

## LCT 10: Coast Landscape Character Type



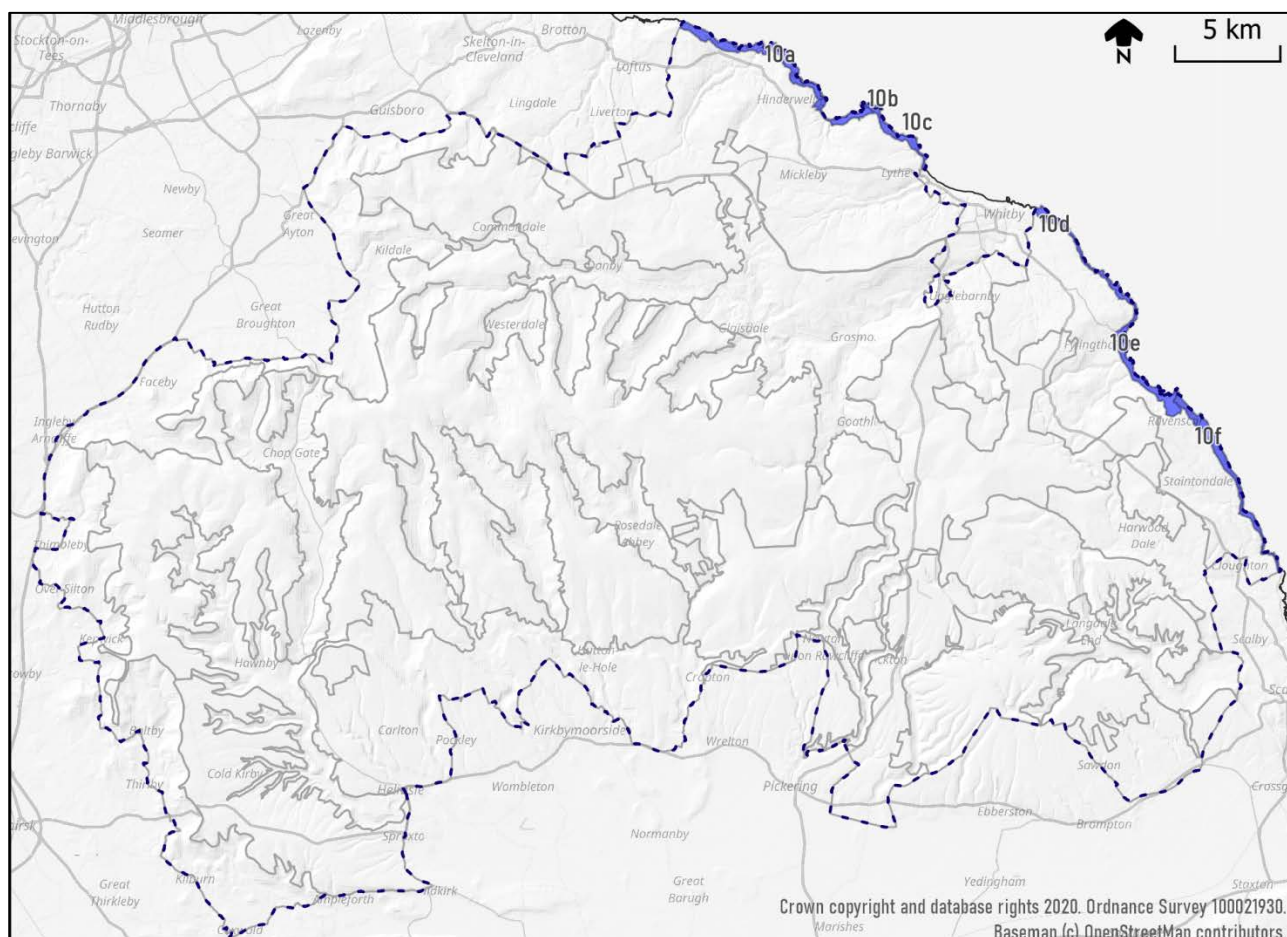
Fig.136 A typical scene within the Coast Landscape Character Type at Robin Hood's Bay, showing coastal grassland and woodland, historic coastal settlement, dramatic cliffs, and intertidal wave-cut platforms.

### Location, Context and Setting

This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located on the coast of the North York Moors National Park. It includes the settlements of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay, but much of the LCT comprises inaccessible cliffs which can be appreciated from the England Coast Path or from the sea. The landward boundary of the LCT follows the England Coast Path/ Cleveland Way (with a couple of deviations to avoid splitting historic settlements) and the seaward boundary follows the National Park Boundary along the low water mark. The North Sea forms its marine setting, and LCT 4 (Coastal Hinterland) forms its landward setting. Land outside the National Park contributes to its setting around Boulby, Sandsend, Whitby and Burniston

### Summary Description

This LCT is dominated by the sea and characterised by the spectacular coastline of the North York Moors National Park. It encompasses dramatic cliffs, picturesque historic fishing villages, broad bays, and striking intertidal features. The England Coast Path/ Cleveland Way enables access and coastal views for the entire length of the LCT. The LCT contains huge contrasts, from the coastal 'honeypots' of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay, to inaccessible, wild and remote cliffs devoid of human influence. The coastline is dramatic and dynamic, constantly changing due to cliff falls and erosion. This in turn has led to the area becoming one of the most important places in the country for geological exposures and fossils. In past centuries it has been mined for alum and jet, and the remains of these industries add to the character of the coastline. There are uninterrupted views over the sea, with spectacular sunrises, and also strong visual connections with the Coastal Hinterland LCT, particularly in the bays where luxuriant wooded valleys run right down to the sea.



Location map for Coast Landscape Character Type (LCT) 10a = Staithes Coast; 10b = Runswick Bay; 10c = Kettlewess to Sandsend; 10d = Saltwick to Ness Point; 10e = Robin Hood’s Bay; 10f = Ravenscar to Burniston Point

## Key Characteristics

- Visible geology of Jurassic sandstones, ironstones and shales, often containing fossils.
- Topography of high, rugged, often crumbling cliffs, interspersed with broad bays. The intertidal area contains a diversity of coastal geomorphological features including sand and shingle beaches, caves, reefs and wave cut platforms.
- Steep-sided gorges or coastal waterfalls where rivers and streams meet the sea.
- Much of the LCT is inaccessible, but there is some recreational land use, settlement and fishing.
- Coastal habitats include exposed and vegetated cliffs (including some of the most habitat-rich vegetated cliffs in the UK), coastal grassland, and a diversity of intertidal habitats.
- Tree cover limited to colonising trees and scrub on vegetated cliffs and wooded coastal valleys.
- Sections of cliff-top fencing (generally post and wire or post and rail) along England Coast Path demarcate it from adjacent fields, and provide a warning of the adjacent cliff edge.
- Extensive industrial archaeology, in particular alum workings along coastal cliffs, frequent military remains (WWII), and some shipwrecks.
- Picturesque historic fishing villages in tight coastal valleys, with houses appearing perched on top of each other up steep cliffs. Harbours or slipways provide access to the sea.
- Limited road access to the coast, particularly away from bays, but the England Coast Path runs the entire length of the LCT. Cliffs can also be appreciated from the shoreline and sea.
- Contrast between ‘honeypot’ villages, and remote, wild and tranquil cliffs.
- A dynamic and changing landscape and seascape, but a constant awareness of the sea.
- Magnificent and distinctive coastal views, and a strong artistic connection.

## Natural landscape features

The geology of the Coast LCT is extremely complex, mainly comprising strata of Jurassic sandstones, ironstones and shales which occur in various combinations. The black shales of the Lower Jurassic period make up the lower sections of many of the cliffs, whereas the upper sections are the same sandstones as seen on the moorlands. The harder rocks (often sandstones) are associated with higher and sheerer cliffs. Where they are in alternating bands with softer rocks they form ledges and overhangs.

The softer Jurassic shales are more vulnerable to erosion and are associated with slumps and landslips. Erosion of these softer rocks has led to the creation of broad bays such as Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay.



Fig.137 Banded shale cliffs at Boggle Hole, Robin Hood's Bay

The North York Moors coast is of enormous importance for its geology, particularly the exposures of different geological horizons (where layers of rock meet) and also for the fossils which are found here, including reptiles (for example ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs), sea creatures such as ammonites, and fossil plants such as ferns and cycads. There are therefore numerous Local Geological Sites and Geological SSSIs along the coast. Mining for jet in shale cliffs has led to holes (known

as 'hob holes') where miners followed the fossilized trunks of Jurassic monkey puzzle trees. Historic alum mining has resulted in entire headlands being quarried away, such as at Saltwick, Kettleness and Ravenscar.



Fig.138 Historic alum mining and processing has totally changed the shape of the headland at Kettleness

The highest cliffs (210m) are found at Boulby, which form the highest sea cliffs on the English East Coast. Cliff ledges provide habitats many nesting seabirds, including fulmar, herring gull, kittiwake and cormorant. The vegetated cliffs in the southern part of the LCT (south of Ravenscar) are designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for their 'vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coast habitat'. They contain a unique combination of geology, topography and plant communities, and are one of the best examples of vegetated cliffs in North-east England. Habitats include limestone grassland, acid heath, wet flushes, woodland and scrub. These cliffs are mostly inaccessible without specialist equipment, but smaller wooded coastal valleys can be reached, for example at Boggle Hole and Hayburn Wyke.

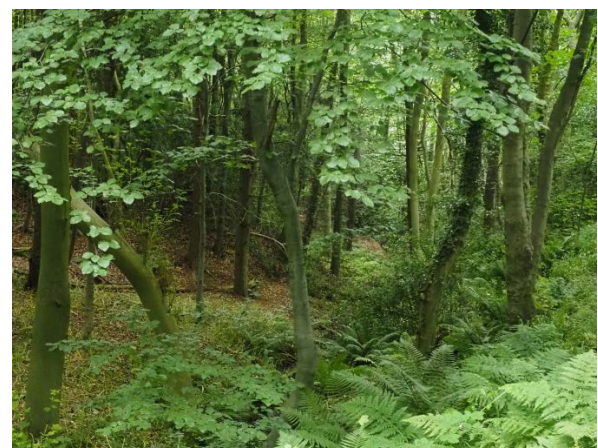


Fig.139 Coastal woodland at Hayburn Wyke

The intertidal zone contains a wealth of coastal geomorphological features, including sand and shingle beaches, reefs, pools, inlets, tidal rivers, caves and wave-cut platforms. These provide habitats for a wide range of crustaceans, seaweeds and other marine animals and plants. Because of the value of these areas for their habitats and geology, much of the intertidal has been designated SSSI. Runswick Bay is a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).



Fig.140 Intertidal zone at Robin Hood's Bay

Designation	Sites
SAC	Beast Cliff-Whitby (Robin Hood's Bay)
SSSI	Numerous, for geology (exposures and fossils) and coastal habitats.
LWS	Saltburn-Staithes Coast
LGS	Skinningrove to Staithes Coast
LNR	Hayburn Wyke (National Trust)
MCZ	Runswick Bay

Key designated nature conservation sites

## Cultural landscape features

The historic fishing villages of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay are some of the most distinctive and attractive settlements in the National Park. Here, the sea is an integral part of the locality. Red-roofed houses are crowded into tight cliff-foot locations, or confined to narrow valleys where there is a breach in the cliffs. Runswick Bay appears as a cluster of red-roofed buildings perched on top of each other up the

cliff, overlooking a broad bay. Traditional buildings are often three-storey, constructed in stone or brick and render, and with pantile or slate roofs. Roads are very steep and narrow, and often the only access to houses is via a labyrinth of narrow alleys and steps. The coastal parts of all three settlements are Conservation Areas containing numerous Listed Buildings, and their traditional character has survived remarkably intact. The upper part of Robin Hood's Bay includes splendid Victorian villas and hotels, sited to make the most of views across the Bay.



Fig.141 Staithes village and harbour

Cultural landscape features are generally associated with the sea, whether that's as a source of food, a means of travel, a source of pleasure, or a source of danger.



Fig.142 Ling Hill Lighthouse – Whitby High Light, from the sea

Such features include former mineral working sites, military defences, quays, slipways, the

clifftop hotel at Ravenscar (part of an unsuccessful speculative development) and Whitby Lighthouse. Protective structures such as sea defences and harbours are distinctive features of this LCT.

There are numerous Scheduled Monuments along the coast, mostly relating to former alum works. A number of these are at risk due to ongoing coastal erosion.

The intertidal area is rich in archaeology, including shipwrecks (for example the SS Woldridge at Port Mulgrave, of which only the boilers survive), slipways, harbour arms, and features thought to be associated with alum processing. There is also a strong association with the British tradition of saving lives at sea, including the lifeboat station at Runswick Bay. Traditional boats, known as cobbles, are still a part of the coastal scene at Staithes.

The geological and cultural importance of LCT 10 means that the entire National Park coastline is included within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast.

Designation	Sites
Scheduled Monuments	Numerous coastal Scheduled Monuments, mostly relating to historic alum works.
Conservation Areas	The most historic parts of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hoods Bay
Listed Buildings	Numerous, concentrated in Conservation Area settlements. Ling Hill Lighthouse and keepers cottages
North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast	Entire LCT

Key designated heritage conservation sites



Fig.143 Coble boats at Staithes

### Perceptual qualities and views

This is an exceptionally dynamic landscape and seascape, ever-changing in response to season, weather, light and tides. The sea can change from a bright blue reflective calm to a raging storm, to an impenetrable mist, utterly transforming the way the landscape and seascape are perceived. What is constant within this LCT is an awareness of the sea, whatever its mood. The characteristic dynamism of the coast is also physical, with frequent rock falls and slumps changing the profiles of the cliffs. Big skies and sweeping horizons are part of the seascape and add to its sense of spaciousness and drama.



Fig.144 Coastal road lost to a landslip north of Staithes. Boulby Head is shrouded in mist in the distance.

The coast, particularly the bays and historic coastal villages, is a very popular place to visit, and many tourists and day visitors come here to enjoy the spectacular scenery, attractive villages, sandy beaches, and traditional seaside character. There are National Trust Visitor Centres at Robin Hood's Bay and

Ravenscar. In Staithes and Robin Hood's Bay car parking is restricted to the higher parts of the settlements, so the villages and seafronts remain largely free of vehicles.



Fig.145 Enjoying the beach at Runswick Bay in summer

There are marked contrasts between the 'honeypots' of the beaches and villages, and the more remote and inaccessible stretches of cliff. Here, access is only possible from the England Coast Path / Cleveland Way which runs along the cliff top. As a result there is a very strong sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity, and the naturalness of the coast can be appreciated. The coast is therefore identified as Remote Land in National Park Planning Policy.

The picturesque qualities of the coasts and coastal settlements (and the harsh realities of life for those who lived there) were appreciated by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century artists, particularly watercolourists, who congregated at Staithes and Runswick Bay. The arrival of the railway in 1883 made the area easy to visit, and by 1900 it was considered to be an artists' haven. It remains popular with artists and photographers today.



'Staithes, Yorkshire' by John Wilson Carmichael (1799-1868) Photo Credit: British Watercolour Society. Public Domain Mark.

Views of the Coast LCT are experienced from sea to land, and from land to sea. The open sea forms the eastern horizon, occasionally punctuated by passing ships. Sea views are influenced by changing patterns of light, clouds, sun, moon and stars, and the sunrises over the sea are spectacular. The marine setting is key to the character of this LCT.

There are also strong visual relationships between the Coast LCT and the Coastal Hinterland (LCT 4), and some eastern parts of the Moorland (LCT 1). These visual relationships are particularly apparent in the bays, where the cliffs are lower, and the wooded valleys of the Coastal Hinterland meet the sea.

Near National Park boundaries, the setting of the LCT is influenced by areas outside the National Park, including west of Boulby, Sandsend, Whitby, and south from Burniston.



Fig.146 View south towards Scarborough from close to the National Park boundary at Burniston

## Ecosystem Services provided by the Coast LCT

Type of Ecosystem Service	Existing Contributions	Opportunities
Cultural Services	The historic coastal settlements of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay are very attractive, and popular with tourists. They have also been (and remain) artistic hubs. The England Coast Path / Cleveland Way which runs the entire length of the LCT provides long-distance walking opportunities, as well as magnificent views of the coastline, and the chance to experience some of the most remote, tranquil and wild parts of the National Park, as well as dark night skies. Time spent by the coast, whether on a remote stretch of coast path, on a popular sandy beach, or exploring rock pools, is of benefit to peoples' health and wellbeing. The LCT is of national and international significance for its geology, fossils and contribution to human understanding of geology and evolution.	The dynamic nature of the coast creates constant opportunities for geological study of newly-revealed exposures and fossils.
Provisioning Services	Fishing takes place along the coast, particularly shellfish and lobsters, with fishing boats working out of Staithes and Robin Hood's Bay.	The designation of a Marine Conservation Zone promotes best practice in sustainable fishing.
Regulating Services	Cliffs, beaches and shorelines absorb wave energy, helping to reduce (but not necessarily remove) the need for shoreline sea defences to protect coastal settlements from coastal erosion. This role is particularly important during storm events. Coastal processes such as longshore drift replenish beaches within or outside the LCT.	Climate change and associated sea level rise and increased storm events may mean that additional artificial sea defences are required. If designed with ecosystem services in mind, these could also provide habitats and access opportunities.
Supporting Services	The LCT provides a spectrum of coastal and marine habitats supporting a range of coastal and marine species, including birds, fish, crustaceans, coastal flowers and grasses, trees, seaweeds, and other species growing in intertidal habitats. Vegetation also helps to stabilise cliffs.	There is potential to expand and link coastal grassland and woodland habitats, increasing their value to wildlife and potentially helping to stabilise cliffs.

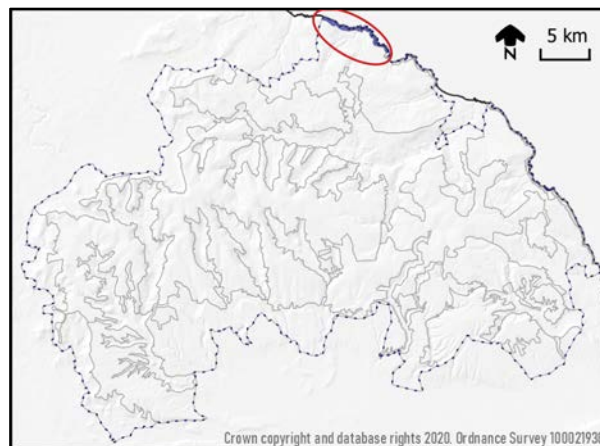
## Landscape Character Area Descriptions

There are six distinctive Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the Coast LCT. These are described on the following pages.

## Landscape Character Area 10a: Staithes Coast



Fig.147 A typical scene in LCA 10a, looking north over Staithes from the England Coast Path. The high cliffs of Boulby Head form the horizon.



Map showing the location of LCA 10a within the National Park

This LCA is the most northerly of the coastal LCAs, and extends from the National Park boundary west of Boulby to Runswick Bay. It comprises the cliff top, cliffs, and intertidal area between the England Coast Path and the low water mark. The boundary diverts from the England Coast Path for a short section at Staithes so that all of the historic part of the village is included within the Coast LCT.

The LCA is dominated by the towering cliffs of Boulby Head. At 210m high, they are the highest sea cliffs on the East Coast. These cliffs (and the associated intertidal area) are designated as Local Geological Sites and Local Wildlife Sites. To the east of Staithes the cliffs and intertidal area are designated SSSI for their geological exposures. This area is also part of the Runswick Bay Marine Conservation Zone.

The picturesque fishing village of Staithes (a Conservation Area), with its sheltered harbour, and houses running down a narrow valley to the sea, is located in the centre of the LCA. Staithes is a popular tourist destination, so this part of the coast has a busier feel than elsewhere. South of Staithes is the remains of Port Mulgrave, with the terraced cottages of mine and harbour workers prominent on the cliff top.

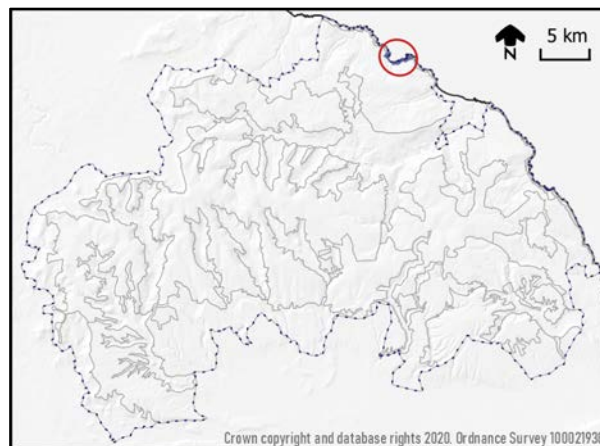
The area has a long (and continuing) history of mineral extraction. The historic alum quarries at Boulby Cliff are designated SSSI for their unusual geological exposures and the fossil reptiles which have been found there, including plesiosaur and ichthyosaur. Port Mulgrave contains the remains of a harbour and associated tunnels constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century for the export of ironstone. Today, the prominent potash at Boulby (slightly inland from the coast, located in LCA 4A) dominates many views within the LCA, and appears within the setting of Staithes village in views from land and sea.



## Landscape Character Area 10b: Runswick Bay



Fig.148 A typical scene in LCA 10b, looking over Runswick Bay from the England Coast Path. The village of Runswick Bay can be seen in the foreground, with Kettleness in the distance. Wooded valleys meet the coast here.



Map showing the location of LCA 10b within the National Park

This LCA comprises Runswick Bay, between the England Coast Path and the low water mark. It includes cliffs, beach, intertidal areas and the village of Runswick Bay. The eastern end of the Bay is marked by the distinctive headland of Kettleness. The shape of the headland has been dramatically altered by centuries of mining for alum, and it now resembles the head of a reptile rising from the water.

The intertidal habitats of Runswick Bay are relatively shallow, and contain underwater reef habitats, boulders, pools, caves and sandy beaches, exposed to very strong waves and currents. The rock and sediment forms a range of habitats which support a number of species, including various crustaceans. The LCA is part of the Runswick Bay Marine Conservation Zone. Unusual species are found here, including the Ocean Quahog, a cockle-shaped bi-valve which lives entirely buried in the sand with a small tube extending to the surface for breathing and feeding. Abundant sand eels provide food for gannets and other sea birds.

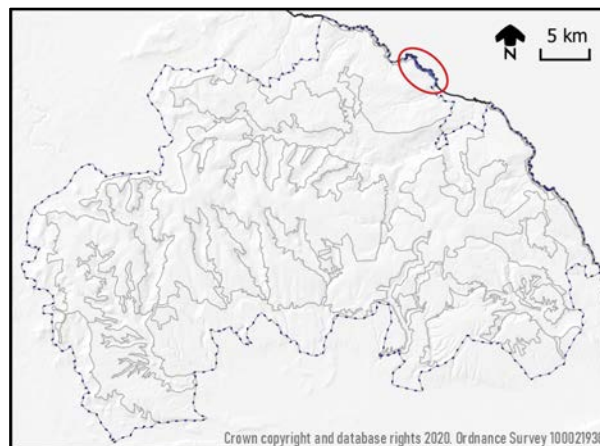
The cliffs are relatively low within this LCA compared to other parts of the coast. Where the wooded valleys of Nettle Dale, Dunsley Dale and Barnby Dales meet the sea there are no cliffs at all. The combination of a broad, sandy beach backed by low wooded land is a distinctive feature of this LCA.

The popular village of Runswick Bay runs steeply between the beach and the clifftop, with the red-roofed houses appearing to be stacked on top of each other. At the top of the beach is the old lifeboat house, with colourful boats pulled up alongside. Like the adjacent village of Staithes, Runswick Bay was a favourite haunt of artists in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and is now a Conservation Area. Further round the Bay, there are particularly good examples of former jet workings in the cliffs, known as 'hob holes'.

## Landscape Character Area 10c: Kettleiness to Sandsend



Fig.149 A typical scene in LCA 10c, showing the cliffs and disused alum quarries at Sandsend Ness. The tower of Lythe church appears as a triangle on the horizon.



Map showing the location of LCA 10c within the National Park

This LCA runs from Kettleiness to the National Park boundary at Sandsend. It includes cliff top, cliffs and intertidal areas between the England Coast Path and the low water mark. It forms the southern part of the Runswick Bay Marine Conservation Zone.

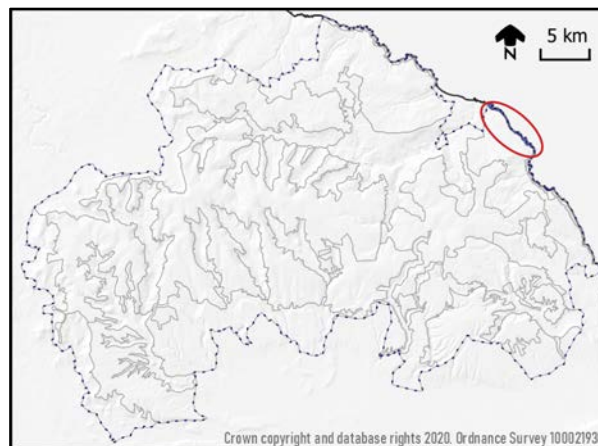
The Kettleiness to Sandsend Coast is relatively inaccessible, with road access only at Kettleiness. There are no settlements within the LCA, and much of the LCA can therefore only be seen or experienced from the Coast Path or the sea. This gives it a particularly strong sense of remoteness and tranquilly, and a feeling of having escaped the crowds which can gather at the more accessible stretches of coast. This stretch of coastline has a marked lack of built features, which are limited to distant views of Sandsend and Whitby, and Lythe church tower, which can be seen on the skyline in views from the sea.

The cliffs are notable for their irregularity, resulting from a combination of historic alum mining, and natural coastal erosion. Some of the cliff tops and clefts are vegetated, but elsewhere the cliffs comprise exposed rock. Caves can be seen at the cliff bases. The geological stratifications within the cliffs are very apparent, as are the variations in colour of rock, which encompass many shades of brown, orange and grey.

## Landscape Character Area 10d: Saltwick to Ness Point



Fig.150 A typical scene in LCA 10d, looking south from Saltwick. Slumped cliffs can be seen in the foreground



Map showing the location of LCA 10d within the National Park

This LCA runs from Saltwick (south of Whitby) to Ness Point, and includes the cliff top, cliffs and intertidal areas between the England Coast Path and the low tide mark. This is a relatively inaccessible stretch of coast, with no public roads or settlements, although there are some cliff-top caravan sites which reduce the sense of naturalness and isolation.

Whitby lighthouse is a landmark from the Coast Path and the sea. From the northern part of the LCA there are views from land and sea to the dramatic ruins of Whitby Abbey, which also adds to the sense of place.

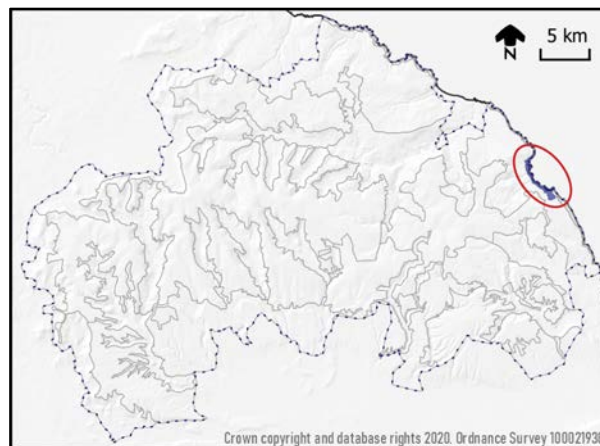
The cliffs near Saltwick have a distinctive 'scalloped' profile when viewed from the sea, due to slumping of the cliff tops. Stacks and the small island of Saltwick Nab (former alum quarry and designated Scheduled Monument) add to the character of the shoreline.

In the southern part of the LCA, the bedding planes in the cliffs appear wider, and the cliffs are particularly dramatic. They appear as sheer and less vegetated, but also fragile, with evidence of cliff falls and undercutting. There are occasional wooded 'notches' where streams meet the coast, such as Oakham Beck and Rain Dale, creating spectacular coastal waterfalls after heavy rain. South of Maw Wyke, the LCA is designated SSSI for its geology and the sequence of marine biotopes found on the foreshore. Hawsker Bottoms and Maw Wyke are important palaeobotanical sites, and have provided rare fossils including Jurassic corals and fine examples of fossil ferns.

## Landscape Character Area 10e: Robin Hood's Bay



Fig.151 A typical scene in LCA 10e, looking south across Robin Hood's Bay towards Ravenscar. The village of Robin Hood's Bay is on the right hand side of the picture.



Map showing the location of LCA 10e within the National Park

Robin Hood's Bay is the largest of the bays along this stretch of coast, and is clearly defined by Ness Point to the north and Ravenscar to the south. It includes part of the settlement of Robin Hood's Bay, and the Raven Hall Hotel and its grounds. The cliff tops, cliffs and intertidal areas between the England Coast Path and the low tide mark are included within this LCA. The boundary deviates from the England Coast Path through Robin Hood's Bay village in order to ensure that all of the historic settlement is included within the Coastal LCT.

The bay enables a much greater awareness of the inland landscape when viewed from the coast and sea, and this LCA displays a strong physical, visual and cultural relationship between LCT 4 (Coastal Hinterland) and LCT 10 (Coast).

The village of Robin Hood's Bay is a striking, and popular, feature of the bay. In the oldest part of the village, a jumble of historic houses within a steep coastal valley appear to be perched on top of each other. Many properties can only be accessed by steep alleys or steps. Above them, on flatter land at the cliff top, large Victorian hotels and villas were sited for their views, and add to the character of the settlement. On the opposite side of the Bay, the Ravenscar Hotel can be seen on the horizon, part of a speculative Edwardian resort which was largely unsuccessful.

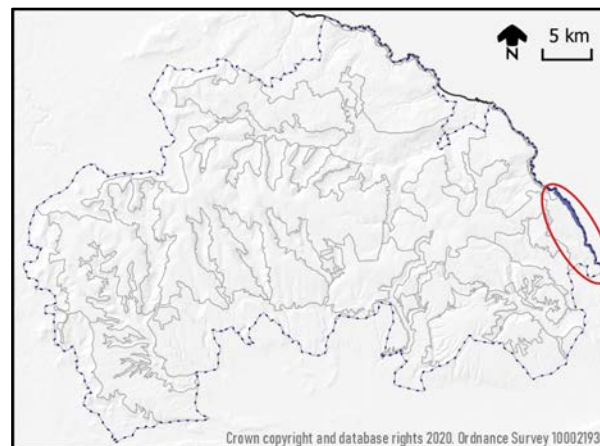
Erosion of the low cliffs in the centre of the Bay is particularly active, with recent damage to the Coast Path due to undercutting and slumping. The cliff line is broken by a series of notches where wooded valleys meet the sea. One contains the spectacularly-sited former watermill (now a Youth Hostel) at Boggle Hole.

The patterns of the intertidal wave cut platforms and reefs are striking at low tide. They are part of the Robin Hood's Bay SSSI, designated for its outstanding geological interest, its marine habitats and its coastal vegetation.

## Landscape Character Area 10f: Ravenscar to Burniston Point



Fig.152 A typical scene in LCA 10f, showing the well-vegetated cliffs at Common Cliff, south of Ravenscar.



Map showing the location of LCA 10f within the National Park

This LCA comprises the coast between Ravenscar in the north and the National Park boundary at Burniston Point in the south. It includes the cliff top, cliffs and intertidal area between the England Coast Path and the low water mark. There are no settlements or roads in this stretch of coastline, so access is by boat or the England Coast Path.

The cliffs south of Ravenscar (including Beast Cliff and Common Cliff) are of exceptional importance for their conservation value, and are designated SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. The cliffs are largely inaccessible, and their geology, topography and drainage has enabled the establishment of a diverse range of coastal habitats which are rarely found adjacent, including limestone grassland, acid heath, scrub, flush habitats and woodland. Trees include pioneer species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and willow, with oak cover beginning to appear. Sandstone boulders support mosses and ferns, and freshwater pools support wetland plants and scrub. Pioneer plant communities thrive on newly-eroded material, whilst more stable parts of the cliffs are home to more established vegetation. Conservation grazing by cattle helps to manage habitats and retain their diversity. Primitive and undisturbed habitats also occur in the coastal valleys, the most accessible of which is Hayburn Wyke.

The cliffs become lower at the southern end of the LCA, but are still of great geological importance and designated SSSI. Cloughton Wyke is a particularly important site for fossil plants, including corals, cycads and ferns.

The small concrete structures of a WWII Radar Station can be seen on the cliff top to the south of Ravenscar. Its East Coast position meant it could provide early warnings of airborne attacks to inland cities.

## Forces for Change acting on the Coast LCT

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Dynamic coastal processes and climate change	Coastal processes such as landslips, slumping, erosion and flooding are particularly apparent in stretches of coast where the rocks are relatively soft, or their structure makes them vulnerable to slippage. Coasts are naturally dynamic environments, but climate change impacts (for example sea level rise, and increased frequency and intensity of storms and rainfall) exacerbate these processes. This in turn threatens coastal settlements, increasing the need for sea defences.	All
Biodiversity loss and 'coastal squeeze'	Coastal erosion leads to 'coastal squeeze': loss of coastal habitats (such as coastal grassland on cliff tops), and damage to paths and roads which may need to be re-routed further inland. This is already happening on several stretches of the England Coast Path. Raised seawater temperatures due to climate change may also affect which species can survive in coastal waters, impacting on biodiversity and food chains.	
Expansion or change in character of historic coastal settlements	The historic coastal fishing villages of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay are amongst the most distinctive and attractive settlements in the National Park. Their character would be compromised by settlement expansion at the coast, loss of setting, or loss of character through insensitive modernisation such as installation of plastic windows or concrete roof tiles.	A, B, E
Visually intrusive coastal land uses	There is intervisibility between LCT 10 (Coast) and the adjacent LCT 4 (Coastal Hinterland). Therefore land uses in LCT 4 will impact on the appearance of the coast. Existing examples include caravan/ chalet parks, expansion of cliff-top settlements, and (most prominently) the potash mine at Boulby. Boulby mine can be seen from stretches of the Coast Path as well as the sea, and appears prominently in the setting of Staithes when viewed from the Coast Path and the sea. More subtle land use changes visible from the coast include biomass crops, vines, and non-native forestry plantations. Views from the LCT are vulnerable to visually-intrusive developments and land use changes outside the National Park, particularly around Whitby, Boulby and Burniston.	All
Marine developments	At present the seaward horizon is open, punctuated only by passing shipping. Marine developments such as offshore wind turbines would impact on the seaward setting of the National Park, including through light pollution. Associated on-shore infrastructure such as cable landings and substations could introduce man-made features into an otherwise entirely natural stretch of coastline, reducing the sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity.	All
Visitor pressure	The North Yorkshire Coast is one of the most highly-visited coastal areas of the country, with in excess of 10 million visitors per year. Concentrations of visitors at key destinations can lead to issues with parking, erosion of paths, trampling of fragile habitats, littering and disturbance of wildlife.	A, B, D, E

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Loss of historic sites	Increasing coastal erosion, exacerbated by climate change leads to accelerating loss of historic coastal sites such as alum works, military defences and historic coastal buildings.	

## Landscape Guidelines for the Coast LCT

### Protect

- Protect the sense of remoteness and naturalness present along the coast, and avoid new placing new development or structures (such as communications masts) in isolated coastal locations.
- Protect the character and settings of historic coastal settlements, particularly Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay.
- Protect archaeological and nature conservation sites.
- Protect the clifftop skylines in views from the coast and coast path.
- Protect the marine setting of the National Park, particularly from developments which would impact on its tranquillity, wildness and remoteness.
- Protect the onshore setting of the National Park's Coast (for example around Boulby, Whitby and Burniston), particularly from highly intrusive or cumulative development.
- Protect dark night skies.

### Manage

- Manage nature conservation sites where active management is required, such as through conservation grazing at Common Cliff / Beast Cliff SAC, in accordance with Management Plans. There are opportunities for natural colonisation of coastal woodland on cliffs.
- Manage coastal grasslands on cliff tops through grazing and/ or mowing as appropriate.
- Protect coastal archaeology through integrated management and a clear understanding of the implications of change for physical remains. Target Scheduled Monuments at Risk with appropriate management wherever possible.
- Manage the England Coast Path / Cleveland Way, re-routing inland where necessary in response to coastal erosion. Act quickly to re-use existing slabs and other structures where possible, so they are not lost. Keep signage and access structures such as gates low-key to minimise their impact and avoid damaging the sense of remoteness and wildness.

### Plan

- Raise awareness of the coast's sensitive and unique nature amongst communities and visitors. Change perceptions so the coast becomes something to be supported rather than exploited.
- Ensure development proposals visible from the coast (within the National Park or its marine or landward setting) are appropriately assessed, and adequate mitigation is in place, particularly where there may be cumulative impacts.

- Use Conservation Area Appraisals, Design Guides, etc. to retain the distinctive character of historic coastal settlements. Protect their settings from development or land use changes which would harm views of the settlements from the coast or sea.
- Take a proactive and targeted approach to recording historic buildings, structures and remains that will be lost to coastal erosion.
- Where change to historic buildings / structures is enabled through the planning system, ensure that it protects / enhances the significance of the heritage asset in question and is informed by a proper understanding of the asset in advance.
- Work with other interested parties to manage the coast as a cohesive and holistic ecosystem which extends beyond artificial boundaries using integrated coastal zone management. Long term environmental improvements should be based around strategic change, applying natural capital and biodiversity net gain principles to the marine environment.
- Recognise the aspiration to protect the marine environment through a national marine park.