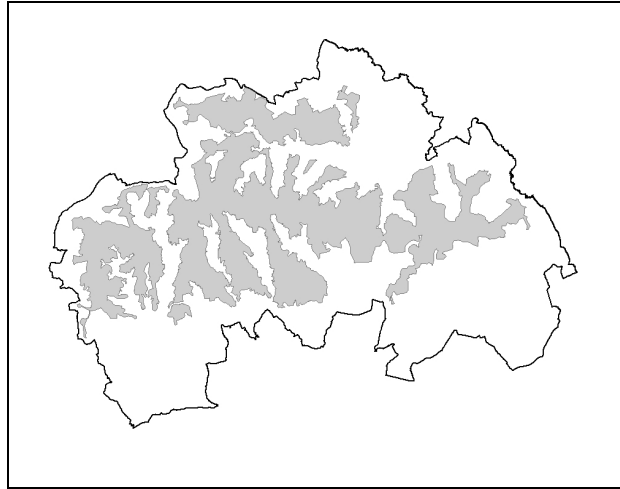


1. Moorland

■ Moorland Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Areas	Location
(1a) Western Moors	
(1b) Central & Eastern Moors	
(1c) Northern Moors	

1. Moorland



■ Key Characteristics: Landscape Type

- Elevated open expansive upland, forming a gently undulating plateau with local variations in topographic form, generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills.
- The moors drop off steeply into a series of well defined moorland dales whose intimate character is in stark contrast to the simplicity of the moorland landscape. In places glacial meltwater channels have cut deep narrow gorges across the moors.
- Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across lower lying areas and into the dales. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature.
- Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter, much of it managed for grouse shooting, which results in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts. Some moorland is managed for sheep grazing and small areas are unmanaged. Other habitats on the moor tops include small areas of upland heath/grass mosaic, heather/blanket peat grassland mosaic, rough grassland and peat bog.
- Moorland valleys, often steeply incised, provide relief and variety from the expanses of heather moorland with occasional bog and flush communities. The predominant vegetation cover within the valleys is bracken or bracken/upland heath mosaics. Scattered tree cover or small woodlands creates a localised enclosure.
- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges intermixed with upland heath and bracken mosaics and small areas of scrub, rough grassland and upland heath/grassland mosaics.

- Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and within moorland valleys and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. Occasional small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes.
- The moorland, mostly grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.
- Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds.
- The moors are rich in historic features, including ancient crosses, guide stones and boundary markers that form characteristic landmarks. Lines of small round barrows follow the ridgelines of the moors and are visible as skyline features. Pannier tracks cross the moors in places.
- The remains of small scale quarries, historic collieries and jet and alum workings and their associated spoil tips are visible on moorland edges, on the dale sides and in the dale head areas.
- Crossed by few roads, the moors are relatively inaccessible; creating a strong sense of remoteness and isolation. Lines of grouse butts cross the landscape in places.
- The noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present.

■ Pressures for Change

Table 1A: 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, changes in stocking rates and abandonment of grazing	Decline of woodland/ individual trees/small groups of trees on upland fringes and in gills (due to neglect, changes in management, absence of new planting)	High	Medium
	Damage to geological/geomorphological features e.g. outcrops, clifflines, boulder fields etc (from agricultural operations, tree planting, recreation etc)	Low	Low
	Damage to historic/archaeological features (agricultural operations, recreational pressures etc)	Medium	Medium
	Subdivision of open moor tops by wire fencing.	High	Medium/high
	Scrub encroachment in areas where no moorland management taking place	Medium	Medium
	Potential for marginal moorland farms to go out of business.	High	High
Recreational Pressures			
Growth in visitor numbers	Increased traffic, parking problems, bridge and verge damage, off road vehicle/motorcycle/mountain bike damage, damage associated with other outdoor pursuits, disturbance to wildlife	High	High
	Surfacing of moorland tracks and creation of new tracks	Medium	Medium
	Footpath and bridleway erosion, large scale sponsored events, increased access to open upland areas	Medium	Medium
Development Pressures			
Infrastructure pressures	Telecom and mobile phone masts	Med	High
	Single wind turbines, overhead power and telephone lines	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	Reduction in tranquillity, solitude and wilderness	Low	High
	Loss of unspoilt character and sense of historic continuity	Low	High

generally	Loss of dark skies	Low	High
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Table 1B: 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)	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 in the appropriate locations 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	Medium
	Improvement in appearance of, or replacement of, smaller scale coniferous plantations. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	Medium
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.	High

■ Landscape Character Areas

(1a) Western Moors

- Elevated open expansive upland, part of the Cleveland and Hambleton Hills, forming a gently undulating plateau sloping gradually towards Ryedale and the western edge of the moors and more steeply towards the north and into Bilsdale to the east.
- Generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills mainly flowing into Ryedale and towards the western fringes of the moors.
- The contrasting landform of the flat topped, steep sided plateau of Arden Great Moor (400m on Black Hambleton), underlain by Corallian limestones and sandstones, rises as a steep escarpment above the general level of Osmotherley Moor.
- Outcropping rocks, weathered into strange shapes, create a surreal moorland landmark (the Wain Stones) on Hasty Moor. Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across the lower lying areas to the west and into the central dales. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature.
- Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SSSI, SPA and Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and managed for grouse shooting, resulting in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts.

- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges. Smaller areas of heather exist in mosaic with grassland/blanket peat grassland. The white flowers of areas of cotton grass punctuate the landscape in summer. Broughton Bank is locally important for its Jurassic flora.
- Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. A small area of ancient woodland is present at Locker Wood. Occasional small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes.
- The moorland, grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.
- Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds.
- Lines of small round barrows follow the ridge lines of the Hambleton and Cleveland Hills and are visible as skyline features; dykes (ancient boundary earthworks) are also present on the western edge of Arden Great Moor. The remains of an ancient cross are visible below Hambleton End.
- Extensive alum quarries and their associated spoil tips are visible on the northern side of Carlton Bank; further alum quarries occur at Thimbleby.
- Drifts of jet are present on the northern sides of the moors visible as V-shaped gashes in moorland slopes, with small shale tips uncolonised by grass or bracken, some a distinctive red colour as a result of firing.
- Crossed by few roads, the moors are relatively inaccessible; the tops of Arden Great Moor are only accessible on foot, creating a strong sense of remoteness and isolation. Lines of grouse butts cross the landscape in places. The Cleveland Way runs along the western edge of the character area.
- The noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present in the area.
- Detractors include the mast on Bilsdale West Moor and the scars created by the shooting tracks and quarries of the moorland edges.

(1b) Central & Eastern Moors

- Open moorland, the central moors forming part of the Cleveland Hills, rising to a high point of 433m at Stony Ridge on Stockdale Moor and 402m at Cock Heads on Glaisdale Moor, and gradually falling in height towards the east. The moors drop off steeply into a series of well defined moorland dales to the north and south whose intimate character is in stark contrast to the simplicity of the moorland landscape.
- The overall appearance is one of an undulating plateau, although locally there are marked variations in topographic form, particularly in the north where the closely spaced parallel dales have resulted in the development of pronounced steep side moorland riggs. Towards the east glacial meltwater channels such as at Newtondale have cut deep narrow gorges across the moors.
- The moors are underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills draining radially into the surrounding dales.
- The Cleveland Dyke or Whinstone Ridge, formed from the only igneous rock to occur within the Park extends north west from Fylingdales Moor across Sleights Moor and has been quarried and

mined for roadstone at several locations. At Sil Howe, the now partly filled quarries can be seen extending down towards the Esk Valley.

- Moorland gripping is a feature of Bilsdale East Moor, Badger Gill and Greenhow Moor. Grid iron pattern of drainage occurs on Commondale Moor.
- The eastern moors are bounded by the large coniferous plantations of Cropton and Langdale forests to the south and by the plantation at Newton House to the north, which intrude upon the openness of the moors.
- Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Expansive long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, towards the dramatic form of the limestone escarpment of the Tabular Hills to the south, into the central dales and towards the sea at the eastern end. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature.
- Extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SPA, SSSI and Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and mostly managed for grouse shooting, result in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts. Towards the east, moorland management has a less marked influence on the landscape. Other habitats on the moor tops include small areas of upland heath/grass mosaic, heather/blanket peat grassland mosaic, rough grassland and peat bog.
- Moorland valleys, often steeply incised, provide relief and variety from the expanses of heather moorland with occasional bog and flush communities. The predominant vegetation cover within the valleys is bracken or bracken/upland heath mosaics. Scattered tree cover or small woodlands creates a localised enclosure.
- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges intermixed with upland heath and bracken mosaics and very small areas of scrub, rough grassland and upland heath/grassland mosaics.
- Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland (a number of which are semi natural or replanted ancient woodlands) in dale head areas and within moorland valleys and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops.
- Wheeldale Plantation, which appears to envelop this moorland dale and is very regular in shape, is an incongruous element in the landscape and intrudes on the moorland scene. Other small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes.
- The moorland, mostly grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.
- Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds and marked by groups of trees.
- The moors are rich in historic features, including ancient crosses, guide stones and boundary markers that form characteristic landmarks. Lines of round barrows follow the ridgelines of the moors and are visible as skyline features. Important collections of carved rocks occur on Howdale and Stoup Brow Moors.
- A length of possible Roman road, Wades Causeway, is exposed and visible as a line of large stones crossing the moorland, protected by a fence.

- The remains of small scale quarries, historic collieries and jet workings and their associated spoil tips are visible on moorland edges, on the dale sides and in the dale head areas.
- The moors are crossed by few roads, although the A169 and A171 and the road between Hutton-le-Hole and Castleton have a local impact. Elsewhere minor roads access the moors and many areas are relatively inaccessible.
- Recreational features include the Lyke Wake Walk, the Crosses Walk and Bilsdale Circuit and the Newtondale Horse Trail. Prominent erosion scars occur in some locations along the Lyke Wake Walk. The North Yorkshire Moors Steam Railway crosses the moors to the north of Newtondale, the steam trains visible by their plume of smoke. Grouse shooting parties and vehicles are a regular feature of the moors during the shooting season. Car parks situated within the open moorland are highly visible.
- Away from the roads and the railway, the noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present in the area.
- Detractors include the defence site at Fylingdales, the overhead electricity line to Whitby, Wheeldale Plantation, car parks, the A169 and A171 and its associated traffic and the scars created by the footpaths, shooting tracks and quarries of the moorland edges. The impact of Fylingdales on the night sky is significant.

(1c) Northern Moors

- Elevated open expansive upland, part of the Cleveland Hills, forming a gently undulating plateau sloping gradually towards the western and northern edges of the moors and more steeply towards Eskdale to the south.
- Generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, overlain by Oxford Clay and Kellaways Rock on the more elevated areas to the north of Eskdale, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills mainly flowing into Eskdale and towards the northern fringes of the moors.
- Roseberry Topping is a prominent and well known landmark on the far western edge of the moors, its bent pinnacle shape derived from a rockfall caused by quarrying for building stone.
- Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across the lower lying areas to the west and north, across Eskdale towards the central moors and towards the coast in the east. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature, although to the north of the area this has become eroded by the glow from the Cleveland conurbation.
- Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SSSI and Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and managed for grouse shooting, resulting in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts.
- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges, particularly in the south, and occurs in mosaic with upland heath in moorland valleys. Smaller areas of heather exist in mosaic with grassland. Scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Tree cover is very sparse, limited to very small pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. Two small coniferous plantations are located on the moorland fringes above Commondale.
- The moorland, grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.

- Settlement is almost entirely absent; very occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields.
- The moors are rich in archaeological features, including the lines of round barrows that follow the ridgelines of the moors above Eskdale and are visible as skyline features; and areas of earthworks, enclosures and field systems. The remains of ancient crosses, boundary markers and pannier tracks are occasionally visible and a park pale is located on Commondale Moor.
- Quarries and colliery workings are visible on the southern edge of the moors above Eskdale.
- The A171 runs along the northern edge of the character area and the moors are crossed by the C20 and short sections of the B1266 and B1366 and minor roads running north from Danby. Elsewhere, the moors are relatively inaccessible.
- Lines of grouse butts cross the landscape in places. The Cleveland Way crosses the western edge of the character area.
- The noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present in the area.
- Detractors include the C20 road, with its inappropriate kerbing and associated snow markers, small coniferous plantations on the moorland fringes, reservoirs (Lockwood Beck and Scaling Dam) just beyond the character area boundary and the scars created by the shooting tracks and quarries of the moorland edges.

