes of a colliery spoil tip, a new retail park and the settlement of Brampton can be seen outside the Borough, in the Borough of Rotherham.

The valley floor is covered in a diverse range of land uses, which reflect the wide range of functions the valley has had over the years. Land use includes agriculture, recreation, residential, industry, industrial heritage, communication, landscape renewal and nature conservation.

The presence of historical industrial features, many of which are now disused or used for other purposes, provides a strong reminder of the industrial past. For example, the disused Dearne and Dove Canal, and a disused railway, that run from Elsecar, along the length of the character area, used to service coal and ironstone mines further west. Old stone industrial buildings at Elsecar are now a heritage centre/museum.

Small pockets of land under permanent pasture and arable cultivation, isolated from the open countryside by urban and industrial development, sweep down the valley sides immediately outside the character area and flatten out to become part of the valley floor. These fields are bounded by gappy and sometimes overgrown hawthorn hedgerows. Some farmland close to buildings and roads are messy and poorly maintained, with unmanaged hedgerows and horse shelters.

The valley floor is largely free of settlement, except for the occasional isolated farm or pub, or where housing or industry protrudes into the open corridor adjacent to roads that cross the valley. Most of these buildings were built pre-1920 and are made of stone with slate roof tiles. The occasional modern brick house with associated garden fencing, and commercial buildings, have also been constructed on the valley floor.

The towpath along the disused canal is part of the Trans Pennine Trail and the Barnsley Boundary Walk. Other recreational landuse includes a small park (Elsecar Park) at the south west end of the character area, with well maintained grass and planting, and a bandstand.

Extensive areas of land alongside the disused canal and railwayline are covered with naturally occurring herbaceous, scrub and tree vegetation, much of which is comprised of species associated with wet ground (such as willow and alder). This provides a valuable habitat and corridor for wildlife that is known as the Elsecar Greenway. Much of *C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor* is designated as a nature conservation site.

Minor roads cross the valley, passing over the canal by stone bridges in the central and south western sections of the character area. The busy new A6195 dual carriageway runs across and along the valley at the north eastern end. This 'A' road is bounded by an immature, open landscape, with new tree planting on grass verges. At this north eastern end the valley sides slacken, mature trees and scrub become more scarce, and the valley floor becomes less enclosed. The landscape character is influenced by the new road and by the proximity of large new retail buildings immediately outside the character area to the south east.

## Forces for Change

**Neglected farmland** often utilised for pony grazing evokes a degraded character in places.

**Poorly managed hedgerows** associated with neglected farmland.

**Isolated farmland** cut off from wider countryside by urban development and linear features (roads, a disused canal and a railwayline).

**New 'A' road** and associated noise and visual intrusion, and immature landscape.

**Utilisation of old industrial buildings and transport routes for educational and recreational use** provide positive signs of a landscape in transition.

**Encroachment of further development** adjacent to existing settlements, where roads cross the valley floor.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

Landscape character area C1 exhibits characteristics typical of the *Lowland River Floor* landscape type. These include the landform, which consists of a narrow, flat valley floor and the presence of water in the forms of a reservoir and a disused canal. Sloping valley sides, that are part of adjacent character areas or land outside the Borough, enclose the valley floor. Residential settlement on the valley floor is scarce, but frequent on the valley sides immediately outside the character area. Some small scale commercial or industrial development is present next to roads that cross the valleys, or on reclaimed land, but absent from most of the area. Other characteristic features include evidence of past industrial development (e.g. old industrial stone buildings, a disused canal and railwayline), and trees, woodland and scrub which is often dominated by species associated with wet ground. Landscape character area C1 contains only occasional incongruous features, such as a modern brick house with garden fencing. The overall strength of character is therefore judged to be **strong**.

### Condition

The landscape of *Elsecar Lowland River Floor* has been considerably changed in recent years, through positive management and development. Disused industrial features such as the canal towpath, railway and industrial buildings at Elsecar have been developed for positive recreational or educational use, or managed as wildlife habitats. There is some new development, such as the A6195. Most is in good condition and generally well maintained. There are, however, pockets of poorly managed farmland or buildings. Overall the landscape condition is therefore considered to be **moderate**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

*C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor* is enclosed by valley sides outside the character area, and by scrub and trees within the character area. This would result in some screening of any future built development both within and from outside of the character area. Development would be visible from some settlements and land on the valley sides. There is, however, little space on the narrow valley floor for development, and much of the land lies within the flood plain. Housing development is not characteristic of the valley floor. Small scale historical industrial buildings are present, but in limited locations. Further development would break up the relatively continuous open valley floor and would disrupt the continuous green corridor.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **none**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve and restore** the landscape of *C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	<b>CONSERVE &amp; RESTORE</b>
	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
Strength of Character				

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor* contains a variety of land uses including extensive disused industrial areas that have been changed for alternative positive uses, while retaining their original built form. Most of these are well managed. The land around small commercial enterprises on the urban edge is often in a messy condition. Isolated areas of farmland are under pressures from urban areas, and in poor condition.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **restore and enhance** the important features characterising both rural and urban environments, including post-industrial features. Landscape strategy objectives could include:

**Restore and enhance the condition of farmland and farm buildings** and prevent further fragmentation of farmland on the urban fringe.

**Continue to restore and enhance features of industrial heritage.**

**Enhance the condition and setting of small scale commercial and industrial buildings** by encouraging maintenance of tidy sites.

**Continue to restore and enhance the open, undeveloped character of the valley floor** by encouraging restoration of post-industrial land for conservation, recreational and educational uses, and by protecting against development.

**Protect and enhance existing wildlife habitats** such as woodland, scrub and water feature in order to retain their quality.

## C1: ELSECAR LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR



## C2: LOWER DEARNE LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Flat valley floor** of varying width and degrees of enclosure, framed by sloping valley sides outside the character area.

**Diverse range of land use** including agriculture, recreation, residential, industry, commercial, communication, landscape renewal and nature conservation.

**Substantial areas of agricultural land** both in arable and pastoral use, intermixed and surrounded by other landuses and linear features.

**Large areas without built development or without a dense covering of trees**, giving a sense of openness in much of the character area.

**Small areas of scrub and trees** scattered throughout the character area, often associated with reclaimed or abandoned land, dismantled railwaylines, watercourses and newly landscaped areas.

**Disused and active linear transport/communication routes running along and across the valley floor** including dismantled railways, pylons, the River Dearne and the newly constructed A6195 road.

**Immature, newly created landscapes** in the form of open grass areas and young tree planting, associated with reclaimed industrial areas and the A6195.

**Localised clusters of new warehouse style buildings** bringing large scale buildings into the relatively open landscape.

**Open water** in the form of the River Dearne, streams, dikes, flashes and man made lakes.

#### Location and Boundaries

The extent of landscape character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* is mainly defined by the width of flat valley bottom. The boundary is drawn where the ground starts to slope up, and the land becomes part of the valley sides that are not part of C2. The change in topography is often associated with a change of land use. For example, urban areas will often extend up to the edge of C2, but not onto the valley floor where they might be at risk from flooding. The extent of the character area often corresponds with the extent of alluvium covering the underlying middle coal measures.

The water courses within landscape character areas C1, C2 and C4 are the upper reaches or tributaries of the River Dearne within C2. The boundaries between these landscape character areas and C2 are drawn where the generally narrower and more enclosed valley floors meet the broader, more open valley floor of C2.

## Description

The landscape character area classified as *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* is an extensive flat valley floor associated with the River Dearne and two small tributaries. Outside the character area the land slopes up to form broad valley sides. The width of the valley floor varies; in some locations it is wide and in other areas, where it is pinched by sloping landform, it is narrow. The underlying geology is mainly alluvium, which has been deposited by the watercourses over middle coal measures. Areas of middle coal measures on the sides of the valley floor remain uncovered. There is also a small area of boulder clay, which was deposited by a glacier, and two small pockets of sand and gravel. The elevation of C2 is fairly constant, dropping gradually from approximately 50m AOD around much of the edge of the character area, where the ground starts to slope up at the valley sides, to approximately 15m AOD where the River Dearne flows out of the south east corner of the Borough.

Open water is present along the length of the character area in the form of the River Dearne, streams, dikes, subsidence flashes and man made lakes. The River Dearne follows a sinuous path through the valley, except for a short length in the south of C2 where it has been canalised. Some lakes and flashes are quite large, and groups of open water bodies, such as the Old Moor Wetland Centre, cover extensive areas. As well as being dominant features in the landscape, these large water bodies and surrounding washlands provide important habitats for wildlife, particularly for birds. For example, areas of land in the south of C2, around the Old Moor Wetland Centre and Broomhill Flash, are designated as nature conservation sites.

The flat landform bounded by gently sloping valley sides and scattered vegetation allows relatively open views both within and out of the character area. A diverse mixture of landuses, including housing, industry, reclaimed colliery spoil tips and farmland, can be seen outside the character area, close to the character area boundary, or higher up on the valley sides. Settlements on ridgetops in surrounding character areas dominate the skyline, bringing an urban influence to the overall character of the landscape. Views along the valleys, which are not interrupted by landform, can be open and distant.

The valley floor is covered in a diverse range of land uses, which reflect the wide range of functions the valleys have had over the years. Land use includes agriculture, recreation, residential, commercial, industry, communication, landscape renewal and nature conservation. In recent years much of the land has undergone significant change. Collieries which were located in the valley bottom, where the coal seams were closest to the surface, have now closed, and the land has mostly been reclaimed. Some of this reclaimed land has been developed, or is in the process of being developed, for commercial use. One area of land west of Grimethorpe is still being worked and is in the process of being reclaimed.

Most of the historical industrial features have been removed and the land reclaimed to create a new, immature landscape. Recent tree planting along the a newly constructed A6195, which runs along or close to the edge of the character area between Wombwell in the south and Grimethorpe in the north, contributes to the immature character of the landscape. The dismantled railwaylines that run along much of the length of C2, visible where they form embankments above the flat valley floor, and where they are covered by scrub vegetation, are signs of the past industrial activity. Small areas of scrub and trees are scattered throughout the character area, often associated with reclaimed or abandoned land, dismantled railwaylines, watercourses and newly landscaped areas.

Areas of farmland have survived the extensive industrial development, and are a reminder of the landscape that existed more widely before the industrial revolution. This farmland is now interspersed amongst, and often fragmented by, a diverse range of old and new



landuses and features including reclaimed industrial land, newly developed industrial and commercial sites, roads, dismantled railwaylines and watercourses within the character area, and settlements that lie mostly outside the character area. The majority of the farmland is intensively farmed arable land, and some is pasture. Fields vary in size and shape, and are either unenclosed or bounded by degrading, gappy hawthorn hedges.

A key characteristic of C2 is its open appearance, free of substantial areas of built development. The valley floor provides an undeveloped green frame and corridor that winds its way through the more developed valley sides and hill tops in adjacent character areas. It is largely free of residential development, which is mainly located on valley sides outside the character area. In certain locations housing or commercial development protrudes into the open corridor adjacent to roads that cross the valley (e.g. where the A635 crosses the River Dearne west of Darfield, where the A628 crosses the valley west of Cudworth and where the B6096 crosses the valley between Wombwell and Darfield).

Localised clusters of new, large warehouse style buildings are prominent features in the relatively open landscape. The scale and mass of these buildings are much larger and more bulky than other buildings in the character area, or than most buildings visible in adjacent character areas. Most industrial/commercial development in C2 is quite new. However, some pockets of industry that appears to have been present for some years are present, including a large scrap yard in a spur of C2 between Carlton and Shafton Two Gates.

Linear development, mainly in the forms of roads, but also overhead power lines, is common. The valley floor has provided an open corridor for the construction of these features. The A6195 has been constructed with a number of roundabouts with spurs leading to sites on reclaimed land, indicating that the land is likely to be developed in future.

## Forces for Change

**Landscape renewal initiatives** such as reclamation of spoil heaps and planting along the A6195 are positive examples of a landscape in transition.

**Development of areas of the open valley floor** by the construction of large warehouse style buildings, as brownfield sites are put to a positive use. These introduce a new style and scale of built form into the valley floor.

**Construction of linear transportation/communication routes** along and across the undeveloped valley floor.

**Encroachment of development** adjacent to settlements where roads cross the valley floor.

**Disused railway lines** now largely left to ecological succession have the potential, with proper management, to act as important wildlife corridors.

**Isolation of farmland** by a diverse range of other landuses and linear features could potentially lead to a decline in the condition of agricultural land.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area C2 exhibits characteristics typical of the *Lowland River Floor* landscape type. These include the landform, which consists of a flat valley floor of variable width, and the widespread presence of water. Sloping valley sides, that are part of adjacent character areas or land outside the Borough, provide variable enclosure to the valley floor. Residential settlement on the valley floor is scarce, but frequent on the valley sides immediately outside the character area. Commercial or industrial development is present in localised areas on recently reclaimed land, or on land that has been under commercial or industrial use for some time, but is absent from most of the character area. New large warehouse style buildings appear as incongruous features due to their size, and their location on the valley floor. Linear transport/communication development in the form of active roads and overhead power lines, and dismantled railwaylines, are common. However, landscape character area C2 is in a state of change, with much of the landscape recently reclaimed and in an immature condition. The overall strength of character is therefore judged to be **moderate**.

## Condition

The landscape of *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* has been considerably changed in recent years, through reclamation and development. Most of these new areas of landscape are in good condition and generally well maintained. Farmland is generally intact but with some degradation of hedgerows. There are pockets of untidy land used for commercial/industrial activities. Overall the landscape condition is therefore considered to be **moderate**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The general lack of enclosure within the *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* character area results in a landscape which is visually sensitive to change. The broad, flat landform and scattered vegetation, means that there is little that might provide screening or buffering to help mitigate the visual effects of built form. Development would be visible from land within the character area and from settlements and land on the valley sides outside the character area. Built development is not characteristic of the valley floor, and the existing large warehouse style buildings appear as incongruous features. Further development, particularly at narrow points that are pinched between existing development either side of the character area, would break up the relatively continuous open valley floor and disrupt the continuous green corridor.

Landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

**Landscape Strategy Objectives**

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve and enhance** the landscape of *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strengthen & Enhance	<b>CONSERVE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* character area provides an important undeveloped and green frame for, and corridor between, the more settled valley sides and hill tops in adjacent character areas. C2 contains a variety of land uses and has undergone major change in recent years. Coal mining, which was once common, has now ceased and the land has been largely reclaimed. Some areas of farmland survive relatively intact amongst a diverse range of landuses and linear features. There are pressures to develop brownfield sites and to use the undeveloped land to construct linear transport/communication routes. The open character of the landscape, with few buildings, and the continuous open, green corridor of the valley floor, is potentially under threat from continued encroachment by further development. Although the landscape was until recently heavily industrialised, there are now opportunities to restrict further development and encourage 'green' landuses such as agriculture, conservation and recreation.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **conserve and enhance** the open, undeveloped character of the valley floor. Landscape strategy objectives could include:

**Conserve and enhance the open, undeveloped character of the valley floor** by encouraging restoration and management of post-industrial land mainly for agriculture, conservation and recreation uses, and by protecting against development.

**Conserve and enhance existing green corridors** (e.g. the continuous, undeveloped valley floor and the dismantled railway lines) for the migration of wildlife, by protecting against truncation by development.

**Conserve and enhance existing wildlife habitats** such as scrub, wetland and open water in order to retain and improve their quality.

**Conserve and enhance the condition of farmland** by strengthening hedgerows on field boundaries and preventing further fragmentation.

**Enhance the setting of large scale commercial and industrial buildings** by screening with native scrub and tree planting.

## C2: LOWER DEARNE LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR



## C3: UPPER DEARNE LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Flat valley floor** of varying width and degrees of enclosure, framed by sloping valley sides outside the character area.

**Diverse range of land use** including agriculture, recreation, residential, industry, commercial, communication, landscape renewal and nature conservation.

**Open water** in the form of the sinuous River Dearne and its tributaries, small lakes and a short length of disused canal.

**Absence of built development** except for water treatment works and in small industrial / commercial pockets adjacent to roads.

**Agricultural land** both in arable and pastoral use.

**Transport and communication routes** cross or follow the valley floor including the M1 motorway, major and secondary roads, active railway and pylons.

**Strips of mature trees and scrub**, particularly willow, ash and alder are found adjacent to watercourses and lakes.

**Old stone walls, bridges and occasional buildings** are scattered throughout the character area.

#### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor* corresponds to the flat and mostly narrow valley bottom associated with the upper reaches of the sinuous River Dearne and its tributaries. The boundaries defining its width and the western extreme occur where the ground visibly starts to slope up and becomes part of the valley sides. One of these boundaries corresponds to the M1 motorway. The boundary at the eastern extreme corresponds to a change to the more built up and broader valley floor character of area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*.

#### Description

*C3 Dearne Lowland River Floor* is a flat valley floor associated with the River Dearne and two small tributaries to the west. The valley floor is mostly narrow but it broadens where the tributaries meet each other, where they meet the River Dearne and where the disused Barnsley canal is still present. Immediately outside the character area the land slopes up to form valley sides. The underlying geology is alluvium that was deposited by the watercourses over middle coal measures. The elevation of the character area is fairly constant, dropping gradually from 100m AOD at Silkstone in the west, to 35m AOD at the eastern boundary where it meets character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* in the east.

Open water is present along the entire length of the valley floor in the form of the River Dearne, Cawthorne Dike, Silkstone Beck, a short length of the disused Barnsley Canal and small man made lakes. The River Dearne and its tributaries follow sinuous courses, with the exception of some short lengths that have been canalised.

The valley sides provide some enclosure. This is more pronounced where the valley floor is pinched between the built up areas of Barnsley and Monk Bretton on steeper valley sides. Vegetation in the form of hedgerows, ornamental planting, scrub and trees gives intermittent and localised enclosure. Views are generally restricted to parts of the valley sides and to short distances along the valley floor.

*C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor* contains a mixture of landuses, with farmland and recreational land being most widespread. To the east of Smithy Bridge, most of the valley floor is designated for recreation as Urban Greenspace and to the west the land use is mainly farmland. Smaller pockets of land have been developed for industrial and commercial purposes. The valley floor is crossed or followed by transportation and communication corridors. Visible remnants of past activity include Monk Bretton Priory, a short section of disused canal, and occasional industrial stone buildings.

Farmland covers a large proportion of the valley floor to the west of Smithy Bridge. It consists of permanent pasture and some arable farmland. Horse grazing is evident in some riverside locations. The field pattern is irregular and sizes vary from small to large. Fields are bounded by post and wire fences and hedgerows that often contain gaps and are unmanaged. In the west of the character area, these link to larger tracts of farmland in the adjacent character areas of *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* and *E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland*. Further east, the farmland is in smaller pockets that are isolated by built up areas.

The majority of the land to the east of Smithy Bridge has been restored for recreation and is designated in the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan as both Urban Greenspace and Green Belt. It contains small lakes that are used for fishing, small woodland blocks, mown grass, mature trees and a network of footpaths. It forms a green corridor between the densely built up areas on the valley sides. Two small recreational parks are also found at Darton. These consist of sports pitches and areas of mown grass interspersed with mature trees. In the character area as a whole, footpaths follow short sections of the watercourses, but there is no continuous recreational route along the valley floor.

Several major and minor roads cross the valley floor. The M1 motorway crosses at the junction of Silkstone Beck and Cawthorne Dike. It is highly visible at this location as it is situated on a raised embankment. The motorway also forms part of the western boundary of the C3 and is partially screened here by trees alongside the River Dearne. The railway line from Barnsley to Wakefield runs close to the M1 along the northern part of the character area associated with the River Dearne. Several lines of pylons run along and across the central length of the valley floor. These transportation and communication routes divide up the otherwise fairly uninterrupted, open green corridor. However, their effect on the overall character is limited, as they are narrow and vegetation provides local screening.

Small clusters of industrial and commercial building are found on the valley floor at Darton and at Old Mill where a large gas storage tank is a dominant feature despite some screening by trees and scrub. Substantial areas of land at Old Mill are currently derelict. Residences are limited to the occasional farm building, but the valley floor is overlooked by extensive settlements in adjacent character areas on the valley sides, including Barnsley and its suburbs to the south and a broad ribbon of development between Lundwood and Kexbrough to the north.

Strips of land alongside the River Dearne and its tributaries, the disused canal and the railway line are covered with naturally occurring trees and scrub, often comprising species associated with wet ground such as willow and alder. As well as forming important characteristic elements of the landscape, this vegetation provides valuable habitat and corridors for wildlife.

## Forces for Change

**Pressures to develop land** adjacent to existing settlements on the valley sides and alongside roads that cross the valley floor.

**Unmanaged and gappy hedgerows** indicate neglected farmland.

**Horse grazing** on valley floor could indicate initial stages of degradation of farmland.

**Linear communication and transportation routes** cut across the valley floor and break up the continuous green corridor.

**Derelict land** associated with former industry indicates neglect.

**Reclamation of former industrial land** at Dearne Valley Park for recreational use is a positive indication of a landscape in transition.

**Visual and noise intrusion from the M1 motorway** disturbs the otherwise tranquil rural landscape to the west of the character area.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

Landscape character area *C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor* exhibits characteristics typical of the *Lowland River Floor* landscape type. It consists of a flat valley floor, and contains water including a river and open water bodies along with associated vegetation. However, the strength of character is variable. The landscape in the west is more distinctive but becomes weaker towards the east due to the recent and varied human influences both within the valley floor and on the valley sides. Overall the strength of character is judged to be **moderate**.

### Condition

The landscape of *C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor* is relatively free of buildings with the exception of small pockets of land adjacent to some roads that cross the valley floor, including two areas of substantial industrial development. In the west the rural landscape is well maintained and in good condition. However, further east, the land has had a history of intensive industrial and urban use and the condition of some areas is very poor, for example



the derelict land at Old Mill. Although highly variable, landscape condition for the character area as a whole is considered to be **moderate**.

### Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

*C3 Dearne Lowland River Floor* is enclosed by the valley sides of adjacent character areas and intermittently by vegetation within the character area. This would result in some screening of any future built development on the valley floor. However, built development, and particularly housing, is not characteristic of this landscape character area. The continuous, open valley floor serves to separate the urban areas found on the valley sides. It also provides an important green corridor, linking the rural landscape west of the M1 motorway with open areas amongst the more developed landscape east of the M1. Built development in this character area would break up this corridor and in some locations it would result in the amalgamation of settlements on either side of the valley. There is little space on the valley floor for development, and much of the land lies within the flood plain.

In view of the above, Landscape Sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **high** and Landscape Capacity is considered to be **none**.

### Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve and enhance** the landscape of *C3 Dearne Lowland River Floor* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strengthen & Enhance	<b>CONSERVE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor* is a distinctive valley floor landscape. It is unified by its topography and landscape elements such as watercourses, scrub and woodland that are found throughout. There are some incongruous elements and varied forces for adverse change.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area is to **conserve and enhance** the important features characterising the narrow valley floor. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Conserve and enhance the open, undeveloped character of the valley floor** by encouraging restoration and management of post-industrial land mainly for agriculture, conservation and recreation uses, and by protecting against development.

**Conserve and enhance existing green corridors** (e.g. the continuous, undeveloped valley floor and the dismantled railway lines) for the migration of wildlife, by protecting against truncation by development.

**Conserve and enhance existing wildlife habitats** such as scrub, wetland and open water in order to retain and improve their quality.

**Conserve and enhance the condition of farmland** by maintaining existing links to intact farmland on valley sides and by preventing further fragmentation.

**Enhance the setting of large scale commercial and industrial buildings** by screening with native scrub and tree planting or natural regeneration.

**Mitigate the effects of existing development** on the valley floor and valley sides by screen planting.

**Conserve and enhance recreational areas** such as the setting for the fishing lakes, open space associated with Monk Bretton Priory and Dearne Valley Park.

**Manage mature trees, woodland and scrub** in order to promote long term regeneration.

**Conserve and enhance historical features** such as Monk Bretton Priory, other stone buildings, stone walls and the disused canal.

**Protect the valley floor from urban pressures** such as litter and fly tipping.

### C3: UPPER DEARNE LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR



## C4: DOVE LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Narrow flat valley floor** enclosed by valley slopes outside the character area.

**Open water** in the form of the River Dove and tributaries, reservoirs and a short length of disused canal.

**Absence of built development** except in small pockets adjacent to roads.

**Agricultural land** in arable and pastoral use, and under short rotation willow coppice.

**A recreational long distance trail** (sections of the Trans Pennine Trail), run along length of character area following a dismantled railway line.

**Transport and communication routes frequently cross the valley floor**, including the M1 motorway, major and secondary roads and an active railway.

**Strips of mature trees and scrub**, particularly willow, ash and alder, are found along watercourses and dismantled railway lines.

**Old stone walls, bridges and occasional buildings** are scattered throughout the character area.

#### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *C4 Dove Lowland River Floor* corresponds to the narrow, flat valley bottom associated with the River Dove and its tributaries. The boundaries defining its width and the western extreme occur where the ground visibly starts to slope up and becomes part of the valley sides. The boundary at the eastern extreme corresponds to a change to the more built up and broader valley floor character of area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*.

#### Description

*C4 Dove Lowland River Floor* consists of a flat and narrow valley floor with open water, in the forms of the River Dove or its tributaries, a short length of disused canal, or reservoirs, present along its length. Immediately outside the character area the land slopes up to form valley sides. The underlying geology is middle coal measures, overlain in most places with alluvium. The elevation of the character area is fairly constant, dropping gradually from 75m AOD at Stainborough Dike in the west, to 35m AOD at the eastern boundary where it meets character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* in the east.

Trees and scrub, and the sloping valley sides that lie within adjacent character areas, provide a sense of enclosure and create an intimate character. Views are restricted to parts of the valley sides and to short distances along the valley floor.

The character area contains a mix of land uses, dominated by farmland, recreation and communication, but also including residential, landscape renewal and nature conservation.

Although the valley floor is largely free of buildings, there are a few pockets of housing and commercial development that protrude into the open corridor adjacent to roads that cross the valley. These developments are small scale and include stone and brick houses, industrial units and a sports stadium. There are also remnants of the industrial past of the area, including dismantled railway lines that run for almost the full length of the valley floor, a short section of disused canal, and stone buildings at Worsborough Mill which have been converted into a museum. Stone walls and bridges are found frequently along roads throughout the character area.

Pockets of farmland exist as small fields under permanent pasture or arable cultivation. These are linked to larger areas of farmland in adjacent character areas on the valley sides. There are two areas in the west of the character area where willow is grown for coppicing and use as a renewable fuel.

Recreational land uses include the country park around Worsborough Reservoir, some of which is designated as a nature conservation site, smaller reservoirs used for fishing or nature conservation, the Trans Pennine Trail and Dove Valley Trail along a dismantled railway line, and a small sports ground. As well as being dominant features in the landscape, the water bodies provide important habitats for wildlife.

Transportation corridors cross the valley floor at frequent intervals. The M1 motorway crosses the character area at Stainborough Dike in the west and is partially hidden by its location in a cutting. However, the noise from it intrudes into an otherwise tranquil part of the character area. Two other major roads, several minor roads and the railway line from Barnsley to Sheffield cross the valley floor and cut through the otherwise fairly uninterrupted, open green corridor. However, their effect on the overall character is limited, as they are narrow and vegetation provides local screening.

Strips of land alongside the River Dove and its tributaries, and the dismantled railway lines, are covered with naturally occurring trees and scrub. Trees close to water often comprise species associated with wet ground such as willow and alder. There are also some small isolated pockets of deciduous woodland. These areas of trees and scrub provide valuable habitat and corridors for wildlife.

## Forces for Change

**Pressures to develop land** adjacent to existing settlements on the valley sides and alongside roads that cross the valley floor.

**Small areas of poorly maintained buildings and land** that is more untidy than that in the landscape character area as a whole.

**Presence of short rotation willow coppice crop** indicating small-scale change in farming practices.

**Utilisation of old industrial buildings and dismantled railway lines for educational and recreational use** provide positive signs of a landscape in transition.

**Disused railway lines** have the potential, with proper management, to act as important wildlife corridors.

**Noise from the M1 motorway** disturbs the otherwise tranquil rural landscape to the west of the character area.

**Linear communication and transportation routes** cut across the valley floor and break up the continuous green corridor.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

Landscape character area C4 exhibits characteristics typical of the *Lowland River Floor* landscape type. It consists of a flat valley floor, and contains water including a river and open water bodies along with associated vegetation. The occurrence of characteristic elements throughout the character area and the presence of few incongruous features result in a unified landscape. In view of this, the overall strength of character is judged to be **strong**.

### Condition

The landscape of *C4 Dove Lowland River Floor* is relatively undeveloped with the exception of small pockets of developed land adjacent to some roads that cross the valley floor, and is generally well maintained. Despite the presence of some small areas associated with development which are untidy and poorly maintained, overall the landscape condition is considered to be **good**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

*C4 Dove Lowland River Floor* is enclosed by the valley sides lying in adjacent character areas, and by scrub and trees within the character area. This would result in some screening of any future built development. However, there is little space on the narrow valley floor for development and much of the land lies within the flood plain. Housing and other built development is uncharacteristic of this landscape character area. Development would break up the continuous open valley floor and green corridor.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **none**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve** the landscape of *C4 Dove Lowland River Floor* as shown in the table below.

<b>GOOD</b>		Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	<b>CONSERVE</b>
		Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance
Condition	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*C4 Dove Lowland River Floor* is a distinctive valley floor landscape. It is unified by its topography and landscape elements such as watercourses, scrub and woodland that are found throughout, and by the scarcity of incongruous elements. There are some forces for adverse change but the existing condition is generally good.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area is to **conserve** the important features characterising the narrow valley floor. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Conserve the open undeveloped character** of the valley floor by protecting against development.

**Conserve and enhance existing green corridors** (e.g. the almost continuous, undeveloped valley floor) for the migration of wildlife, by protecting against truncation by development.

**Conserve farmland** by maintaining existing links to intact farmland on valley sides and by preventing further fragmentation.

**Conserve and enhance existing wildlife habitats** such as scrub, wetland and open water in order to retain and improve their quality.

**Any further willow coppice crops should be carefully sited**, with particular consideration given to the relative scale of planting, to minimise potential adverse effects on the character of the area.

**Strengthen hedgerows** that have occasional gaps.

**Manage mature trees, woodland and scrub** in order to promote long term regeneration.

**Conserve features of industrial heritage** such as stone buildings and the disused canal.

**Mitigate the effects of existing development** on the valley floor and valley sides by screen planting.

**Protect the valley floor from urban pressures** such as litter and fly tipping.

**Conserve the quality and condition of water features** such as the River Dove and its tributaries, and reservoirs.

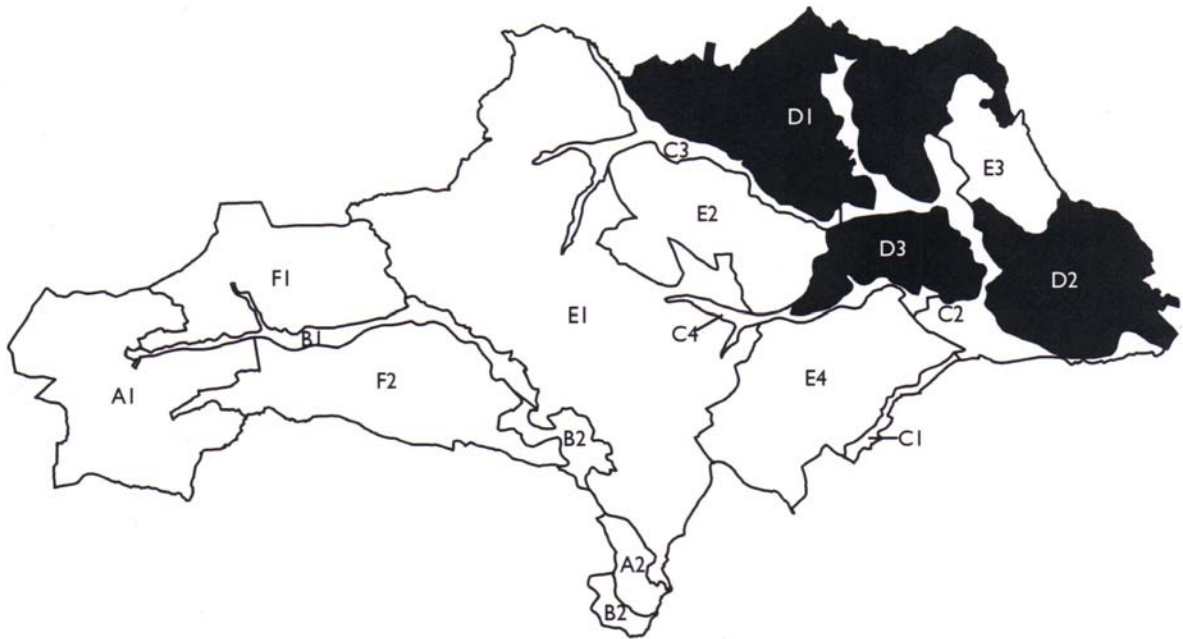
**Conserve recreational areas** such as Worsborough Country Park and the Trans Pennine Trail, and continue to manage for people and wildlife.



## C4 DOVE LOWLAND RIVER FLOOR



## D: SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES



The *Settled Arable Slopes* landscape type is largely characterised by its landform and land use patterns. The landform varies from stronger undulations to areas of gentle, even slopes with the latter particularly evident at lowland elevations close to the adjacent river valleys, and at higher elevations on the broader ridge tops. Land use activity is largely characterised by large scale arable farming and residential settlement. There are significant tracts of relatively intact arable farmland but many areas on the urban-rural interface exhibit signs of landscape decline. Settlements are typically former colliery villages or towns and are predominantly residential although recent light industrial estates are a feature. The settlements indicate the area's heavy industrial past, further emphasised by the presence of disused spoil heaps, workings, and railway lines found across the landscape. Field boundaries or divisions are inconsistent varying from stonewalls, and short flailed and overgrown hedgerows, to post and rail fencing or none at all. Low tree cover results in a sense of exposure. The dominance of infrastructure and built development, commonly located on ridge or hilltops, but often spreading down valley sides, compound a striking sense of urbanisation across much of the landscape.

Settled Arable Slopes is found in three areas:

- D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes
- D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes
- D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes

# D1: NORTH EAST BARNLSLEY SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES

## Landscape Character

### Key Characteristics

**Sloping/undulating landform** with small valleys and ridges providing localised variation in terms of views and sense of enclosure.

**Arable farmland** comprising medium to large field units with no obvious pattern.

**Large areas of residential and industrial development** creating a strong urban influence.

**Distant views to Barnsley** - industrial development and residential settlement outside the character area, bringing an additional urban influence to the overall character of the landscape.

**Irregular, degraded and declining field boundaries** of varied materials.

**Lack of tree cover** providing little in terms of enclosure or interest on the vertical plane.

**Pylons and power lines** are visually striking elements across open farmland.

**Disused industrial quarries, tips and spoil heaps** provide strong visual cues to industrial heritage and present day regeneration initiatives.

**Significant number of primary and secondary vehicular routes** gives an active pace to the landscape.

**Disused railway lines** are strong linear features of ecological significance.

**Scrubby margins, unmanaged field boundaries and compartmentalised field units** on urban edges give a degraded quality to the landscape.

**Abrupt transitions** between urban and rural land.

### Location and Boundaries

Using settlements as a guide, the Landscape Character Area classified as *D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes*, stretches from Darton in the west to Monk Bretton/Lundwood in the south, to Brierley in the east, and to Royston in the north. The indicative limits drawn to define the character area are determined by both administrative boundaries (Barnsley Borough) and distinct landform change. The Barnsley Borough administrative boundary provides the arbitrary limit to the north while the southern boundary is topographically defined where the sloping valley sides meet the valley floor of the River Dearne (landscape character areas *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* and *C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor*).

## Description

Classified as *D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes*, this character area is defined by a complex relationship of previous and present day industrial activity, urban settlement and arable farming over varied landform.

Middle coal measures, comprising a complex layering of sandstones and shales with numerous coal seams, underlie the majority of the area. A significant tract of boulder clay overlies the middle coal measures at Royston to the north of the area and also at Lundwood to the south, but this does not manifest itself in any obvious changes to landform, land cover or land use activity.

Topographically the land elevation ranges from approximately 50m AOD to 100m AOD. The fluvial activity of the River Dearne and its associated tributaries, and the alternating bands of underlying sandstones and shales which have been eroded at different rates, have created a series of valley-ridge undulations. These vary in sinuosity and aspect, creating localised variation in character due to changes in degree of enclosure, and changes to views within and out of the character area. The landform is generally more enclosing than other character areas within the same landscape type, notably *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* and *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes*.

Land cover and land use greatly influence the overall character of the landscape due to the complex interplay between the rolling, sloping, uncomplicated character of arable land and the sprawling density of urban form. Settlements are largely situated on areas of higher ground such as the length of ribbon development between Cudworth Common and Shafton sited on a subtle ridgeline. Development within adjacent character areas also plays a role in informing the landscape character. This is particularly influenced by clear views across to the town of Barnsley (landscape character area *E2 Barnsley Rolling Wooded Farmland*), which ascends the slopes on the south valley side of the River Dearne.

Arable farmland is characterised by medium to large field units often extending without obvious change up to the urban edge. This is not always the case and there are significant tracts of urban edge farmland characterised by small and tatty field units given over to a mix of uses from pony grazing to pigeon lofts. There is a strong sense that the arable land is intensively worked; made apparent by the loss and continued neglect of field boundaries. There has been significant loss of hedgerows from the landscape - evident by the occasional presence of oak standards marking historic field limits. Remaining hedgerows are often gappy, short flailed and monospecies (hawthorn) and sometimes increase in number and improve in condition where farmland and settlement meet. This helps to soften the urban-rural interface. Field boundaries vary in type, with hedgerows being most common. Other boundary types are also often in poor condition and include post and wire fences, post and rail fences, and stone walls. Field boundaries at the urban edge are often defined by an array of urban fences and materials at the ends of rear gardens.

Developed land is a complex relationship of residential and industrial form, reflecting the intense historic development of the heavy coalfield industry. New industrial estates characterised by warehouses, of varying colour and size, combined with new housing developments of differing style and vernacular also characterise the landscape and are key physical indicators of a landscape in flux and of changing landscape character. Present day industrial activity is largely clustered north of Monk Bretton but evidence of previous historic industrial activity is found dotted across the wider landscape in the form of disused works, tips and spoil heaps. Some of these have been reclaimed (such as the spoil heap west of Carlton) and some have not (such as the spoil heap east of Lund Hill).

There are a significant number of primary and secondary roads running through the landscape and these give an overtly active pace reducing the sense of tranquillity even in the more rural areas.

## Forces for Change

**Intensity of arable farming** has resulted in loss of field boundaries and continued decline of those remaining – continued loss of texture and variety across the landscape.

**Isolation and marginalisation of farmland** due to development pressures on open land.

**Decline of the urban fringe** due to development pressures, poor agricultural management and continued compartmentalisation of fields, evoking a neglected and degraded character.

**Continued threat of ribbon development** (e.g. Shafton Two Gates and Upper Cudworth), resulting in a loss of individuality and sense of place of settlements.

**Loss of character of former colliery villages** due to a propensity of new housing development built with little regard to traditional vernacular or material.

**Ecological succession of dismantled railways** will increase their ecological value and contribute aesthetic value to the landscape.

**Reclamation of spoil heaps** is evidence of positive measure to improve the recreational, visual and ecological quality of the landscape.

**Proliferation of coniferous shelterbelts on the urban edge**, used to screen large buildings, are intrusive vertical elements and threaten the overall landscape character.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

*D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes* has characteristics typical of the *Settled Arable Slopes* landscape type. This is reflected in the striking contrast between industrial and agricultural land. However, this character area differs from others within the same landscape type due to the size and form of settlement. *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* and *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* both have smaller, clustered and more contained settlements. The sprawling character of settlement within this character area seemingly reduces its strength of character by eating away and fragmenting the rural landscape and its resources. The existence of some significant tracts of arable farming over an attractive undulating landform counterbalances the negative influences on character and as such the overall strength of character is considered to be **moderate**.

## Condition

Although there are extensive tracts of relatively intact farmland there is an overall sense of a landscape in decline due to extensive and seemingly uncoordinated development and growth.

Following the decline of the coal mining industry, some land is derelict, giving a sense of neglect. Landscape degradation is also apparent due to present day land use activity, most apparent at rural-urban interface where urban fringe pressures manifest themselves as fragmented farmland, unkempt allotments, and informal pony paddocks bound by temporary, scruffy margins. Extensive tracts of continuous urban areas, containing incongruous industrial and recreational centres, and exhibiting poor maintenance of boundaries, form a harsh and often unsightly backdrop the arable farmland beyond.

In light of this, the overall condition of the landscape is considered to be **poor**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

Landform plays a significant role in terms of its influence upon this landscape's capacity to accommodate development. *D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes* has a more enclosing landform than character areas *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* and *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes*, reducing the degree of intervisibility from both within and outside of the character area. There are, however, a number of undeveloped slopes on more open ground, visible from other adjacent character areas, that would be highly sensitive to change. The areas of highest elevation tend to be those already developed with ridgetop settlement a characteristic feature of the landscape (such as the continuous settlement between Shafton Two Gates and Cudworth Common). As such, the higher,

flatter ground is considered less sensitive than the slopes when viewed in the context of existing settlement location and form.

There is little in terms of screening vegetation. This considered, in the context of large areas of gently sloping land of little enclosure, many areas of the landscape can be seen as vulnerable to development. There are, however, significant tracts of already degraded urban fringe land, which offer scope for development.

In light of the above, landscape sensitivity to and capacity for, development are both judged to be **medium**.

### Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **restore and enhance** the landscape of *D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	<b>POOR</b>	Creation	<b>RESTORE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*D1 East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes* is a complex landscape containing large and complicated swathes of developed land and transport networks. Industrial growth and the urban character that has developed as a result are largely responsible for the decline and poor condition of the landscape. Intensive farming practice has also contributed to a worsening condition of arable land. There has been significant loss of previous landscape features and continued decline of those remaining.

As such the overall landscape strategy objective should be to safeguard and improve the quality of remaining rural landscape by containing and appropriately managing future urban development.

**Seek to conserve remaining hedgerow and stone wall field boundaries** in order to retain important rural quality

**Improve the landscape setting of key urban edge buildings** to mitigate the harsh contrast between open farmland and large industrial/recreational facilities.

**Employ landscape** management plans for dismantled railway lines to continue to improve ecological and visual worth.

**Prevent further fragmentation of farmland on the urban fringe** to conserve the remaining areas of sweeping, intact arable land.

**Ensure that piecemeal, incremental housing development** does not have cumulative adverse effects on overall landscape character.

**Continue to restore previous coal mining areas** so as to mitigate the legacy of landscape abuse.

**Employ appropriate native planting regimes at the urban edge** to reduce the adverse visual effects of development.

**Ensure landscape design forms an integral part of urban edge development schemes** to integrate and soften the transition between built and open space.



## D1: NORTH EAST BARNESLEY SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES



## D2: EAST DEARNE SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Topographically varied landscape** ranging from sinuous undulations at the higher elevation to subtle slopes on lower ground.

**Network of large open, predominantly arable farmland**, of medium to large field units of no consistent or obvious pattern.

**Remnant hedgerow field boundaries** occurring sporadically and in generally poor condition.

**Plethora of dikes** running across the arable land.

**Traditional mining settlements** - Thurnscoe, Bolton Upon Dearne and Goldthorpe.

**Evidence of past and present industrial activity** due to presence of disused tips and spoil heaps, and working warehouse units on settlement edges and within the rural landscape.

**Sense of urbanisation** with skyline views of settlement roofscapes.

**Proliferation of scrubby, compartmentalised field units** adjacent to settlements at the urban interface.

**Lack of vertical elements in the rural landscape** with little to break up the horizontal plane.

**Far reaching views** providing a sense of openness and exposure.

#### Location and Boundaries

The landscape character area classified as *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* is located in the far southeast corner of Barnsley Borough. The eastern extents are artificially defined by the Barnsley Borough administrative boundary, and the western and southern edges bordered by landscape character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*. The northern edge is bordered by the character area *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* where the landform becomes more steeply sloping and interrupted by narrow watercourses, and with a greater amount of woodland cover.

#### Description

*D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* are predominantly distinguished by both topographic and land use character. The underlying geology is a complex layering of sandstones and shales with numerous coal seams. These middle coal measures underlie the majority of the area, with fluvial processes of the River Dearne and its tributaries leaving drift alluvium deposits over the solid strata in some locations. The landform ranges from 70m AOD to 15m AOD traversing through sinuous undulations to subtle slopes that level out to an almost flat landscape in the areas of lowest elevation. This changing topography provides local

variation in landscape character largely due to the varying degrees of intervisibility and sense of enclosure.

The landscape is characterised by three dominant land use patterns – agriculture, industry and landscape renewal. Their very different physical qualities and juxtaposition make for an unusual mosaic of urban and rural form.

Agriculture is predominantly intensive arable farming contained within a pattern of medium to large fields. There is often no obvious sense of enclosure due to loss of hedgerows and where intermittent boundaries occur they fragment rather than unify the farmland. Within the areas of arable farmland, dikes are a common occurrence in the south; running to meet the River Dearne on the southern boundary.

The industrial landscape is largely historic with spoil heaps, disused tips and old open cast workings providing strong visual clues to this previously thriving industrial core. Out-migration from the old mining settlements of Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe and Bolton Upon Dearne are further proof of the industrial decline experienced in this area. As well as these towns and villages, there are some smaller settlements such as Little Houghton, Middlecliffe and Billingley the latter of which has strong local material and vernacular qualities, and is designated as a Conservation Area.

Landscape renewal is evident through measures to mitigate the impacts of previous industrial activity. Reclaimed spoil heaps and large swathes of tree planting, such as those along the A6195, are all indicators of landscape restoration and provide opportunities for improved aesthetic and ecological value. This can be extended to include the disused railways cutting through the character area – providing important wildlife rides.

With the exception of pylons and some unmanaged, tall hedges, there are few vertical elements within the rural landscape. This equates to a seemingly simplistic and uniform character with little to break up the horizontal plane.

## Forces for Change

**Intensive arable farming methods** that have resulted in poor field boundary management with significant loss of hedgerows and continued decline of those remaining.

**Compartmentalisation of field units** close to urban edges for pony grazing/exercising evoking a degraded character in places.

**Landscape renewal initiatives** such as reclamation of spoil heaps and planting along the A6195 are positive examples of a landscape in transition.

**Ribbon development**, such as that along the B6411, potentially leading to a continuous settlement from Bolton Upon Dearne to Great Houghton

**Further industrialisation of rural land** as industrial buildings encroach from settlement edges.

**Decline of traditional mining settlements** providing the potential for social and economic regeneration initiatives.

**Disused railway lines** now largely left to ecological succession have the potential, with proper management, to act as important wildlife corridors.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* exhibits characteristics typical of the *Settled Arable Slopes* landscape type with a varied landform, tracts of arable land and presence of industrial activity and settlement patterns. There are however key elements missing from this character area which are found within others of the same landscape type. Such features are a lack of intact hedgerow boundaries and weak field patterns. Strength of character is therefore considered to be **moderate**.

## Condition

The landscape of *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* is intensively farmed for arable crops. As a result, field boundaries have been neglected and this has led to significant loss of hedgerows and poor management of remnant hedges. The proliferation of compartmentalised field units close to the urban edge and out-migration of populations from settlements further degrade the overall landscape condition. Landscape condition is considered to be **poor**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The lack of enclosure within the East Dearne character area results in a landscape which is visually sensitive to change with little vegetative screening or buffering to help mitigate the visual impacts of built form. Although undulating topography in the more elevated areas provides some enclosure, this is generally localised and as such there is an overriding sense of openness and exposure. This would make built development on open slopes conspicuous from both within and outside of the character area.

In terms of the landscape as a resource, there are a number of areas of low visual, ecological and social worth and as such suggest some scope for development with the potential to perhaps improve the condition and character of the landscape.

High visual sensitivity in places combined with areas of low landscape quality balances out to a landscape considered to have **medium** sensitivity to development.

Urban edge expansion has already led to ribbon development (as evident between Thurnscoe and Great Houghton) and there is a danger that encouraging development on urban edges could result in the complete merger of settlements with the potential to dramatically change landscape character. However, clear evidence of landscape decline on the edge of settlements suggests a capacity for development to occur with the potential to enhance settlement edge character, condition and overall quality. Landscape capacity to accommodate further built development is therefore considered to be **medium**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **restore and enhance** the landscape of *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	<b>POOR</b>	Creation	<b>RESTORE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

Landscape character area *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* is an important mosaic landscape where industry and agriculture intermingle to create an interesting interface in the landscape. There are however clear forces for adverse future change. This landscape has already lost significant characteristic features and exhibits key signs of continued agricultural and settlement decline.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **restore and enhance** the important features characterising both rural and urban environments, retaining a strong distinction between the two whilst aiming to enhance their physical interface. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

- Restoration of the sense of intactness between the rural and urban environments** through careful treatment of boundary edges.
- Restoration of habitat and landscape structure and diversity** by replacing lost hedgerows, and enhancing the quality of those remaining.
- Enhancement of the sense of openness and undeveloped character** of the rural landscape by resisting further encroachment of built development into the arable core.
- Employ appropriate native planting regimes at the urban edge** to reduce the adverse visual effects of development.
- Ensure landscape design forms an integral part of urban edge development schemes** to integrate and soften the transition between built and open space.

## D2: EAST DEARNE SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES



## D3: WEST DEARNE SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Rolling landform** consisting of broad rounded ridge that gently slopes towards the Rivers Dove and Dearne.

**Land use mainly agriculture and residential** but with some commercial, industrial, communication and landscape renewal.

**Tracts of arable farmland** with some short term ley and horse grazing.

**Degraded hedgerow field boundaries** and some post and wire fencing.

**Scattered stone farmsteads**, some with modern outbuildings.

**Untidy areas adjacent to farmsteads** with scrap machinery, farm waste and horse grazing.

**Traditional mining settlements** within to the character area – Ardsley, Darfield.

**Intact farmland up to urban edge** in many locations.

**Stone walls and infrequently managed hedgerows** form boundaries between roads and farmland.

**Small infrequent blocks of deciduous trees on valley slopes**, but few mature trees on the more exposed higher ground.

**Views beyond character area boundaries** to settlements, reclaimed tips, working warehouse units and upland part of the Borough.

#### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* is situated on the elevated land between the River Dearne and River Dove to the east of the Kendray suburb of Barnsley.

The northern, eastern and southern boundaries of the character area are defined by a change in landform and underlying geology. The sloping sides of the River Dearne valley and River Dove valley (both underlain by middle coal measures) slacken to form valley floors (underlain by alluvium) of landscape character areas *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* and *C4 Dove Lowland River Floor*. The western boundary corresponds to the A633 north of Stairfoot and the B6100 on the eastern edge of suburban Barnsley.

#### Description

The landscape character area classified as *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* is underlain by middle coal measures. The complex layering of sandstones and shales with numerous coal seams, that have been eroded at different rates, has given rise to a rolling

landform. The topography consists of a broad, rounded ridge, with a maximum elevation of 105m AOD at Lees Hill to the west of Ardsley. The land gently slopes towards the valley floors of the Rivers Dearne and Dove to a low point of 35m AOD in the far east of the character area. A small valley exists along the A633 at Stairfoot that contains a tributary of the River Dove. Steeper slopes are infrequent and localised.

The main land use in this character area is agriculture, punctuated by the dense settlements of Ardsley and Darfield. Other lesser land uses include commercial, industrial, landscape renewal and communication.

Agriculture is predominantly arable with occasional fields of short term ley. It is contained within a network of medium to large geometric fields. Field boundaries consist of hedgerows that are gappy and infrequently managed in places, and post and wire fences. There is a strong sense that the arable land is intensively worked; made apparent by the continued neglect of field boundaries.

Farmsteads are scattered throughout the rural parts of the landscape character area. Many have old stone buildings in various states of disrepair and some of these are currently undergoing renovation. Incongruous modern farm outbuildings and untidy areas of farm rubbish are often found next to these stone buildings.

The two large settlements found in this area sit either on the broad ridge top (Ardsley) or on the slopes from the ridge top down to the valley floor (Darfield) and so are visible from much of the character area, and from adjacent character areas. Built development on the settlement edges consists of a mixture of late 20<sup>th</sup> Century brick housing in a variety of styles and colours.

Large 20<sup>th</sup> Century warehouse style industrial or commercial buildings are found bordering the A633 at Stairfoot. These are mostly hidden from view by a depression in the landform, corresponding to a tributary of the River Dove. There is a small, reclaimed spoil heap adjacent to the Dove valley floor to the west of Darfield that has small areas of planted trees. There is a small working quarry immediately to the south of the settlement of Ardsley.

Two main roads cross the character area. The A635 runs between the settlements of Ardsley and Darfield along the top of the broad ridge. The A633 between Wombwell and Barnsley sits in a small valley and is mostly bounded by built development, so has a minimal impact on the open landscape. Road margins often consist of infrequently managed or fragmented hedgerows and degraded stone walls. A limited number of minor roads are found in this character area, most of them providing access to farmsteads. The railway line from Barnsley to Sheffield crosses the western extreme of the character area.

Poles carrying overhead wires across open land occur throughout the landscape character area. Pylons are dominant vertical elements in the east of the character area.

Mature trees are limited to infrequent clumps of deciduous trees on the valley sides, and are absent on the exposed top of the broad ridge. A small area of recently planted trees lies on reclaimed land to the west of Darfield.

There are distant views from elevated ground, occasionally interrupted by vegetation and built form. To the west are views to the suburban edge of Barnsley and landscape character area *E2 Barnsley Rolling Wooded Farmland*, and beyond that to the upland areas of the Borough. To the north and east, on the opposite side of the valley of the River Dearne (*C2 Lower Dearne River Floor*) can be seen the settlements of Lundwood, Cudworth, Grimethorpe and Great Houghton, West Haigh Wood and areas of farmland in landscape character areas *D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes*, *D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes*, and *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland*. To the south, across the Dove valley (*C4 Dove Lowland Rover Floor*), are views to the settlement of Wombwell in



landscape character area *E4 Hoyland Rolling Wooded Farmland* and to land outside the Borough.

## Forces for Change

**Intensification of arable farming practices** has resulted in poorly managed, fragmented hedgerows and untidy fences.

**Poorly maintained farmsteads** with degrading stone buildings, incongruous modern outbuildings and untidiness associated with farm activities on farmstead boundaries.

**Renovation of some stone farm buildings and conversion to residential use** indicates a change of use and reversal of former decline.

**Encroachment of modern housing development** onto intact farmland (e.g. north west Darfield) but no obvious further degradation of open countryside due urban pressures.

**Roadside flytipping.**

**Industrial development** in small pockets.

**Reclamation of a spoil heap** is a positive sign of a landscape in transition.

**Pressure for further development** due to the proximity of existing urban areas and roads.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

Landscape character area *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* exhibits characteristics typical of the *Settled Arable Slopes* landscape type with gently sloping intact arable farmland punctuated by dense settlements and with a variety of lesser land uses and sparse tree cover. The strength of character of this area relates to the scattered farmsteads that are linked to the surrounding farmed land. This character has been weakened due to the presence of incongruous elements such as pylons, modern housing and flytipping, so that the overall the strength of character is judged to be **moderate**.

### Condition

The landscape of *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* contains tracts of intact farmland with scattered farmsteads. Although much of the farmland is intact, there are some poorly managed, fragmented hedgerow field boundaries and many associated farmsteads are in decline. The landscape condition is considered to be **poor**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* character area is generally open with slightly more enclosure on the valley sides. Hedgerows and, on the valley sides, infrequent mature trees, give intermittent enclosure. This character area is visible from the other sides of the Dearne and Dove valleys, character areas D1, D2, E1 and E3, but these are fairly distant views. The valley sides of this character area are visible from the adjacent valley floor character areas, C2 and C4. The above factors indicate that built development would generally be highly conspicuous, both from within and outside the character area.

It is considered important to maintain the farmsteads in their rural setting. However, there may be areas where the character is less sensitive on the margins of the existing urban edges.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **medium** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **restore and enhance** the landscape of *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & enhance	Conserve & Restore
	<b>POOR</b>	Creation	<b>RESTORE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

Landscape character area *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* consists mainly of agriculture with associated farmsteads and two large settlements. This former strength of character has been weakened by the presence of incongruous features as discussed previously. Its condition has declined and there are continued forces for negative change.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **restore, and enhance** the landscape character of the rural environments and the interface with the built environment. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Restore landscape character and habitat diversity** by enhancing condition and quality of hedgerows on field boundaries.

**Restore and enhance fences on field boundaries**, or replace with hedgerows.

**Restore and improve roadside boundaries**, such as old stone walls and hedges that are currently in poor condition.

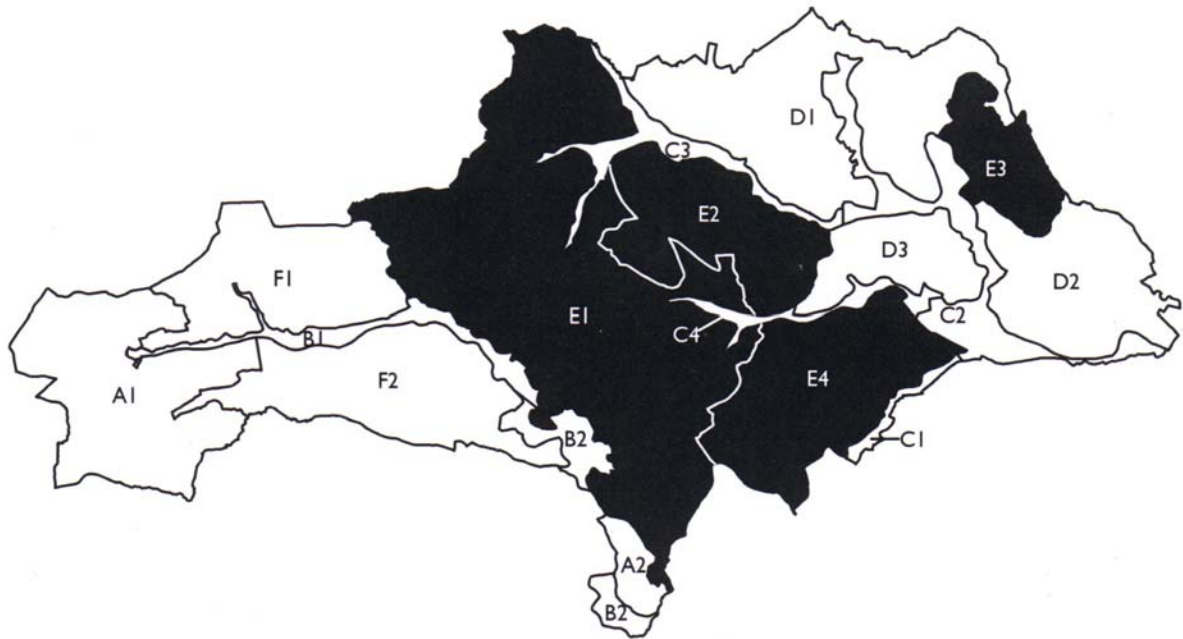
**Restore and enhance condition of stone farm buildings** and tidy land in and around farmsteads.

**Protect the open and undeveloped character of the rural landscape** by resisting any further encroachment of built development into the intact farmland.

### D3: WEST DEARNE SETTLED ARABLE SLOPES



## E: SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND



The *Settled Wooded Farmland* landscape type is defined by gently rolling landform, settlement ranging from isolated houses and farmsteads to large towns, deciduous woodlands, substantial areas of intact agricultural land (mainly in arable use), fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and some stone walls, small water courses that are tributaries of the rivers Don, Dearne or Dove, and stone farmsteads that are either still used as farms, or have been converted to purely residential developments. Views are often open and distant from higher ground, and enclosed by landform in valleys. Some areas of Settled Wooded Farmland are intact open countryside, free from the effects of urban development. Others areas are surrounded by or on the edges of urban areas, and strongly influenced by the proximity of development. There is great variety in the proportion of developed land to open countryside, and in the character of settlements, between character areas within this type. At one extreme *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* is characterised by unspoilt, open countryside with small settlements and villages and, at the other extreme, *E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* is characterised by isolated pockets of countryside and Urban Greenspaces within and adjacent to the large settlement of Barnsley.

Settled Wooded Farmland is found in four areas:

- E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland
- E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland
- E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland
- E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland

# E1: WEST BARNSELY SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND

## Landscape Character

### Key Characteristics

**Gently rolling landform** with hills and broad valleys.

**Small, medium sized and large woodlands**, mainly deciduous and some coniferous.

**Substantial areas of intact agricultural land**, both in arable and pastoral use.

**Irregularly shaped small, medium sized and large fields** bounded by hedgerows, stone walls and fences.

**Stone farmsteads**, often with large modern outbuildings.

**Villages and hamlets** set in open countryside.

**Large stone country houses** set within designed parkland landscapes.

**Urban encroachment** visible to the east, outside the character area.

### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* covers a broad band of countryside immediately west of Barnsley and the M1. It runs from the north to the south of the Borough.

The eastern boundary of E1 broadly follows a line dividing the developed eastern half of the Borough from the less developed and more rural western half. This boundary follows the M1 motorway for short lengths, but the majority of the eastern boundary is defined by the extent of large scale development extending from the east side of the Borough. The upper reaches of landscape type *C Lowland River Floor (C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor and C4 Dove Lowland River Floor)* also protrude into E1 across the motorway, defining its eastern boundary in some locations.

The western boundary of E1 is not a precise, clearly defined boundary, but is actually quite broad. It largely follows the top of the valley side of the River Don. The high land of E1 gradually rolls into the top of character areas *B1 Upland Don River Valley* and *B2 Wooded Don River Valley*. Along the north of this boundary the rolling wooded landscape of E1 gradually flattens out and becomes more open, with less woodland, until it becomes more characteristic of *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland*. Features that lie in this area of transition, such as field boundaries and a railway line, have been used to define this boundary.

To the south west, where the area adjoins character area *A2 Wharnccliffe Unenclosed Moorland*, the boundary follows the line of the secondary Woodhead Road and a public footpath where there are no longer enclosed fields, and the land becomes open moorland.

To the far south and north the boundary is defined by the administrative boundary of Barnsley Borough.

## Description

The landscape character area classified as *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* is distinguished by rolling landform with hills and broad valleys, and intact farmland interspersed with woodland. The underlying geology is middle coal measures and lower coal measures, comprising alternating bands of shales and sandstones with frequent coal seams, which have weathered and eroded at different rates, giving rise to a rolling landform. The land is generally slightly higher over the lower coal measures, which lie on the west side of the character area, and falls gradually towards the east over the middle coal measures, where the headwaters of the Rivers Dearne and Dove cut into the landform. The elevation ranges from 289m at a hill named The Height on the south west side of the character area, to 65m where E1 borders landscape character areas *C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor* and *C4 Dove Lowland River Floor*. Streams cross the character area, mostly running from west to east to Rivers Dearne and Dove.

Views are generally enclosed by landform and woodland, with some extensive views from higher ground. For example, at Hoylandswaine in the west of the character area, there are clear views of the eastern side of the Borough, and beyond to the Selby plain. The most frequent views of land outside the character area are of urban areas around Barnsley to the east. Visibility out of this area to the west is restricted by a high ridge that runs along the western boundary of E1.

The landscape is characterised by three dominant land use patterns – agriculture, woodland and residential. Although E1 covers an extensive area, the fairly simple pattern of landuses, elements and features repeats itself throughout the landscape character area, and incongruous landuses and features are relatively uncommon, giving rise to a fairly consistent character.

Agriculture is a mixture of livestock and arable farming. Fields are generally irregularly shaped and small to medium sized, and occasionally large, and field patterns are mixed and variable. Fields are enclosed by a network of mostly well maintained hawthorn hedgerows and woodlands, and some stone walls. Mature individual trees are scattered irregularly and infrequently throughout the farmland, either in field boundaries or as occasional isolated specimens.

Woodlands are scattered throughout character area. They are mainly deciduous but are sometimes mixed, containing both deciduous and coniferous trees. Some of these woodlands are large (Cawthorne Park and Margery Wood north of Cannon Hall is the largest at approximately 150 hectares), but many are small or medium sized and narrow, and follow the steeper, lower valley sides of streams. Trees and woodlands become less frequent towards the higher, more exposed and flatter land on the western side of E1, where it meets character areas A2, B1, B2 and F1. Most woodlands are mature and have a history of human use and management, for example to provide wood for timber and fuel, oak bark for leather tanning, and to manufacture charcoal.

The pattern of built form is that of small scale settlements and individual buildings (houses, hamlets, villages and farmsteads) scattered fairly evenly throughout open countryside. Most villages are fairly compact and contain a stone church, with its square tower or spire, an important landmark in the landscape. Many villages have areas of new housing on their outskirts. Although fundamentally rural in character, E1 is increasingly suburbanised with the settlements and converted farm buildings housing commuters who work in the surrounding urban settlements. Traditional stone farmsteads are often adjacent to or

surrounded by larger, modern farm buildings. The largest settlement is Kexbrough, where housing and a business park has spread into the east side of the character area, across the M1.

Occasional pockets of industry exist in the otherwise predominantly rural and settled landscape. Historically the area was quarried for its surface outcrops of coal, sandstone and fireclay. Most of these small workings were closed many years ago but some, for example a clay quarry and pipe works close to the A635 west of Cawthorne, are still in operation.

A network of main roads and country lanes links settlements. Three 'A' roads cross the landscape character area from east to west, and the A629 and the M1 motorway run from north to south along the western and eastern boundaries. To the south, the adverse effects of the M1 are minimised by its location in cuttings and naturally lower parts of the landform, and by the screening effects of settlement. From Higham to the north of the Borough the motorway becomes more exposed and creates a broader corridor of visual and noise intrusion.

The dismantled Woodhead railway crosses the character area from east to west. This former trans-Pennine route is now part of the Trans Pennine Trail and Dove Valley Trail long distance bridleways.

## Forces for Change

**Hedgerows on field boundaries are disappearing in some locations**, and are a sign of changing farming practices or poorly managed farmland.

**Pressure for development**, mainly adjoining large settlements immediately outside the eastern boundary of the character area.

**Large scale, modern farm outbuildings around traditional stone farmsteads** is a positive sign that farming remains an important part of the local economy. However, they have adverse effects on the appearance and settings of these important landscape features.

**Increase in traffic on long distance road transport routes** creating corridors of visual and noise intrusion.



# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area E1 exhibits characteristics typical of the *Settled Wooded Farmland* landscape type with gently rolling farmland, woodland, intact agricultural land (mainly in arable use), fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and some stone walls, small water courses that are tributaries of the rivers Dearne or Dove, and stone farmsteads. Settlement is frequent but small scale and dispersed. These characteristics are widespread and generally intact. Views are often open and distant from higher ground, and enclosed by landform in valleys. There are few incongruous landuses or elements that adversely effect character. The strength of character is therefore judged to be **strong**.

## Condition

Although condition varies in different parts of the character area, the majority of *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* contains extensive areas of intact farmland interspersed with small settlements and woodland, which are generally well maintained and in good condition. The urban areas around Barnsley, and the M1 motorway, have the strongest adverse effect on condition. However, even in pockets of land surrounded by these elements, much of the landscape remains in good condition. Overall the landscape condition is considered to be **good**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

An important part of the character of *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* is its open (i.e. undeveloped) nature. Small scale settlements are dispersed throughout a predominantly agricultural, rural landscape.

Areas of higher ground within E1 are quite open and exposed to medium and long distance views. Large parts of E1 are visible from character areas to the east, particularly those closest to the boundary (i.e. *E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland*, *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* and *D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes*), but also higher areas east of Barnsley (e.g. *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland*). However, landform and woodlands provide enclosure throughout much of the character area, particularly in valleys. A high ridge that runs along the western boundary restricts visibility into this area from the west.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve** the landscape of *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	<b>GOOD</b>	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	<b>CONSERVE</b>
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* has a strong character and elements are generally in good condition. However, small parts or some elements of this extensive area are in decline, or in danger of going into decline, through neglect or pressures from adjacent developed areas.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **conserve** the important features characterising both the rural landscape and settlements. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Conserve open countryside by protecting from development** and particularly from encroachment from the east.

**Conserve condition and character of countryside close to urban edges** on the east side of the character area, where there are pressures from large scale urban areas.

**Conserve condition and character of countryside close to industrial developments** by minimising adverse effects such as noise, dust, traffic and visual intrusion.

**Conserve the scale and settings of existing houses, hamlets and villages** by preventing expansion into the rural landscape.

**Conserve condition and character of stone farmsteads** by careful design and siting of new outbuildings.

**Break up and screen expansive housing developments** by planting blocks of trees close to the urban edge.

**Conserve hedgerows and stone walls on field boundaries** and restore where they are in decline.

**Protect and manage existing wildlife habitats** such as woodland, streams and scrub in order to retain their quality.

## E1: WEST BARNESLEY SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND



## E2: BARNSELY SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Gently rolling landform** sloping towards the Rivers Dove and Dearne.

**Diverse range of land use**, including agriculture, recreation, residential, industry, communication and landscape renewal.

**Dominant presence of urban** development.

**Sense of urbanisation** with urban fringe pressures and skyline views of settlements.

**Isolated pockets of farmland with farmsteads.**

**Fields, predominantly pasture**, bounded by fences and poorly managed hedgerows.

**Traditional mining settlements** lie within the character area - Dodworth, Barugh, Barugh Green, Higham and Barnsley.

**Evidence of past and present industrial activity** due to presence of reclaimed tips and working warehouse units on settlement edges.

**Some areas of scrubby, compartmentalised field units** adjacent to settlements at the urban interface.

**Urban Greenspace** running into the urban fabric of Barnsley and having a variety of uses, but predominantly recreational.

#### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* is interwoven with the urban development of Barnsley which fragments the undeveloped land into several separate parcels.

The majority of the undeveloped land lies to the west and north west of Barnsley. The character area extends across the M1 motorway to include Dodworth and the nearby golf course, industrial estate and reclaimed spoil tip. The northern boundary of the character area is defined by a change in landform and underlying geology. The sloping side of the River Dearne valley (underlain by middle coal measures) slackens to form the valley floor (underlain by alluvium) of landscape character area C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor. The southern and western boundaries coincide with a change to the less urbanised landscape character area *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland*. The M1 motorway defines parts of this boundary.

Three small areas defined as Urban Greenspace in the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan lie within and largely surrounded by the urban fabric. These consist of:

1. Oakes Park situated to the south west of Barnsley town centre between the mainline railway and the A628 road;

2. A green corridor that separates Kendray from Worsborough Dale and Worsborough Common and stretches from the B6100 north to Barnsley cemetery and Measborough Dike, and;
3. A green pocket between Worsborough Common and Worsborough Bridge to the west of the A61.

## Description

The landscape character area classified as *Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* is dominated by the presence of urban development in and around Barnsley. Small areas of green open space are enclosed by development on most sides, with occasional distant views out of the landscape character area. The underlying geology is middle coal measures, comprising alternating bands of shales and sandstones which have weathered at different rates, giving rise to a rolling landform. The landform slopes towards the River Dearne or River Dove, or to streams that feed these rivers. The elevation ranges from 50m to 170m AOD, with an isolated higher spot of 190m AOD at the crest of the reclaimed colliery spoil tip north of Dodworth (Dodworth Tip).

Views are generally enclosed by landform and urban development. Distant views out of the landscape character area are limited to particular directions on the location and aspect of the open space. These are either to countryside to the west (*E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland*), north across the Dearne Valley to developed hills (*D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes*), or west along the broad Dearne valley (*Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*). These views are a mixture of rural, urban and industrial land use.

The landscape is characterised by six dominant land use patterns – agriculture, recreation, residential, industry, communication and landscape renewal. Their different physical qualities give rise to areas of land with different appearance. Poles and pylons carrying overhead wires are common features crossing open land.

Wedges of Urban Greenspace that are also within the existing green belt, as defined in Barnsley Unitary Development Plan, run into the urban fabric of Barnsley to the east of the character area. They provide valuable recreational facilities and wildlife corridors in these developed areas. They comprise a range of land uses including informal recreation (mown and rough grass, tree and shrub planting, woodland), formal recreation (playing fields, allotments), a cemetery, and agriculture. The spoil heap formed out of waste from Barnsley Main, the colliery around which Barnsley formed during the industrial revolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, has recently been reclaimed. It is now known as Oakes Park and provides a new facility for casual outdoor recreation and a wedge of green space within the urban area.

In farmed areas agriculture is predominantly livestock farming and horse grazing, with some small areas of arable farming. Fields are small to medium sized and bounded by hawthorn hedgerows, which are often poorly maintained and overgrown or heavily grazed at their bases. Some fields appear to have been abandoned, or might be deliberately unfarmed for conservation or other purposes. These remnants of the previously dominant earlier agricultural landuse are now overshadowed by the enclosing urban development.

Mature trees are limited to the occasional small woodland (notably bounding the stream west of Gawber). Some recently planted medium sized and small trees lie on recreational or reclaimed land, within areas of Urban Greenspace.

A golf course lies to the west of the M1, outside the urban fabric of Barnsley and on the edge of open countryside.

The skyline is dominated by 20<sup>th</sup> Century brick housing of mixed styles and materials, and settlements generally sit on high ground overlooking the areas of countryside or Urban Greenspace. Occasionally, older stone houses stand on the edge of the urban areas. Large 20<sup>th</sup> Century warehouse style industrial or commercial buildings lie in small or medium sized industrial parks on the edges of urban areas, often on lower ground that has presumably been re-developed from previous industrial use. The occasional farmstead, still in agricultural use, lies within the agricultural land.

The M1 motorway cuts through the western part of this landscape character area and creates a narrow corridor of visual and noise intrusion. The adverse effects of the motorway are, however, minimised by its location in cuttings and naturally lower parts of the landform. From many places where there are views over the motorway to open countryside or developed areas, landform or trees screen the motorway itself. The landscape character area is crossed or bordered by other smaller roads and by the railway line from Barnsley to Wakefield.

The landscape character area contains modern industrial estates and reclaimed spoil heaps indicating locations of old collieries. Oakes Park, the reclaimed tip of Barnsley Main, is discussed above. Dodworth Tip west of the M1 was reclaimed some years ago and now forms a characteristic wooded landform on the edge of Dodworth.

## Forces for Change

**Neglected farmland and compartmentalisation of field units** close to urban edges is often utilised for pony grazing and evokes a degraded character in places.

**Poorly managed hedgerows** associated with neglected farmland.

**Isolated farmland** cut off from wider countryside by urban, road and railway development.

**Reclamation of spoil heaps** provide positive signs of a landscape in transition.

**Industrial development** in discrete areas indicates re-use of old industrial sites.

**Pressure for further development** due to the proximity of existing urban development and roads.

**Decline of traditional mining settlements** provides the potential for social and economic regeneration initiatives.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area E2 exhibits characteristics typical of the *Settled Wooded Farmland* landscape type with gently rolling farmland, woodland, fields bounded by hedgerows, small water courses and stone farmsteads that are either still active farms, or that have been converted to purely residential use. Views are enclosed by landform in the valleys and there are often open and distant views from higher ground. However, extensive urban development and the presence of the M1 motorway corridor have fragmented the undeveloped land. Farmland remains only in isolated pockets and the woodlands are small in size. Landuses and features other than farmland are common, including recreational, reclaimed colliery spoil and a cemetery, particularly in areas defined as Urban Greenspace. Due to fragmentation of the former characteristics of the landscape, and presence of incongruous features and landuses, but the existence of the strong underlying topography, farmland and woodland, the overall strength of character is judged to be **moderate**.

## Condition

*Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* contains pockets of farmland and Urban Greenspace surrounded by extensive urban development. This land is degrading with abandoned or unfarmed fields and hedge field boundaries that are often poorly maintained, overgrown or grazed at the base. Areas of Urban Greenspace are maintained to a moderate standard. The landscape condition is considered to be **poor**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape Sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape Capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The *Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* character area is semi-enclosed by landform that slopes towards the river valleys and by urban development. Visibility into this area from other character areas to the south, west and east is limited due to enclosure. This would result in some screening of any future built development both within and from outside of the character area. The elevated locations are more visible but are surrounded by prominent large scale settlements and, in some locations, by the M1 motorway. It is considered that built development in this area would not have a large adverse effect on the landscape character.

In view of the above, Landscape Sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **medium** and Landscape Capacity is considered to be **medium**.



## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	<b>POOR</b>	Creation	<b>RESTORE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* contains a variety of land uses including extensive urban development. Despite this diversity and urban influences, the green spaces retain a moderate strength of character. However, it has lost a proportion of its characteristic features, its condition is currently in decline and there are clear forces for continued adverse change.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **restore, and enhance** the important features characterising both rural and urban environments. Landscape strategy objectives could include:

**Restore farm land and holdings to former condition and farming practices** where this is appropriate and feasible.

**Restore landscape character and habitat diversity** by enhancing quality of hedgerows on field boundaries.

**Protect existing wildlife habitats** such as woodland and streams in order to retain their quality.

**Maintain condition of occasional stone buildings.**

**Break up and screen expansive housing developments along the urban edge** by planting blocks of trees.

**Improve landscape setting of industrial buildings** by appropriate landscape treatment (e.g. hedge, tree or woodland planting around boundaries with countryside).

**Enhance the condition and character of Urban Greenspaces** by tidying, unifying and screening the urban edge with native shrub, hedge and tree planting, and strengthening and managing old field boundaries.

## E2: BARNESLEY SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND



## E3:GRIMETHORPE SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Ridge top plateau leading to a rolling valley side** with frequently steeper land relating to the watercourses that flow towards the valley floor.

**Mixed land use** with agriculture, woodland, and residential areas with associated recreational green spaces.

**Arable farmland** relating to rolling land and **permanent pasture** on steeper slopes.

**Hedgerows with some gaps containing occasional mature trees** bound fields.

**Narrow strips of woodland** along watercourses.

**Irregularly shaped woodland blocks** are linked to form a larger area of woodland.

**Urban settlements on lower valley side.**

**Recreational green space on urban edges merges with open farmland.**

**Isolated lodges, halls and individual dwellings**, many constructed in sandstone, are scattered across the open countryside and within settlements.

#### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* is situated to the east of Grimethorpe and Great Houghton in the north east of the Borough.

The western boundary is defined by a change in landform from the rolling valley sides of this character area to the flat valley floor of adjacent character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*. The northern and southern extents of the character area adjoin landscape character areas of the *Settled Arable Slopes* landscape type. These boundaries occur where the landform becomes more gently sloping and is no longer interrupted by narrow watercourses and associated steep slopes, and the amount of woodland cover is reduced. The eastern boundary corresponds to the administrative boundary of the Borough.

#### Description

The landscape character area classified as *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* is underlain by middle coal measures, comprising alternating bands of shales and sandstones with coal seams, which have weathered and eroded at different rates, giving rise to a rolling landform. The majority of this character area consists of a west facing valley side and a smaller area covers part of the flat narrow ridge at the top of the slope. The valley side is interrupted at frequent intervals by steep narrow valleys that contain narrow watercourses flowing towards the valley floor in the west. The lower part of two of these watercourses contains narrow alluvial deposits lying over the middle coal measures. The elevation rises from 50m AOD on the western side of Grimethorpe to 115m AOD on the ridge top plateau within West Haigh Wood.

Land use is a simple mixture of residential areas, agriculture and woodland. The edges of the settlements also contain recreational green space. The boundaries between each of these land uses is well defined but convoluted. The area also contains a small reclaimed spoil tip.

Arable land is found on the more gentle slopes of the valley sides and permanent pasture (occasionally being invaded by scrub) is found in pockets associated with the steeper land along the watercourses. Fields are either enclosed by fairly intact hawthorn hedgerows containing occasional mature trees, or have no enclosure. Intact farmed land comes up to the edge of settlements where it joins houses, gardens, roads, schools and recreational green space.

The overall south west aspect of the valley slopes provides very distant views to the west and south west, including views of the far western side of the Borough. Areas of woodland, built development and the steeper land alongside the watercourses give localised enclosure. Woodland also provides enclosure on the flat, elevated ridge top.

Some parts of the watercourses are lined with deciduous woodland strips. There are several deciduous woodlands to the south of Grimethorpe that are linked to form a larger area of woodland, some of which is designated as Ancient Woodland. Some mature trees are found within hedgerows bounding fields.

Two settlements are found on the lower slopes of the valley side. Grimethorpe, is spread across a large area from the boundary with character area *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland Valley Floor* and up part of the valley side, with no particular relationship to landform or landscape elements. The predominant building material on the eastern urban edge is red brick that has a strong influence on the character of the adjacent area. A working stone farmstead, which would have once been in open countryside, is now situated on the urban edge of Grimethorpe. There are several large areas of recreational green space along the urban edge that link with the surrounding countryside. Great Houghton is more compact and is situated along a road. Red brick buildings also dominate the edge of this settlement.

Individual dwellings are scattered throughout the farmed land. Many are historic halls and lodges constructed in sandstone and others are more modern buildings.

## Forces for Change

**Hedgerows on field boundaries are disappearing in some locations**, and are a sign of changing farming practices or poorly managed farmland.

**Working farmstead under pressure due to proximity of urban area.**

**Some urban pressures are evident**, including litter on urban edge farmland and flytipping at road laybys.

**Alternative uses of old sandstone buildings** alter the character of the surrounding landscape.

**Decline of traditional mining settlements** providing the potential for social and economic regeneration initiatives.

**Ribbon development** along the B6411, potentially leading to a continuous settlement from Great Houghton to Thurnscoe.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

Landscape character area *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* exhibits characteristics typical of the *Settled Wooded Farmland* landscape type with gently rolling farmland, medium sized settlements and isolated houses and stone farmsteads, deciduous woodlands, substantial areas of intact agricultural land (mainly in arable use) and small watercourses. Views are open and distant from higher ground, and enclosed by landform on sloping ground and in valleys. Despite the presence of some large areas of suburban style housing, the use of a limited range of materials and building styles unifies the urban areas and minimises adverse effects on landscape character. In view of this, the landscape character of the area is judged to be **strong**.

## Condition

*E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* contains settlements surrounded by farmland and woodland. The open countryside is in fairly good condition with slight decline indicated by a few gaps in hedgerow field boundaries, or absence of hedges around some larger fields. The urban edge has some minor signs of degradation. The landscape condition is considered to be **moderate**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The *E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* character area is partially enclosed by landform and woodland blocks. There are, however, extensive views into the area from character areas *D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes* and *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor*. The upper slopes are much more visible than the lower slopes. Large tracts of open intact countryside, with arable fields and woodlands, and isolated farms and houses, cover much of the area. The character of these rural areas would be sensitive to development. Some lower slopes, that are enclosed by landform and built form, would be less sensitive to development.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

## Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve and restore** the landscape of *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	<b>CONSERVE &amp; RESTORE</b>
	<b>POOR</b>	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland* contains a limited mix of land uses and retains a strong landscape character. Its condition is in slight decline with some forces for change.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **conserve and restore** the important features characterising both rural and urban environments. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Conserve open countryside, and particularly visually exposed slopes, by protecting from development.**

**Conserve the scale and settings of existing houses, hamlets and villages** by preventing expansion into the rural landscape.

**Clearly define and soften the urban edge** by creating boundaries in keeping with the rural character - such as hedgerows, trees and woodland blocks.

**Conserve, and where appropriate restore, individual stone dwellings and farmsteads** that are scattered throughout farmland and that lie within settlements.

**Conserve hedgerows on field boundaries** and restore those that are degrading or have disappeared.

**Conserve historic ruins** and their landscape settings.

**Protect and manage existing wildlife habitats** such as woodlands, grasslands, scrub, streams and associated vegetation to retain their quality.

**Protect recreational areas from development.**

### E3: GRIMETHORPE SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND



## E4: HOYLAND SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Rolling landform** with slopes towards River Dove watershed and canal associated with Elsecar.

**Diverse range of land use**, including residential, woodland, agriculture, industry, landscape renewal, communication and recreation.

**Presence of large settlements on broad valley sides up to higher ground** strongly influences character of surrounding land.

**Smaller settlements are found in elevated locations**, including Pilley, Birdwell and Blacker Hill.

**Strong urban influence** with urban pressures, such as horse grazing in compartmentalised fields, litter and flytipping, tatty allotments and scrap heaps, evident throughout but concentrated on urban fringes.

**Mainly deciduous woodland blocks** of various sizes, including ancient woodland and new plantations on reclaimed tips.

**Farmland is a mixture of arable and permanent pasture.**

**Degraded and unmanaged field boundaries** consist of fences, hedgerows and stone walls.

**Scattered farmsteads** are found in areas of agricultural land between the settlements.

**Evidence of current and past industrial activity** due to presence of industrial estates, many reclaimed spoil heaps and remains of bell pits at Tankersley Park

**Recreational land use** including Urban Greenspace between Hoyland and Jump, and two golf courses adjacent to major roads.

**Presence of major road corridors** with associated noise and visual intrusion, and vacant land that indicates plans for future development.

#### Location and Boundaries

Landscape character area *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* is located to the south of the valley of the River Dove and extends to southern boundary of Barnsley Borough.

The northern, eastern and southern boundaries of the character area are defined by a change in landform and underlying geology. The sloping sides of the valley associated with the disused Elsecar canal and the valley of the River Dove (underlain by middle coal measures) slacken to form the valley floors (underlain by alluvium) of landscape character areas *C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor*, *C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor* and *C4 Dove Lowland River Floor*. The south west portion of the character area extends across the M1 motorway. The western boundary corresponds to a number of minor roads. It represents a



change from the fragmented urban influenced character of *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* to the more intact rural landscape character of *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland*. The land use becomes less diverse resulting in a stronger, more unified landscape character and an improvement in the condition of landscape elements.

## Description

The landscape character area classified as *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* is defined by a complex relationship of previous industrial activity, urban settlement, arable farming and woodland over varied landform.

Middle coal measures, comprising a complex layering of sandstones and shales with numerous coal seams, underlie the area. Uneven erosion of the varied geology has resulted in a rolling landform. The higher ground in the west of this landscape character area links to steadily rising ground further west. The high ground, with a maximum elevation of 180m AOD on the north western edge of Hoyland continues east through the centre of this character area and drops away to the north, east and west towards the valley floors associated with the valleys of the River Dove and the disused Elsecar canal. The minimum elevation is found on the south eastern edge of Wombwell at 25m AOD.

The character area comprises a diverse range of land uses. Settlements, woodland and agriculture cover a large proportion of the character area. There is a smaller area of land devoted to industry and recreation. Evidence of the former predominance of industry in the area is strong, mainly as reclaimed tips, dismantled railways and canals. The different physical qualities associated with each land use gives rise to areas of land with different appearances.

Two large settlements dominate the landscape character area. Wombwell on the north eastern boundary lies on the valley sides sloping towards the north and east. Hoyland lies on the high ground as well as valley sides sloping south and has almost merged with the smaller settlements of Jump, Elsecar and Hemingfield to the east. This has resulted from development along the roads between them. The remaining separation consists of narrow urban green spaces or small pockets of farmland.

Several smaller settlements occur north of the A6195 on elevated land above the slopes of the valley of the River Dove. These include Blacker Hill that has almost merged with Hoyland along the road linking them, Pilley and Birdwell. Farmsteads are scattered throughout the remaining agricultural land.

The character area contains a network of major roads, including the M1 motorway, the A61 running from Junction 36 of the M1 to Barnsley and Sheffield, and the new A6195 dual carriageway. The M1, running through the south eastern corner of the character area, creates a narrow corridor of visual and noise intrusion, but these adverse effects are not widespread due to enclosure and screening by built development, woodland and landform. The A6195, a major new road with numerous roundabouts, crosses through the centre of the character area running east from the motorway. A network of minor roads gives access to settlements. In many cases, these have formed the framework for urban expansion. The railway line from Barnsley to Sheffield runs through the character area.

Large blocks of deciduous woodland as well as smaller woods occur frequently. They provide localised enclosure and help to screen the varied land uses. Some are relicts of ancient woodland, most notably the large Wombwell Wood. There are many established geometric shaped plantations in the south of the character area. There are also recent plantations on spoil heaps that have been reclaimed, such as the former Rockingham Barrow opencast coal site. These plantations are immature and do not currently provide any

sense of enclosure or screening. In some woodlands there is visible evidence of urban pressures from fly tipping and litter.

Agriculture exists as pockets of arable land and pasture that have been fragmented by the other land uses. Medium sized fields are bounded by hedges and post and wire fences. In the west of the character area, stone walls bound some fields. Mature trees occur infrequently in hedgerows and fields. Farmland runs up to the edges of settlements in many locations, but is often more degraded here with fragmented hedgerows and untidy areas.

There are several modern, commercial/ industrial estates. Most of them do not impose on the surrounding open land due to their proximity to large settlements and screening by hedges, strips of trees and woodland. There are some small industrial works that are sited in highly visible locations, away from large settlements that are not screened by vegetation. These have an adverse influence the character of the surrounding open land. Pre-19<sup>th</sup> century spoil heaps around the shafts of bell pits are visible as rows of rounded mounds at Tankersley Park, west of the M1 motorway. A dismantled railway east of Blacker Hill contains scrubby vegetation and provides a corridor for wildlife. A dismantled railway that once served the coal mines runs through the heart of the area.

Landscape renewal is evident through mitigation of the effect of previous industrial activity. This includes reclaimed tips, such as the large area of land at the former Rockingham Barrow site, as described previously. Reclaimed land along the A6195 consists of rough grass and overgrown hedgerows, and appears to be prepared for future development.

Recreational land use includes two well-managed golf courses. There is a network of footpaths and bridleways across the character area. The Jump Valley public open space separates the settlements of Hoyland and Jump. This narrow strip of land is designated both as Urban Greenspace and Green Belt in Barnsley Borough Unitary Development Plan. It consists of mown grass on the flatter ground and scrub on steeper slopes. Urban fringe pressures are evident with litter and degraded stone walls.

## Forces for Change

**New housing development** is localised but frequent.

**Amalgamation of settlements** around Hoyland.

**Urban fringe pressures** including neglected farmland and untidiness such as litter, tatty sheds and scrap heaps.

**Degraded farmland on urban fringes** with compartmentalised fields utilised for pony grazing and untidy sheds.

**Poorly managed field boundaries** including fragmented and poorly managed hedgerows, and degrading fences and stone walls associated with neglected farmland.

**Large areas of recent tree planting** on the reclaimed Rockingham Barrow tip.

**Reclamation of spoil heaps** is a positive sign of a landscape in transition.

**Disused railway lines** have been left to ecological succession.

**Pressure for further development** caused by recent road construction and indicated by adjacent vacant land, signs advertising development sites and proximity of existing large settlements.

**Golf courses have an urbanising influence** on the surrounding farmland.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

*E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* exhibits characteristics typical of the *Settled Wooded Farmland* landscape type with gently rolling farmland, settlement, deciduous woodlands and fields bounded by hedgerows. However, extensive urban development, former industrial land use and the presence of major roads have fragmented much of the agricultural land. Areas of intact farmland remains in isolated pockets. Due to fragmentation of the landscape and the presence of incongruous elements, the overall the strength of character is judged to be **moderate**.

### Condition

*E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* contains pockets of farmland and woodland around and amongst large settled areas. This land is degrading, particularly around the urban fringes, and field boundaries are often poorly maintained. However, there are some signs of positive forces for change, such as land reclamation, and future development could be

channelled to improve the condition further. The current landscape condition is considered to be **poor**.

### Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* character area is generally open, but there is localised enclosure by woodland, depressions in the landform and built development. Visibility into the character area from open land in adjacent character areas is limited due to enclosure by built development around the boundaries of E4 character area. This indicates that built development would have limited visual impact on adjacent character areas but would be conspicuous from parts of this character area.

The character area is already quite urbanised, so can more readily accommodate built development without adverse effects on its character than less developed landscape character areas of this type. However, it would not be possible to develop a high proportion of the area without adverse effects on its character.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to further built development is judged to be **low** and landscape capacity is considered to be **medium**.

### Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **restore and enhance** the landscape of *E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	<b>POOR</b>	Creation	<b>RESTORE &amp; ENHANCE</b>	Restore
		Weak	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strong
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

*E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland* contains a diverse range of land uses including large settlements. Despite this diversity and urban influences, the green spaces retain a moderate strength of character. There are varied negative forces for change and much of the land is in a degraded condition.

The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to **restore, and enhance** the important features that characterise it. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

**Enhance integrity of remaining farms** and prevent further fragmentation of farmland.

**Restore, protect and enhance farmland on urban edges** as this is under particular pressure.

**Restore and enhance hedges, fences and stone walls** on road and field boundaries.

**Plant hedgerow trees** and manage to ensure that they mature.

**Consider woodland planting along urban edges** to enhance landscape character and break up and screen expansive housing developments.

**Screen inappropriately sited industrial works** by tree planting.

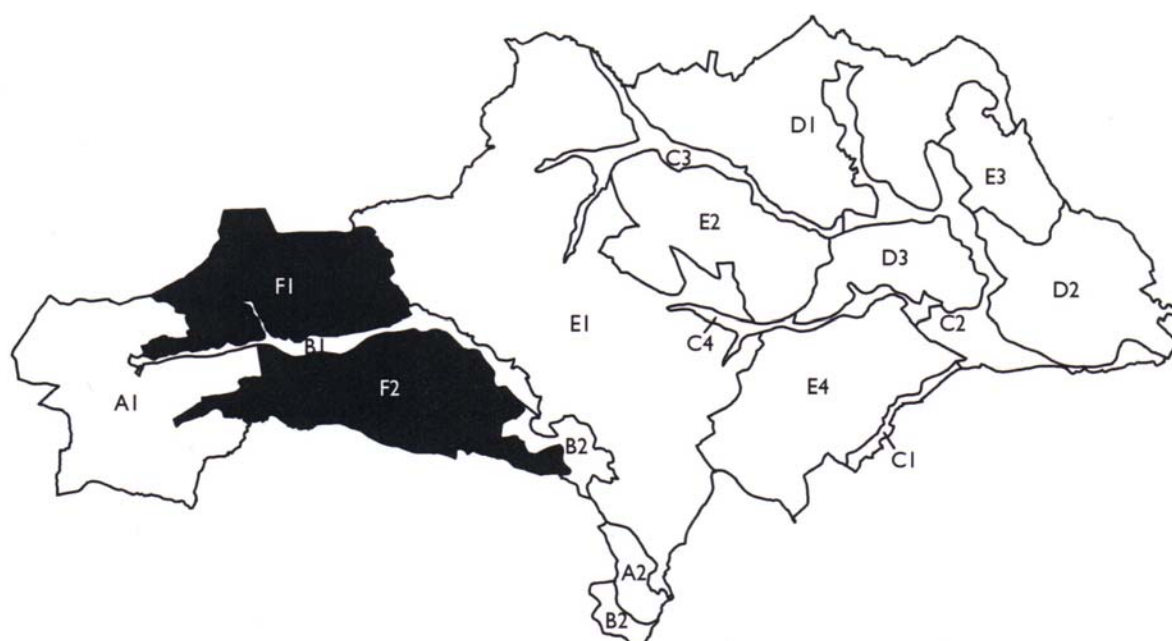
**Enhance existing woodlands** for their wildlife and recreational value.

**Employ landscape management plans for dismantled railway lines** to continue to improve ecological and visual worth.

**E4: HOYLAND SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND**



## F: UPLAND ROLLING FARMLAND



The *Upland Rolling Farmland* landscape type is upland hill country defined by a distinctive undulating topography above 200m AOD. The underlying geology of Lower Coal Measures is a series of complex beds comprising bedded sandstones, shales and mudstones with intermittent coal seams that have given rise to differential weathering of the seams and a characteristic undulating or 'stepped' landform.

A network of intact gritstone walls provides a strong, and distinctive, geometric field pattern over the hills. Field sizes vary corresponding to elevation with the older, smaller fields located in the lower and more sheltered areas and the larger, later enclosed fields over the higher moors. Most of the farmland is now improved grassland grazed by sheep, but remaining unimproved areas on the steeper or more elevated slopes, and damp pastures alongside dikes and springs, are valuable for nature conservation. The area is largely devoid of woodland, although ribbons of deciduous woodland thrive in the shelter of the incised valleys of the dikes. Stands of beech and sycamore are familiar features of this upland landscape type and stand silhouetted against the skyline. The area has a sense of remoteness and the settlement pattern is one of scattered hamlets and agricultural settlements. Past industrial activities are indicated by the presence of disused mines, quarries and shafts.

*Upland Rolling Farmland* is found in two areas that are separated from each other by the valley of the River Don:

F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Rolling Farmland

F2 Penistone Upland Rolling Farmland

# F1: INGBIRCHWORTH UPLAND FARMLAND

## Landscape Character

### Key Characteristics

**Stepped landform** rising to 367m at Upper Whitley Edge.

**Fields of pasture** comprising medium geometric field units strongly defined by distinctive **stone walls**.

**Beech plantations** stand out on the skyline, sometimes enclosed by stone walls.

**Unimproved pasture with scrub** on steeper slopes.

**Scattered farmsteads** of sandstone, quarried from the local area.

**Villages of Thurlstone and Millhouse Green** on the character area border with the valley of the River Don, both with links to the former fulling mills along the river.

**Windfarm** at Spicer Hill is visually prominent on the skyline.

**Single lane rural roads** criss-cross the open countryside, bounded by stone walls.

**Disused industrial quarries, shafts and mines** indicate the importance of the area for the extraction of coal and stone.

**Man made reservoirs** at Broadstone, Ingbirchworth, Royd Moor and Scout Dike.

**Panoramic views** over adjacent river valleys and towards the open moorland of the Peak District National Park.

### Location and Boundaries

The landscape character area classified as *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland*, is a large area of upland hill country in the north-west of the Borough. The western boundary of the area is clearly defined by a transition to the open moorland of character area *A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland*. The eastern boundary forms a less clear transition into area *E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland*. The rolling wooded landscape of E1 gradually flattens out and becomes more open, with less woodland, until it becomes more characteristic of *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland*. Features that lie in this area of transition, such as field boundaries and a railway line, have been used to define this boundary. The southern boundary is clearly defined by the valley of the River Don and the northern boundary of the area is dictated by the administrative boundary of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough.



## Description

The complex beds of the Lower Coal Measures, comprising bedded sandstones, shales and mudstones with intermittent coal seams, form the underlying solid geology of the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland. This has given rise to differential weathering of the seams and a characteristic stepped landform with a series of platforms exhibiting scarp and dip slopes, some 300-400m above sea level. The valley of the River Don bounds the area to the south, separating it from landscape character area *F2 Penistone Upland Farmland*.

This is an area of upland hill country, its network of intact gritstone walls providing a strong and distinctive, geometric field pattern. Field size varies corresponding to elevation with the older, smaller fields located in the lower and more sheltered areas and the larger, later enclosure fields over the higher ground. Some of the largest fields occur on Ingbirchworth Moor alongside 'The Whams', a marshy area of unimproved upland grassland. A large wind farm, built in 1993, is another feature of this area. Its graceful turbines are visible from many miles around, including from some elevated areas in the far extremes of Barnsley Borough 23 kilometres to the east, providing a prominent landmark in this large-scale landscape.

Woodland cover is relatively low, although ribbons of deciduous woodland thrive in the shelter of the incised valleys of the streams that drain south into the River Don. These becks, brooks and dikes drain the hills and have been artificially dammed in the 20th century to produce large reservoirs that sit surprisingly comfortably within the rural landscape. Stands of beech and sycamore are common features of the upland landscape, standing silhouetted against the skyline.

This hill country is a good example of the established pattern of farming, in which stone-walled fields, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, together with valley woodlands, form a landscape of natural beauty. Sheep have been a familiar feature of the landscape for many centuries and it has strong links to the wool industry. The villages of Thurlstone and Millhouse Green, located on the edge of the border with the valley of the River Don, are rural settlements linked to the fulling mills on the Don. Traditional long wool weavers' windows on the upper floors of cottages can still be seen in Thurlstone. Ingbirchworth is a more recent rural village settlement, located by the side of the Ingbirchworth reservoir.

Most of the farmland is now improved grassland, but remaining unimproved areas on the steeper or more elevated slopes, and damp pastures alongside dikes and springs, are valuable for nature conservation. Straight rural lanes, bounded by stone walls, cut across the hills linking adjacent farms. The A616 cuts across the area, at the foot of Whitley Edge, and is a busy route through the upland landscape. A large clay works sits, well enclosed by landform, by the side of the A616. Other past industrial activities are indicated by the presence of disused mines.

Views are panoramic, stretching over the valley of the River Don to the south and into Denby Dale to the north. The wind farm at Royd Moor is a prominent feature in views.

## Forces for Change

**Decline in intactness of stone walls** resulting in decline in distinctive field pattern and strength of character.

**Conversion of rural stone barns** to other uses, including residential dwellings.

**Pressure for new built development** around the villages of Millhouse Green and Thurlstone.

**Declining tree cover** as a result of over maturing of existing stock and limited planting or natural regeneration.

**Replacement of traditional stone gate posts** with metal or wooden equivalents.

**Introduction of large scale agricultural buildings** of modern materials that stand out in the landscape.

## Landscape Evaluation

### Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

### Strength of Character

Landscape character area *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland* is a good example of the *Upland Rolling Farmland* landscape type as a result of its distinctive stepped topography, intact network of stone walls, rural upland character and panoramic views. The presence of these characteristics ensure that the overall strength of character is considered to be **strong**.

### Condition

Although this area is an extensive tract of intact farmland, the condition of some of the individual features is in decline. For example, many of the stone walls are beginning to erode and replacement or natural regeneration of trees is low. Some vernacular stone buildings are in a state of dereliction. Overall landscape condition may be described as **moderate**.

### Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

Although this is an exposed upland area, the incised valleys of the dikes that drain into the Don provide some visual enclosure. Beech plantations also provide some visual enclosure. However, the rural character of the area, and its low density settlement pattern and

distinctive field patterns, make this landscape particularly sensitive to built development. The presence of a number of Natural Heritage Sites increase sensitivity to change. The area is highly visible from the Peak District National Park and this further increases its sensitivity to change.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.

### Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve and restore** the landscape of *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	<b>CONSERVE &amp; RESTORE</b>
	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

The overall landscape strategy objective should be to **conserve** the intact nature of the agricultural landscape and **restore** features in decline.

**Conserve the network of stone walls** that are strong features of the landscape and promote the restoration and re-building of declining stone walls.

**Conserve the rural stone buildings and barns** as features of the landscape, restoring these in favour of building new properties.

**Maintain the low density development pattern** of rural farmsteads and hamlets.

**Ensure that any new development is well placed within areas sheltered by landform and trees.**

**Consider a tree planting strategy to enhance tree cover** and provide shelter for wildlife, encouraging natural regeneration of trees where possible.

**Conserve stands of beech** on the skyline as features of the landscape.

**Conserve traditional stone gate posts** as features of the agricultural landscape and consider replacement of those that have been lost.

**Care should be taken in introducing new agricultural buildings** into the landscape - attention to scale, materials and colour will be crucial to their successful integration.

**Consider opportunities to develop the network of footpaths** for recreation, and to study and interpret the wildlife habitats through nature trails and interpretative centres.

**Consider opportunities to interpret and explain the area's rich history** in the form of heritage trails, together with a programme of identifying and restoring significant local landmarks and historic artefacts including stone walls.

**Consider new opportunities for farmers to diversify into recreation and other land uses.**

## F1: INGBIRCHWORTH UPLAND FARMLAND



## F2: PENISTONE UPLAND FARMLAND

### Landscape Character

#### Key Characteristics

**Stepped landform** rising to 364m at Hartcliffe Hill.

**Fields of pasture** comprising small to medium geometric field units strongly defined by distinctive **stone walls**.

**Linear or circular beech plantations** stand out on the skyline, sometimes enclosed by stone walls.

**Unimproved pasture with scrub** on steeper slopes.

**Scattered farmsteads** of local light coloured stone.

**Penistone** is the largest settlement in the area, lying on the edge of the Don Valley.

**Isolated trees** form silhouettes against the skyline.

**Pylons and power lines** are visually prominent on the skyline.

**Single lane rural roads** criss-cross the open countryside, bounded by stone walls.

**Disused industrial quarries, shafts and mines** indicate the historical importance of the area for the extraction of coal and stone.

**Panoramic views** over adjacent river valleys and towards the open moorland of the Peak District National Park.

#### Location and Boundaries

The landscape character area classified as *F2 Penistone Upland Farmland*, is a large upland area in the south-west of the Borough. The western boundary of the area is defined by the open moorland of character area *A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland*. The northern and eastern boundaries of the area are clearly defined by the valley of the River Don (*B1 Upland Don River Valley*) and the southern boundary by the administrative boundary of Barnsley Borough.

#### Description

The underlying solid geology of the *Penistone Upland Farmland* is formed by the complex beds of the Lower Coal Measures, comprising bedded sandstones, shales and mudstones with intermittent coal seams. This has given rise to differential weathering of the beds and a characteristic undulating landform, some 300m above sea level. The valley of the River Don bounds the area to the north and east and the valley of the Little Don River bounds the area to the south.

This discrete area has a distinctly upland character, enhanced by its proximity to, and views across, unenclosed moorland. The network of intact stone walls is a dominant and unifying feature of the landscape, resulting in an extremely strong, and distinctive, geometric field

pattern. Some of these field divisions relate to early Tudor enclosure of small walled fields, perhaps most notably at Oxspring where long narrow fields form a striking pattern on the landscape. Other distinctive field patterns arise as a result of the circular boundaries of sheep pens.

Woodland cover is relatively low, although ribbons of deciduous woodland thrive in the shelter of the incised valleys of the dikes that drain into the River Don. There are also some large deciduous woodlands in the shelter of the slopes that descend into the valley of the Little Don River. Beech trees are a feature of the area, either growing in a stunted form on the steeper, ungrazed slopes, or as isolated stands silhouetted on the skyline. Often stone walls bound these stands. Power lines and pylons are also prominent elements of the skyline.

This is a rural agricultural landscape. The land remains almost entirely grazed pasture and is famous for its former wool industry and the 'Penistone' wool. Remaining unimproved areas on the steeper or more elevated slopes, and damp pastures alongside dikes and springs, are valuable for nature conservation.

The area has a tamed character, but retains a sense of remoteness. The only built elements are the stone farmsteads and agricultural barns that are scattered at low density throughout the area, although Penistone, located on the edge of the Don Valley, is a notable centre of population. Straight rural lanes, bounded by stone walls, cut across the hills, linking adjacent farms. The tranquillity and stillness of the area is disturbed in the vicinity of the A628, a busy freight route between Barnsley and Manchester. The presence of disused quarries and shafts indicate the former piecemeal mining activities in the area.

Views are panoramic, stretching over the valley of the River Don to the north and over the valley of the Little Don River to the adjacent open moorland the south. The wind farm at Spicer Hill (in the adjacent *F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland* character area) is a prominent feature in views.

## Forces for change

**Decline in intactness of stone walls** resulting in decline in distinctive field pattern and strength of character.

**Conversion of rural stone barns** to other uses, including residential dwellings.

**Pressure for new built development** around Penistone.

**Declining tree cover** as a result of over maturing of existing stock and limited replacement through planting or natural regeneration.

**Replacement of traditional stone gate posts** with metal or wooden equivalents.

**Introduction of large scale agricultural buildings** of modern materials that stand out in the landscape.

# Landscape Evaluation

## Landscape Strategy

Landscape strategy objectives are determined by the combined assessment of both strength of landscape character and landscape condition.

## Strength of Character

*F2 Penistone Upland Farmland* is a good example of the *Upland Farmland* landscape type as a result of its strong topography, intact network of stone walls, rural upland character and panoramic views. The presence of these characteristics ensure that the overall strength of character is considered to be **strong**.

## Condition

Although this area is an extensive tract of intact farmland, the condition of some of the individual features is in decline. For example, many of the stone walls are beginning to erode and natural regeneration of trees is low. Some vernacular stone buildings are in a state of dereliction. Overall landscape condition may be described as **moderate**.

## Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

Although this is an exposed upland area, some visual enclosure is provided by the incised valleys of the dikes that drain into the Don and Little Don. Beech plantations also provide some visual enclosure. However, the rural character of the area, and its low density settlement pattern and distinctive field patterns, make this landscape particularly sensitive to built development. The presence of Regionally Important Geographic Sites, such as Bullhouse Quarry, increase sensitivity to change. The area is highly visible from the Peak District National Park and this further increases its sensitivity to change.

In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be **high** and landscape capacity is considered to be **low**.



### Landscape Strategy Objectives

Based on the evaluation of strength of character and condition, the strategy objective should be to **conserve and restore** the landscape of *F2 Penistone Upland Farmland* as shown in the table below.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	<b>MODERATE</b>	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	<b>CONSERVE &amp; RESTORE</b>
	Poor	Creation	Restore & enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	<b>STRONG</b>
		Strength of Character		

## Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

The overall landscape strategy objective should be to **conserve** the intact nature of the agricultural landscape and **restore** features in decline.

**Conserve the network of stone walls** that are strong features of the landscape and promote the restoration and re-building of declining stone walls.

**Conserve the rural stone buildings and barns** as features of the landscape, restoring these in favour of building new properties.

**Maintain the low density development pattern** of rural farmsteads and hamlets.

**Ensure any new development is well placed within areas screened by landform and trees.**

**Consider a tree planting strategy to enhance tree cover** and provide shelter for wildlife, encouraging natural regeneration of trees where possible.

**Conserve stands of beech** on the skyline as features of the landscape.

**Conserve traditional stone gate posts** as features of the agricultural landscape and consider replacement of those that have been lost.

**Care should be taken in introducing new agricultural buildings** into the landscape - attention to scale, materials and colour will be crucial to their successful integration.

**Consider opportunities to develop the network of footpaths** for recreation, and to study and interpret the wildlife habitats through nature trails and interpretative centres.

**Consider opportunities to interpret and explain the area's rich history** in the form of heritage trails, together with a programme of identifying and restoring significant local landmarks and historic artefacts including stone walls.

**Consider new opportunities for farmers to diversify into recreation and other land uses.**

## F2: PENISTONE UPLAND FARMLAND



## **4 Overview and Conclusions**

### **4.1 The Landscape of Barnsley Borough**

- 4.1.1 The landscape of Barnsley Borough is diverse, reflecting the complex interaction of physical and human influences over time. The underlying geology has strongly influenced elevation, topography, hydrology, ecology and human use, which has led to a great contrast in landscapes ranging from the higher undeveloped moorland in the west, to the lower developed and industrialised farmland and river valleys in the east. Extraction of coal from the Middle Coal Measures has had a particular influence on the appearance of today's landscape in the eastern half of the Borough, having led to extensive development in the forms of mines, industry and housing, and associated infrastructure, that surround pockets and areas of largely intact countryside. The western half of the Borough, broadly speaking to the west of the M1 motorway that crosses the Borough from north to south, is more rural and less developed.
- 4.1.2 The landscape has been classified into 6 character types that have broadly similar landscape patterns: Unenclosed Moorland, Upland River Valleys, Lowland River Floors, Settled Arable Slopes, Settled Wooded Farmland and Upland Farmland. These character types have been subdivided into 17 unique character areas, each with a specific geographic location.
- 4.1.3 The landscape character assessment and evaluation has identified that certain landscape character areas have greater potential for accommodating development without significant adverse effects on landscape character than others. The majority of these areas lie in the more developed land east of the M1.
- 4.1.4 This study of the landscape character of Barnsley Borough is one of a series of studies that will inform the latest review of the Unitary Development Plan. Landscape is only one of several topics to be addressed. Other studies include the Barnsley Settlement and Site Assessment (Babtie Group, 2002), that assesses settlements and employment sites in terms of their ability to accommodate sustainable growth.

### **4.2 Practical Applications of this Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough**

- 4.2.1 Current guidance (Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002) gives the following as the main applications of landscape character assessment. Some of these have already been applied to Barnsley Borough during this study, but could be developed even further as part of more detailed studies to:

#### **Planning**

- inform Unitary Development Plan policies;
- inform development control to direct decisions on planning applications;
- further or more detailed studies to identify areas or sites for new development;
- inform the detailed siting, spacing, and design conditions for particular types of development such as housing, industry, minerals and wind energy;
- contribute to further landscape capacity studies relating to the supply of land for housing, industry, minerals, renewable energy or other land uses;

- provide an input into Environmental Impact Assessment, both at the level of plans and policies, and at the level of individual development proposals.

### **Landscape conservation, management and enhancement**

- provide a basis for preparation of landscape management strategies;
- inform work on special areas, including identification of areas for designation, mapping of boundaries, justifications for special application of policies, justification for special treatment by designation, and input into management plans and other management initiatives. This landscape character assessment could, for example, be used as the starting point for a review of the 'Area of Borough Landscape Value'.
- help to guide land use change in positive and sustainable ways, for example programmes of woodland expansion (e.g. within the South Yorkshire Forest), and new uses for disturbed and degraded land;
- inform and target agri-environment schemes; and
- contribute to wider environmental initiatives such as Local Agenda 21, Biodiversity Action Plans and State of the Environment Reports.

## **Appendix A: Field Survey Forms**

# Landscape Assessment of Barnsley Borough (1:25,000)

Field Survey Sheet

Survey ref No.

Date

Draft Landscape Type

Draft LCA

final appraisal (to be determined on completion of field and desk survey)

Final Landscape Type

Final LCA

## 1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Key words describing the landscape

### 1.1 PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Geology	<i>Drift</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> alluvium	<input type="checkbox"/> sand & gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> boulder clay	<input type="checkbox"/> peat
	<i>Solid</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> middle coal measures	<input type="checkbox"/> lower coal measures	<input type="checkbox"/> millstone grit	
Landform shape type	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> rolling hills	<input type="checkbox"/> undulating mountains	<input type="checkbox"/> upland	
	<input type="checkbox"/> plain	<input type="checkbox"/> narrow valley	<input type="checkbox"/> basin	<input type="checkbox"/> lowland	
	<input type="checkbox"/> broad valley	<input type="checkbox"/> steep slopes	<input type="checkbox"/> ridge	<input type="checkbox"/> plateau	
	<input type="checkbox"/> valley floor				
Elevation	<input type="checkbox"/> upland	<input type="checkbox"/> transition	<input type="checkbox"/> lowland		
Landform composition	<input type="checkbox"/> complex	<input type="checkbox"/> varied	<input type="checkbox"/> simple		
<i>comments</i>					
Skyline	<input type="checkbox"/> developed				
<i>tick most representative position between extremes</i>	↓				
	<input type="checkbox"/> undeveloped				

### 1.2 ECOLOGY / BIODIVERSITY

Habitats

Diversity

Designations

**1.3 LAND/VEGETATION COVER** indicate relative %

<input type="checkbox"/>	built up	<input type="checkbox"/>	amenity grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	small farm woods	<input type="checkbox"/>	heathland
<input type="checkbox"/>	arable	<input type="checkbox"/>	conif plantation	<input type="checkbox"/>	shelterbelts	<input type="checkbox"/>	scrub
<input type="checkbox"/>	perm pasture	<input type="checkbox"/>	christmas trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	copses/clumps	<input type="checkbox"/>	wetland
<input type="checkbox"/>	pasture	<input type="checkbox"/>	decid wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	woodland belt	<input type="checkbox"/>	gardens
<input type="checkbox"/>	ley/improved	<input type="checkbox"/>	mixed wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	hanging wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	common
<input type="checkbox"/>	rough grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>	parkland	<input type="checkbox"/>	scattered trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	paddocks
<input type="checkbox"/>	wet meadow	<input type="checkbox"/>	avenues	<input type="checkbox"/>	hedgerow trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	set-aside	<input type="checkbox"/>	orchards	<input type="checkbox"/>	hedgerows	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**1.4 LAND USE**

<input type="checkbox"/>	farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	forestry/wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	historic parkland	<input type="checkbox"/>	recently reclaimed	<input type="checkbox"/>	natural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	leisure/recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	mineral working	<input type="checkbox"/>	military	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**1.5 LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS**

Characteristic elements subtle <i>one tick</i> evident <i>two ticks</i> conspicuous <i>three ticks</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Masts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reservoir
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lake
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	Power lines	<input type="checkbox"/>	River
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wind farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canal
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridleway	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stone walls	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Woods
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Plantations
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Field patterns	<input type="checkbox"/>	banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	fence - rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	geometric	<input type="checkbox"/>	small
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ditches	<input type="checkbox"/>	fence - 'urban'	<input type="checkbox"/>	sinuous	<input type="checkbox"/>	medium
	<input type="checkbox"/>	walls - rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	hedge	<input type="checkbox"/>	irregular	<input type="checkbox"/>	large
	<input type="checkbox"/>	walls - 'urban'	<input type="checkbox"/>	hedgerow trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	regular	<input type="checkbox"/>	no apparent enclosure
Built/settlement character	<input type="checkbox"/>	dwellings	<input type="checkbox"/>	stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	weatherboard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	hamlets	<input type="checkbox"/>	brick-traditional	<input type="checkbox"/>	slate	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	villages	<input type="checkbox"/>	brick-modern	<input type="checkbox"/>	tile	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	towns	<input type="checkbox"/>	timber frame	<input type="checkbox"/>	thatch	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes on built/settlement character

Key visible historic components	
Period of predominant character	
Archaeology	
Industrial archaeology	

**1.6 PERCEPTION**

VIEWES	<input type="checkbox"/>	distant	<input type="checkbox"/>	framed	<input type="checkbox"/>	intermittent	<input type="checkbox"/>	panoramic
SCALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	intimate	<input type="checkbox"/>	small	<input type="checkbox"/>	medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	large
ENCLOSURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	confined	<input type="checkbox"/>	enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>	semi-enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>	open
VARIETY	<input type="checkbox"/>	complex	<input type="checkbox"/>	varied	<input type="checkbox"/>	simple	<input type="checkbox"/>	uniform
TEXTURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	smooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	textured	<input type="checkbox"/>	rough	<input type="checkbox"/>	very rough
COLOUR	<input type="checkbox"/>	monochrome	<input type="checkbox"/>	muted	<input type="checkbox"/>	colourful	<input type="checkbox"/>	garish
UNITY	<input type="checkbox"/>	unified	<input type="checkbox"/>	interrupted	<input type="checkbox"/>	fragmented	<input type="checkbox"/>	chaotic
NATURALNESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	undisturbed	<input type="checkbox"/>	restrained	<input type="checkbox"/>	tamed	<input type="checkbox"/>	disturbed
MOVEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	dead	<input type="checkbox"/>	still	<input type="checkbox"/>	calm	<input type="checkbox"/>	busy



## **1.7 DESCRIPTION, KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

## **1.8 FORCES FOR CHANGE**

What changes have taken place, or are taking place, and have they had a +ve or -ve effect?

## **NOTES ON OTHER AREAS/FEATURES WITHIN DRAFT CHARACTER AREA**

## 2. EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 LANDSCAPE QUALITY

**Landscape Character**       weak       moderate       strong

Comment on distinctiveness of landscape character elements and features

*also to do with lack of incongruous features*

**Landscape Condition and Intactness**       poor       moderate       good

*comments*

**Landscape Quality** (circle in appropriate box)

<b>condition</b>	poor	medium	high	v. high
	moder	low	medium	high
	good	v. low	low	medium
		weak	moderate	strong
		<b>character</b>		

comments

### 2.2 VISUAL SENSITIVITY

**Visual enclosure**       confined       enclosed       semi-open       open

*comments, what is this influenced by ...*

#### **Intervisibility**

If development were to occur would it have an adverse effect on adjacent character areas or areas outside the Borough?

### 2.3 MAKING A JUDGEMENT ABOUT POTENTIAL

Sensitivity - degree to which LCA can accommodate development without unacceptable effects on character

**Landscape Sensitivity**       high       medium       low

*comments*

Capacity - amount of development the LCA can accommodate without adverse affects on its character. Consider the physical landscape, landscape elements and landscape character.

**Landscape Capacity**       none       low       medium       high

*comments*

**Location of areas with potential for development**

Are there areas of the LCA where development should be avoided? Where and why?

Are there areas that might have potential for development and are worthy of more detailed search? Where and why? (These areas should be assessed using sections 5 - 7)

**3. LANDSCAPE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES**

(circle in appropriate box)

<b>condition</b>	good	Strengthen	Conserve & strengthen	Conserve
	mod	Strengthen & recreate	Conserve & improve	Conserve & restore
	poor	Create	Restore & improve	Restore
		weak	moderate	strong

**character**

comments

## 4. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

List landscape management objectives and strategies

agriculture

field patterns/boundaries

trees and woodland

archaeology/historic components

buildings/settlements/development

linear features

quarrying/mineral reclamation

other land uses

**General notes on management**

## Appendix B: References

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## Appendix C: Comparison of the English Countryside Character Areas and Barnsley Borough Character Areas

National Countryside Character Areas (1:250,000)	Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Areas (1:25,000)
No 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe	A2 Wharcliffe Unenclosed Moorland B1(West)Upland Don River Valley B2 Wooded Don River Valley F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland F2 Penistone Upland Farmland
No 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield	B1(East) Upland Don River Valley C1 Elsecar Lowland River Floor C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor C3 Upper Dearne Lowland River Floor C4 Dove Lowland River Floor D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes D3 West Dearne Settled Arable Slopes E1 West Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland E2 Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland E3 Grimethorpe Settled Wooded Farmland E4 Hoyland Settled Wooded Farmland
No 51: Dark Peak	A1 Thurlstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland

**Notes:**

The boundaries of character areas at national and local level do not exactly correspond due to the difference in the scales of each assessment. Each Barnsley Landscape Character Area is classified under the National Character Area in which most of it occurs.

Countryside Character Area No 30, Southern Magnesium Limestone is classified by the Countryside Agency as lying in the extreme east of the Borough. However, magnesium limestone does not actually fall within the Borough, so this character area is not included in the above table.

## Appendix D: Glossary

Analysis (Landscape)	The process of breaking the landscape down into its component parts to understand how it is made up.
Assessment	An umbrella term for description, classification, analysis and evaluation.
Biodiversity Action Plan	The UK government's plan for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, published in 1994.
Broad habitat	One of a framework of simple habitat categories covering the whole land surface of the UK.
Classification	A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria but without attaching relative values to different sorts of landscape.
Character area	A tract of land, where common physical, historical and ecological associations impart a sense of unity to the landscape.
Element	A component part of the landscape (e.g. roads, hedges).
Enhancement	Landscape improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.
Evaluation	The process of weighing up and attaching value to a landscape - used synonymously with 'Appraisal'.
Feature	A prominent, eye-catching element (eg light house, rocks protruding above sea surface, wooded hill top,).
Habitat Action Plan	A document which describes the current status of a priority habitat, sets objectives for the management, restoration and creation of the habitat and actions necessary to achieve them.
Heritage	Historic or cultural associations for which landscapes are valued.
Land use	The primary use of the land, including both rural and urban activities.
Landcover	Combinations of land use and vegetation, that cover the land surface.
Landform	Combinations of slope and elevation, that produce the shape and form of the land.
Landscape	Human perception of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
Landscape capacity	The amount of change on a particular type of landscape that the landscape can accept without adverse effects on its character or quality.
Landscape character	A distinct pattern or combination of elements that occurs consistently in parts of the landscape.
Landscape evaluation	The process of attaching value (non-monetary) to a particular landscape, usually by reference to an agreed set of criteria, including consultation and third party documents, in the context of the assessment.



Landscape feature	A prominent eye-catching element, e.g. wooded hill top or church spire.
Landscape effects	Change in the fabric, character and qualities of the landscape as a result of development. These can be positive or negative.
Landscape quality	Term used to indicate the state of repair or condition of landscape elements, the integrity and intactness of the landscape, and the extent to which its distinctive character is apparent in a particular area.
Landscape qualities	Term used to indicate intrinsic aesthetic characteristics of the landscape.
Landscape resource	The combination of elements that contributes to landscape context, character and value.
Landscape sensitivity	A function of landscape susceptibility and value all importance ascribed to the landscape.
Landscape type	A tract of countryside where particular combinations of landform and land cover elements impart a sense of unity and consistence to the landscape character.
Methodology	The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.
Mitigation	Measures, including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse landscape and visual effects of a development project.
Perception	The psychology of seeing and attaching value and meaning to landscape.
Priority Habitat	A habitat targeted for action through a habitat action plan.
Priority Species	Species targeted for action through species action plans.
Scoping	The process of identifying the potentially significant impacts of a development.
Species Action Plan	A plan that sets objectives, for the maintenance or enhancement of species and the actions necessary to achieve them.
Visual Effect	Change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This can be positive (i.e. beneficial or an improvement) or negative (i.e. adverse or a detraction).
Visual Intrusion	Degree to which a development intrudes upon the field of view by nature of its size, colour or form.

## **Appendix E: The Project Brief**



















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