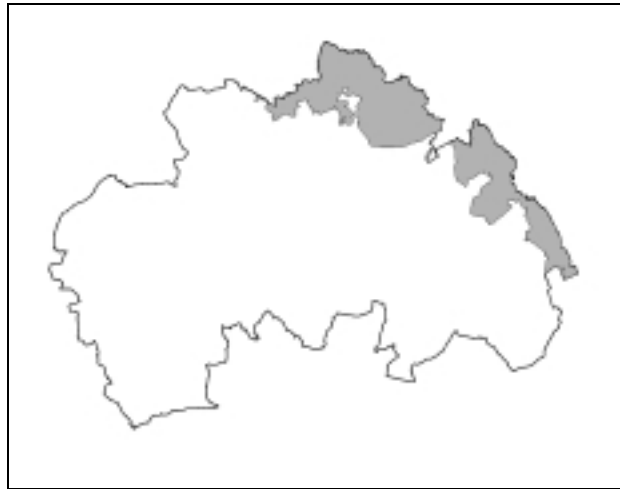


4. Coast and Coastal Hinterland

■ Coast and Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Areas	Location
(4a) Boulby - Whitby	
(4b) Whitby – Cloughton	

4. Coast and Coastal Hinterland



■ Key Characteristics: Landscape Type

- Undulating or rolling coastal and coastal hinterland underlain by Deltaic sandstones and mudstones with soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstones in deeper valleys and on more low lying parts of coast, overlain by deposits of boulder clay which give rise to intensive farming. Elevated areas allow panoramic long distance views.
- Drained by a series of steeply incised and winding minor becks that flow mainly towards the coast. The deep valleys are frequently lined with deciduous woodland, much of which is ancient semi natural woodland, and contrast with the openness of the surrounding farmed landscape.
- Broad bays are interspersed with a rugged indented line of high crumbling or slumping cliffs of sandstone, shale and ironstone topped by boulder clay; the cliffs are of considerable botanical interest with habitats ranging from dry heath and bracken to scrub, woodland and wet flushes. The cliffs are home to variety of nesting seabirds and are renowned for their geological and fossiliferous exposures. Quarries and mines within the cliffs for jet, ironstone and alum add cultural interest. Wide wave cut platforms are feature of the coastline and sand or sand/shingle areas are relatively infrequent. Coastal protection measures have been necessary in a number of locations.
- Inland from the coast, the mainly arable farmland is interspersed with pasture for livestock and forestry plantations. The mostly regular fields of recent enclosure are often intensively farmed and divided by a mixture of closely trimmed hedgerows, neat stone walls of regular bedded sandstone and fences, creating a bleak and open appearance. The hedges and infrequent hedgerow trees are often stunted and wind sculpted.
- Characteristic coastal settlements and fishing villages are crowded into tight cliff foot locations or confined into narrow valleys where they meet the sea. Buildings are often three story, constructed in stone, brick or with a rendered finish, with pantile or slate roofs and houses are accessed by narrow streets or footpaths only. Modern expansion on the adjacent flatter cliff top areas is generally unsympathetic. Visitor facilities concentrated within coastal settlements.
- Inland, settlements are largely traditional, constructed in stone with pantile roofs. Farmsteads are nucleated.

- Busy main roads in elevated open locations have a significant effect.

■ Pressures for Change

Table 4A: Negative Pressures for Change				
Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change to Landscape Feature	Degree of Pressure	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character	
Land Use Changes				
Agricultural change including economic pressures on farming, farms going out of business, modernisation/intensification, changes to land tenure, farm diversification, changes in stocking rates	Decline of woodland and wood pasture (due to neglect, changes in management, grazing pressure)	High	High	
	Decline of boundary trees/hedgerow trees/individual trees/small groups of trees (due to neglect, changes in management, absence of new planting)	High	High	
	Damage to geological/geomorphological features (from agricultural operations, tree planting, recreation etc)	Medium	Medium	
	Decline in historic agricultural/settlement features (e.g. ridge and furrow, earthworks) due to agricultural intensification, tree planting, recreational pressures etc	Medium	Medium	
	Damage to archaeological features (agricultural operations, recreational pressures etc)	Medium	Medium	
	Introduction of modern farm buildings, slurry tanks, grain towers etc	Medium	High	
	Continued intensification of agricultural management especially in arable areas, leading to:			
	Decline in rough pasture/species rich and wet grasslands in favour of improved pasture	High	Medium	
	Disrepair/loss of dry stone walls	High	Medium	
	Replacement of walls and hedges with fencing	High	High	
	Decline in/neglect/loss of hedgerows	High	High	
	Decline in wildlife and plant species variety which contribute significantly to landscape character	High	High	
	Decline in/ removal of gorse scrub	High	High	
Potential for marginal farmland to revert to unmanaged state, including within the undercliff areas. leading to invasion of coarse grasses, bracken and scrub.	Low	Medium		
Coastal erosion	Changes to coastline; introduction of coastal defence measures	High	High	
Recreational Pressures				
Growth in visitor numbers	Increased traffic, parking problems, bridge and verge damage, footpath and bridleway erosion, off road vehicle/motorcycle/mountain bike damage, damage associated with other outdoor pursuits, disturbance to wildlife	High	High	
	Increasing commercialism within villages, tourist related development, holiday homes, pressures to increase extent/number of camping/caravanning sites, potential pressure for large scale development	Medium	High	
Development Pressures				
Demand for residential and holiday homes in the National Park	Pressure for small scale settlement expansion inc. infill	Medium	High	
	Cumulative effect of changes in the physical fabric of settlements, inc. conversion of redundant buildings, closure of shops and schools, introduction of tourism facilities, creeping suburbanisation and gentrification of settlements, inappropriate planting and loss of specimen trees within settlements	High	High	
Infrastructure pressures	Telecom and mobile phone masts	Medium	High	
	Single wind turbines, overhead power and telephone lines and possible future pressure for offshore windfarms	Low	High	
	Highway related changes, including road and bridge improvement, kerbing, parking controls, signage and lighting	High	High	
	Increasing traffic	High	High	
Development outside National Park boundary	Large scale developments occurring beyond the National Park boundary which can exert a visual influence e.g. major roads, telecoms masts, wind farms, transmission lines, etc	Medium	Low	
Development pressures generally	Reduction in tranquillity, solitude and wilderness	Medium	Low	
	Loss of unspoilt character and sense of historic continuity	Medium	Low	
	Loss of dark skies	Medium	Medium	

Table 4B: Positive Pressures and Opportunities		
Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Positive economic pressures inc. increasing emphasis away from subsidies for production towards subsidies to support the rural economy and the environment e.g. agri environment schemes) and consumer pressure for local production of food, organic food etc	More money available to support landscape and environmental initiatives and traditional agricultural practices, resulting in halting or reversal of decline of traditional practices, loss of habitat and landscape features.	High
Moves towards increase in native woodland cover, the reversal of fragmentation of existing woods through replanting, the creation of new woodlands and improved management of existing woodlands. Also increase in tree cover in non-wooded areas. (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Increased tree and woodland cover of scale envisaged would be a significant benefit to landscape character, restoring decline, providing design and siting of woodlands and species are sympathetic to landscape character. Indiscriminate planting could threaten landscape character	High
	Improvement in appearance of, or replacement of, smaller scale coniferous plantations. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards multi purpose forestry and more sensitive management of forested areas (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Established plantations are not being increased in size and new plantations unlikely. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards general habitat improvement and reinstatement (BAP, English Nature, DEFRA etc)	Habitat improvement, diversification and reinstatement, providing adequate funding and incentives are available, leading to improved wildlife diversity.	Medium
Abandonment of under cliff for farming	Has allowed natural vegetation communities to develop on cliffs	Medium
Involvement of community in production of village design appraisals and statements,	This may help reverse cumulative changes to settlements.	Medium
Development and tourism related pressures	Offers opportunities for the restoration of farm buildings, houses and other structures of historic significance (e.g. mining remains) that might have otherwise fallen into disrepair	Low

■ Landscape Character Areas

(4a) Boulby – Whitby

- Undulating coastal and coastal hinterland area, becoming more steeply undulating in the north, rising to over 200m close to the edge of Newton Mulgrave Moor; the area is underlain by Deltaic sandstones and mudstones with soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstones in deeper valleys and on more low lying parts of coast and overlain by deposits of boulder clay which give rise to intensive farming. The Runswick fault line runs south from Runswick Bay. Coastal areas are designated as part of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast.
- Spectacular irregular indented line of crumbling cliffs of sandstone, shale and ironstone, towering to a maximum height of 210m at Boulby Cliff, the highest sea cliff on the east coast of England. The upper cliff is composed as massive sandstones while below upper and middle Lias is exposed with the lower Lias forming the base of the cliff. The horizontal layers of strata are clearly visible with the more resistant beds forming small ledges in the cliff face.
- Elevated areas allow long distance views across the area and out to sea.
- The cliffs are of considerable botanical interest with habitats ranging from dry heath and bracken, to scrub, woodland and wet flushes. The cliffs are home to variety of nesting seabirds and are renowned for their geological and fossiliferous exposures.
- Wide wave cut platforms are feature of the coastline and sand or sand/shingle areas are relatively infrequent. Coastal protection measures have been necessary in a number of locations.
- The area is drained by a series of steeply incised and winding minor becks that flow towards the

coast, or in the north west towards the edge of the National Park. The densely wooded valleys contrast sharply with the openness of the farmed landscape. The becks frequently occur in pairs, following close and parallel courses with occasional waterfalls.

- The deep valleys are densely wooded with mainly deciduous linear woodland, much of which is ancient semi natural woodland. Extensive deciduous woodlands occur at Mulgrave, Easington and Roxby Woods.
- Inland from the coast, the mixed farmland is interspersed with pasture for livestock and occasional generally small plantations. Regular fields of recent enclosure predominate near the coast, divided by a mixture of fences or closely trimmed hedgerows, often thin, gappy and windblown with very occasional trees, creating a bleak and open appearance. In some areas field boundaries have been removed. In the south east of the area, south of the A174, fields become smaller in size and slightly less regular in shape. Around a number of settlements a pattern of historic strip fields remains. Small patches of scrub, bracken and upland heath/ bracken also occur.
- Staithes and Runswick Bay are focal points for visitors to the area; at Runswick Bay a cluster of red roofed buildings are perched one above the other at the foot of the cliffs overlooking a broad bay, whilst at Staithes the village and small fishing harbour is confined to a narrow valley and into a breach in the cliffs. Each village has extended onto the flatter land at the cliff top to include more recent development that bears little relation to the historic settlement cores.
- Villages on the A174 including Easington and Hinderwell have been extended to incorporate modern development. Elsewhere, small traditional villages constructed in stone with pantile roofs are set amongst the rolling farmland. Port Mulgrave is an unusual former mining settlement of terraced cottages sited on a cliff top.
- The busy A174 runs though the character area, frequently sited on ridgelines or in very open locations where it has a significant effect on the area. Elsewhere a network of B roads and winding minor lanes link settlements. A number of the minor roads include very steep ascents, particularly at the coast and within steeper inland areas.
- Mulgrave Castle, a Grade II* listed garden laid out in the late 18th and early 19th century occupies a 350ha site encompassing the woodland within the steep parallel valleys of Sandsend Beck and East Row Beck. The castle stands on a ridge against the backdrop of trees.
- The tall chimneys and structures of Boulby Potash Mine, the deepest mine in Britain, dominate the northern part of the character area.
- The effects of alum mining between the 17th and 19th centuries have dramatically altered headlands at Sandsend Ness, Kettleness and Saltwick Nab. Jet working has occurred along the length of the cliffs; caves known as hob holes occur where jet was dug from the cliffs, e.g. at Runswick Bay. Ironstone mining has occurred in the cliffs south east and west of Staithes.
- Recreational features include Scaling Dam with its associated sailing club and the sailing club at Runswick Bay. The Cleveland Way Walk follows the cliff line. Camping and caravan sites and car parks occur in coastal areas.
- Detractors include the mast north of Easington, Boulby Mine, modern development on the edges of historic settlements, Scaling Dam and Lockwood Beck Reservoirs and overhead utilities lines. The traffic associated with the A174 also detracts considerably from the area. The loss of field boundaries has also detracted from the area.

(4b) Whitby – Cloughton

- Rolling coastal and coastal hinterland area, rising to a height of 233m on Howdale Moor, underlain by Deltaic sandstones and mudstones with soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstones in deeper valleys and on more low lying parts of coast overlain by deposits of boulder clay which give rise to intensive farming. Coastal areas are designated as part of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast,
- In the south the area is defined mainly by the moorland edge or the edge of Harwood Dale Forest to the east, the moorland overshadowing the area and creating pinch points to the east of Robin Hoods Bay and at Stoupe Brow, where it extends to within 500m of the coast.
- Elevated areas allow long distance views across the area and out to sea.
- Spectacular and rugged crumbling cliffs of sandstone, shale, limestone and ironstone, towering to a maximum height of 150m at Ravenscar, have been affected by collapses on a large scale, which in places has resulted in a broad undercliff resting on the harder rocks below.
- Wide wave cut platforms are feature of the coastline and sand or sand/shingle areas are relatively infrequent. The cliffs and foreshore at Robin Hoods Bay expose Redcar mudstone, the beds of which sweep round the bay in a broad arc. Coastal protection measures are necessary in a number of locations.
- The cliffs are of considerable botanical interest with habitats ranging from dry heath and bracken, to scrub, woodland and wet flushes. Herb rich grassland covers the open crags. The cliffs are home to variety of nesting seabirds including Fulmar, Herring Gull, Kittiwake and Cormorant and are renowned for their geological and fossiliferous exposures.
- The areas is drained by a series of steeply incised and winding minor becks which flow towards the coast, or in the north towards the River Esk. Waterfalls occur along the becks and sometimes where the becks meet the sea, e.g. at Hayburn Wyke. The steep valley sides are frequently lined with deciduous woodland, much of which is ancient semi natural woodland.
- Inland from the coast, mixed arable and pasture farmland (for cattle, sheep and horses) is interspersed by plantations, shelterbelts and mainly Victorian farmhouses, marked by groups of trees. Close to the character area's inland edge, a number of medium sized mixed and coniferous plantations have been established, e.g. Haxby Plantation at Sneaton and on the side of Cloughton Moor. Small areas of scrub and upland moor/bracken mosaic occur.
- Regular fields of recent enclosure are divided by a mixture of closely trimmed hedgerows, neat stone walls of regular bedded sandstone and fences, with occasional trees, often stunted and wind blown, creating a bleak and open appearance. Elsewhere, the wooded valleys and settlements are flanked by small and irregular fields and a higher proportion of mature hedgerows that lend a sense of time depth to the area. A distinctive pattern of strip fields occurs to the north of Robin Hoods Bay.
- Robin Hoods Bay is a focal point for visitors to the area; the cluster of red roofed buildings perched one above the other, with a labyrinth of passageways and steps are crowded into a breach in the cliffs. The upper parts of the village has a mixture of red brick Victorian houses and more recent development.
- At Raven Hall, the remains of an early speculative venture to promote the area as a seaside resort has resulted in a pattern of streets and a few houses which surround a square within the open cliff top location. A cliff top hotel is a prominent feature here.
- The busy A171 crosses part of the character area, frequently in an elevated and open location and has a significant intrusive effect on the area. Elsewhere a network of B roads and winding minor lanes link settlements.
- A disused railway between Scarborough and Whitby, now a cycle track, runs close to the coast

and the Cleveland Way follows the cliff top. Camping and caravan sites, car parks and equestrian centres are numerous.

- Old brickworks, jet and alum quarries within the cliffs, now partly concealed by vegetation, add cultural interest to the area, including the remains of the Peak Alum Works at Ravenscar.
- Ancient remains include Bronze Age barrows and cairns, often in large clusters, and Iron Age cross ridge dykes.
- Detractors include masts south of Whitby and at Ravenscar, the traffic associated with the A171, the overhead electric line supported on pylons to the north of Sneaton, scattered modern suburban style development and prominently sited caravan sites. The loss of field boundaries has also detracted from the area.