

## LCT 4: Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Type



Fig.71 A typical scene within the Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Type, near Borrowby, showing steep wooded valleys and a patchwork of undulating fields

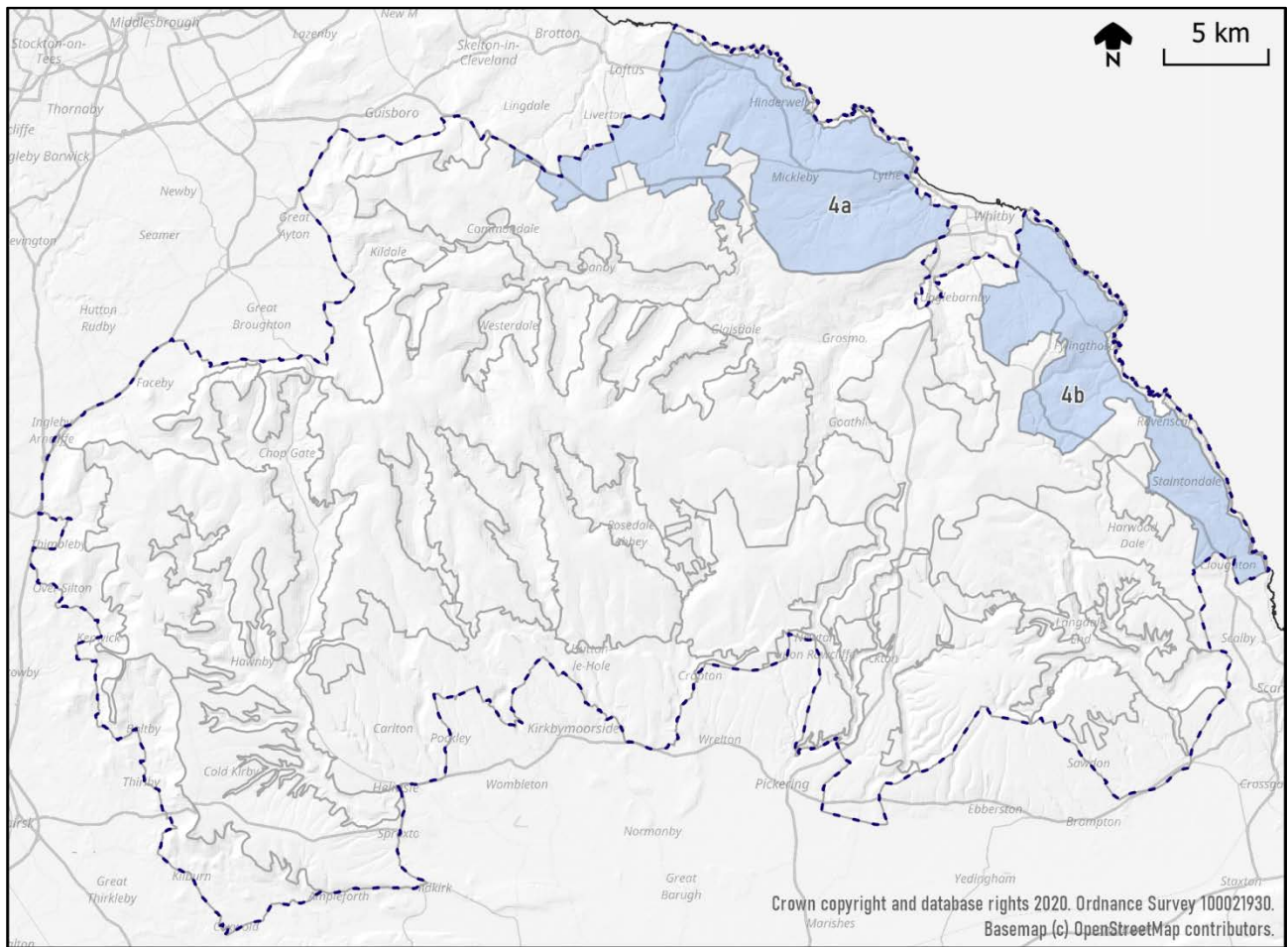
### Location, Context and Setting

This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located in the north-east of the North York Moors National Park, and forms a transition between the Coast (LCT 10) and the inland LCTs of the Moorland (LCT 1), Central Valley (LCT 8), Forest (LCT 3) and Limestone Dale (LCT 7). These all have local influence on its character. Its boundary with the Coast (LCT 10) mostly follows the England Coast Path/Cleveland Way (except for a couple of places where it deviates to ensure that historic coastal villages are all included in the Coast LCT). The sea is therefore also important to the setting of the Coastal Hinterland. The Coastal Hinterland contains many settlements, particularly near the coast, and is close to others (such as Whitby and Loftus) which are outside the National Park boundary.

### Summary Description

This LCT forms the transition between the coast and the higher land (including moorland) inland. It has strong physical, cultural and visual connections with the coast, and is largely within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast. It comprises a gently rolling patchwork of farmland, interspersed with steep wooded valleys which run towards the sea or the River Esk. The landscape is locally influenced by from moorland, forestry, estates and industry, as well as the coast.

Settlements are relatively frequent, particularly near the coast, where villages such as Staithes and Robin Hood's Bay have expanded onto the clifftops. Older traditional settlements can also be found in the LCT. It supports coastal tourism (most of the caravan parks are within this LCT) and also contains road corridors and historic railway lines. The Cinder Track is now a popular recreation route. There are excellent panoramic views within and across the LCT, particularly from high ground, and from the coast and sea.



Location map for Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Type (LCT)  
 4a = Boulby - Whitby; 4b = Whitby - Cloughton

## Key Characteristics

- Underlying geology of Jurassic sandstones and mudstones, overlaid with glacial clays which create fertile soils.
- Undulating topography rising inland, cut through by steep stream valleys towards the coast.
- Surface water includes valley-bottom streams, and man-made reservoirs.
- Land use predominantly arable agriculture, with pockets of pasture, woodland and grassland.
- Semi-natural habitats include woodland (including ancient woodland), streams, coastal grassland, bogs, mires and verges.
- Extensive deciduous woodland on steep valley sides, numerous hedgerows and hedgerow trees and occasional plantations. Historic parkland at Mulgrave Castle.
- A regular 'patchwork' pattern of medium-sized fields, bounded by hedges or dry stone walls. Some linear field boundaries survive around villages.
- A range of settlements from historic vernacular hamlets to 20<sup>th</sup> Century large villages associated with nearby mines. Close physical and visual relationships with adjacent historic coastal settlements.
- Historic and contemporary transport routes including main roads, lanes and railway lines.
- Strong physical, cultural and visual links with the coast and sea.
- Panoramic views from high land and the sea. The Cinder Path is a popular recreation route.
- Contrasts between the open, elevated farmland and enclosed, wooded valleys.

## Natural landscape features

The Coastal Hinterland is underlain by deltaic sandstones and mudstones from the Jurassic period. Older layers of mudstones and ironstones are visible in the deeper coastal valleys. The bedrock is overlaid by a layer of glacial boulder clay, which supports fertile soils. The conical form of Freeborough Hill, located in the north of the LCT adjacent to the A171, is a natural feature. It is an outcrop of relatively hard rock which resisted glacial erosion, although there are many legends offering more colourful explanations.



Fig.72 Freeborough Hill

The landform of the Coastal Hinterland is gently undulating, and rises towards its inland boundary with adjacent LCTs. It is cut through by a series of steeply-incised and winding becks which flow towards the coast. These becks are often in pairs, divided by a narrow ridge. The valleys containing the becks are steep and wooded, sometimes opening out slightly as they reach the coast. Many of the wooded valleys contain ancient woodland and several are designated Local Wildlife Site or SSSI for their ecological value. Heyburn Wyke is also a nature reserve. Outside of the sheltered valleys, trees are generally found in hedgerows or alongside roads. There are also some small conifer plantations, particularly in the south. Trees in exposed locations are often stunted and wind-sculpted.



Fig.73 Wooded valley meeting the sea at Boggle Hole. This former watermill is now a Youth Hostel

Scaling Dam Reservoir, in the north of the LCT close to the boundary with LCA 1c, is the largest body of open water within the National Park. As well as storing water, it provides a recreational function through sailing and watersports, and has a nature reserve area which provides habitat for wading birds. Other semi-natural habitats include unimproved grassland, verges, field margins, mature trees, and patches of bog and wet flush habitats.



Fig.74 Unimproved neutral grassland at Boulby Head

Designation	Sites
SSSI	Pinkney and Gerrick Woods; Tranmire; Biller Howe Dale; Heyburn Wyke (part)
LGS	Freeborough Hill
LWS	Easington Beck Complex; Loftus Wood Complex; Kilton Beck Complex; Scaling Dam Reservoir; Lockwood Beck Reservoir
LNR	Scaling Dam; Heyburn Wyke

Key designated nature conservation sites

## Cultural landscape features

This is a landscape dominated by farming and field patterns. Arable fields are interspersed with patches of pasture and woodland, and divided by hedgerows or stone walls. The fields, with their different crops, create a patchwork effect.

Centuries of farming have removed much of the visible evidence of prehistoric features, but there are still clusters of barrows, cairnfields and dykes within the LCT, particularly on higher land which has not been ploughed. The site of the Roman signal station at Goldsborough can be seen from land and sea.

Many landscape features are medieval, such as farms, villages, churches, manors, castles, lanes and bridges. These are reflected in the range of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings within the LCT, which include a well-preserved longhouse at Raw. Mulgrave Castle is particularly notable, with two medieval castles and an 18<sup>th</sup> Century country house surrounded by parkland within a wooded valley. The parkland and woodland planting (which extends to the coast at Sandsend) was designed by Humphrey Repton and is a Registered Historic Park and Garden. It contains many mature parkland and veteran trees. Lythe is the Estate village.



Fig.75 Mulgrave Castle and Estate seen from the south

Inland settlements vary in form and layout, including nucleated settlements (e.g. Lythe), settlements around greens (e.g. Fylingthorpe) and linear settlements (e.g. Hinderwell), it is

likely that many of these originate in the medieval or Anglo-Saxon periods. However, they are all fairly traditional in appearance, with mostly stone walls and pantile roofs. Lythe and Fylingthorpe are designated Conservation Areas. On the coast, 20<sup>th</sup> Century extensions to settlements including Staithes, Easington and Robin Hood's Bay spread over the cliff-tops, and are generally less sympathetic to their local landscape context and traditional building forms and styles. Although the older parts of the picturesque coastal villages of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay are within LCT 10 (Coast), parts of the Conservation Areas which surround them are within LCT 4. LCT 4 therefore contributes to the context and setting of these important historic settlements – one of its strong cultural and visual connections with the coast.

These connections also include industry and travel. Parts of the historic alum mines and processing areas which are features of the cliffs also extend inland into LCT 4. The large potash mine at Boulby (opened in 1969) dominates the northern part of the LCT.

Former railway lines and associated buildings are a feature of the area – the Scarborough to Whitby Railway opened in 1885 and closed in 1965. It is now the popular 'Cinder Track' walking and cycle path. The Whitby to Loftus Line opened in 1883 and closed in 1958 (with a section later reopened to serve Boulby Mine). This line contained numerous iron viaducts where it crossed coastal ravines, and the supports for these can still be seen, along with station buildings and embankments.



Fig.76 Former station and platforms at Kettlewell

The railways boosted both industry and tourism in the area, although not all developments were successful. Ravenscar was a speculative development on the Scarborough-Whitby railway, overlooking Robin Hood’s Bay. Several roads, a hotel and a few cliff-top houses are all that were constructed of the planned town.

The Coastal Hinterland also provides important road transport routes, specifically the A171 (Scarborough – Whitby) and A174 (Whitby - Loftus). In addition to these main roads, a network of lanes connects villages and farms, and there are many footpaths.

This area has been vulnerable to enemy invasion, particularly attacks from the air. Surviving defensive features intended to give warning of such attacks include a WWI ‘sound mirror’ at Boulby and a WWII Radar station near Ravenscar.



Fig.77 WWII coastal Radar station at Ravenscar

Designation	Sites
Scheduled Monuments	Numerous, including prehistoric dykes, barrows, standing stone, Roman signal station, medieval castles (Mulgrave and Foss), moated sites medieval settlements (Newton Mulgrave and Easington), alum works, WWII radar station.
Conservation Areas	Lythe, Fylingthorpe, Staithes (part), Sandsend (part), Robin Hood’s Bay (part), Cloughton (part)
HPG	Mulgrave Castle
Listed Buildings	Numerous, including houses, farms, churches, blacksmiths shop, coastal listening post (sound mirror), engine house, castle.
North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast	Parts of the LCT closest to the coast.

Key designated heritage conservation sites

### Perceptual qualities and views

The area is popular with visitors, and contains several caravan sites. Car parks provide access and facilities for the historic coastal villages. There are National Park Visitor Centres at Ravenscar and Robin Hood’s Bay.

One of the most striking characteristics of the Coastal Hinterland landscape is its patchwork patterns of fields, woodland, plantation and grassland. Differences in vegetation and crops create a range of different textures and colours. Some are familiar, such as barley and wheat, and others are more unusual, such as the blue flowers of phacelia, and the ridged texture of grape vines. The patchwork of fields is particularly well appreciated in panoramic views from high land.



Fig.78 Coastal Hinterland patchwork fields near Robin Hood's Bay, as seen from the viewpoint at the eastern edge of Stony Marl Moor (LCA 1d)

Much of the area has a strongly open and elevated feel, particularly close to the coast and in areas close to moorland/ rough grassland. This contrasts with the darker, more enclosed feel of the woodland and valleys. The wooded valleys are recognised as remote areas in National Park Planning Policy. Away from main roads and peripheral settlements, the LCT has high levels of tranquillity and dark night skies.

There are strong visual links with the sea and coast, with long views down valleys to the sea, and also from the coast looking inland over the LCT to the moorland beyond. In addition there is intervisibility with land outside the National Park boundary, particularly around Loftus, Whitby and Cloughton.



Fig.79 Long view down Easington Beck valley from Roxby to the coast. Boulby Mine is visible on the left of the picture.

The Coastal Hinterland can be seen from the sea, particularly where cliffs are lower at Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay. Buildings and land uses within parts of the Coastal Hinterland LCT therefore impact on views from the sea and Coast Path. The Coastal Hinterland LCT is also a feature of long views from moorland (particularly LCAs 1c and 1d). Boulby Head is a landmark near the northern edge of the National Park.



Fig.80 View of Coastal Hinterland near Hawsker from the sea. Biomass crops grow on cliff-top farmland.

This is a landscape which can be appreciated from many different viewpoints, including the busy main roads which cross the LCT. Recreational users include walkers and cyclists on the Cinder Track path, users of the England Coast Path/ Cleveland Way, sailors and anglers using the reservoirs, and people living in or visiting the popular coastal villages.



Fig.81 Cyclist on the Cinder Track near Ravenscar

## Ecosystem Services provided by the Coastal Hinterland LCT

Type of Ecosystem Service	Existing Contributions	Opportunities
Cultural Services	<p>The LCT supports various recreation opportunities, including walking/cycling the Cinder Track and fishing and sailing on the reservoirs. These (together with the network of lanes and footpaths in the area) enhance wellbeing through exercise and appreciation of the landscape. The LCT also contains relatively large amounts of visitor accommodation.</p> <p>The LCT contains a large number of cultural heritage sites, including Mulgrave Castle, and various historic villages and buildings. It also contributes to the settings of historic coastal villages, and contains areas of tranquillity and dark night skies.</p> <p>Travellers on the main roads enjoy views across the LCT to moorland and/or sea.</p>	<p>There are further opportunities to improve public access to wooded valleys, particularly if well-designed visitor infrastructure was provided. This could help to spread visitors more evenly throughout the National Park, reducing pressures on coastal 'honeypots' and fragile moorland landscapes.</p>
Provisioning Services	<p>Fertile farmland provides crops and livestock for food and fibre.</p> <p>Woodlands provide timber, wood fibre and biomass which can be used in many ways.</p> <p>Streams and reservoirs provide and store fresh water, and are also a source of fish.</p> <p>Mines provide minerals.</p>	<p>Opportunities to manage farmland and woodland to enhance biodiversity and reduce pollution.</p> <p>Changing climatic conditions provide opportunities to experiment with growing new crops, which could also benefit biodiversity.</p>
Regulating Services	<p>Woodland helps with carbon sequestration and improves air quality by absorbing pollutants. Soils and vegetation absorb rainwater and slow water flow, helping to regulate downstream flooding. Woodlands and grasslands provide habitat for pollinators.</p>	<p>Increasing tree cover to boost carbon storage and enhance air quality. Trees and hedgerows can also contribute to Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes.</p>
Supporting Services	<p>The LCT provides a range of habitats, including extensive valley-side woodlands, and grasslands of different types. It also contributes to soil formation and photosynthesis.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to use new tree and woodland planting to improve linkages between woodlands and create wildlife corridors. Pollinator habitats can be increased, for example through encouraging wildflowers in arable field margins.</p>

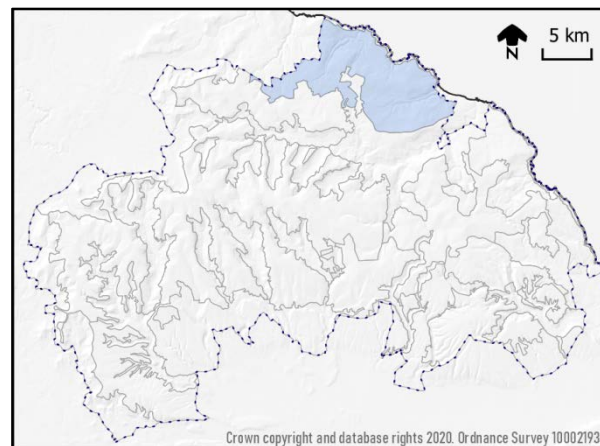
## Landscape Character Area Descriptions

There are two distinctive Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the Coastal Hinterland LCT. These are described on the following pages.

## Landscape Character Area 4a: Boulby - Whitby



Fig.82 A typical scene in LCA 4a, near Newton Mulgrave looking towards Runswick Bank Top across farmland to the sea



Map showing the location of LCA 4a within the National Park

This LCA is located in the north of the National Park, between Sandsend (west of Whitby) and the National Park boundary near Loftus. It extends from cliff top (the England Coast Path) inland to the boundary with LCA 1c (Northern Moors) and 8b (Lower Esk Valley). It comprises undulating farmland which rises gently inland, and forms a smooth patchwork of medium-sized fields. There are panoramic views across the landscape, and the sea is often visible. There are long views to the moors which form the inland horizon, but the Coastal Hinterland of 4a is much wider than that of 4b, so the moors appear relatively distant and removed from the coastal landscape. The fertile soils and gradual gradients support a mosaic of crops and pasture, with a relatively high proportion of arable. Fields planted with phacelia create seasonal splashes of blue in the landscape.

In contrast to the open farmland, deep wooded valleys (often in pairs divided by a central ridge) run through the LCA 4a to the coast. Many of these valleys are largely inaccessible by road due to the steepness of the terrain. Where roads do cross the valleys, they have steep gradients, tight bends, and fords. The parallel valleys of the Sandsend Back and West Row Beck are particularly notable as they contain the Ancient Woodland and designed landscape of the extensive Mulgrave Estate, which (together with the adjacent estate village of Lythe) creates a distinctive estate character to this part of the LCA.

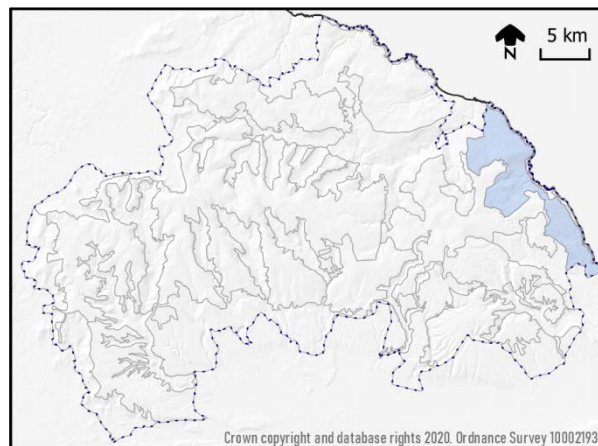
LCA 4a contains the highest proportion of open water within the National Park, held within the artificial reservoirs at Scaling and Lockwood Beck. It is also strongly influenced by coastal mining. There are Victorian former miners cottages around Port Mulgrave and other villages, as well as larger 20<sup>th</sup> Century mining settlements at Easington and Staithes. Boulby potash mine is a very prominent feature within the northern part of the LCA.



## Landscape Character Area 4b:Whitby - Cloughton



Fig.83 A typical scene in LCA 4b, looking across rushy pasture to Howdale Moor.



Map showing the location of LCA 4b within the National Park

This LCA comprises the southern part of the Coastal Hinterland, between Saltwick (east of Whitby) and Cloughton. Like LCA 4a it extends inland from the England Coast Path to the edge of Moorland. However, here the Coastal Hinterland is much narrower, and the moorland extends much closer to the coast. This influences the character of LCA 4b, with moorland being much more dominant in views than in LCA 4a. In the south, its inland boundary is with LCT3 (Forest) and LCT 7 (Limestone Dale). Together with the proximity of moorland, this creates a distinctive feel to the landscape of LCA 4b. It is rougher in texture, with more rushy pasture and less improved grassland, and there is a higher proportion of stone walls. Mixed hedgerows are a feature of sheltered valleys. Where hedgerows or shelterbelts occur on higher land, they are often stunted or wind-sculpted, and there are more blocks of coniferous trees. Fields are generally smaller, and less regular in shape.

The Cinder Track (the recreational route which follows the former Scarborough-Whitby railway line) is an important feature of the LCA, and enables access into parts of the LCA which can't be reached by road. These areas often feel relatively remote and tranquil. It also provides access to sites such as Ravenscar and the nearby WWII Radar station. The LCA is popular for recreation, with coastal caravan sites at Saltwick and Northcliff and several others inland.

There are good views from the A171, where the LCA forms the context for views of moorland, forestry and the sea.

## Forces for Change acting on the Coastal Hinterland LCT

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Infrastructure and communications	Some large structures are already present within the LCT (for example Boulby Mine, Boulby mast, and large farm buildings in LCA 4a). There is potential for new developments, including solar farms and other infrastructure. These features impact on views within the LCT, and also in views from the sea and from higher land.	All
Settlement expansion	Villages such as Staithes and Easington have seen considerable expansion in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century, which does not generally reflect local vernacular building materials or styles, or its landscape context. It is likely that development pressure will result in further expansion of villages within the LCT. There is a particular threat to the open land and coastal valleys which currently form the setting to the historic coastal villages of Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay.	All
Loss of rural character	This may occur in traditional rural villages, on the edges of peripheral settlements, or along roads. In this LCT it is associated with visual 'clutter' such as excessive signage and poorly-screened caravan parks, as well as suburbanising features such as concrete kerbs, street lights, tarmac driveways and close-boarded fencing.	All
Abandonment of traditional agricultural buildings, and demand for new buildings.	Changing agricultural practices and requirements have also resulting in abandonment/ conversion of some traditional farm buildings to other uses, which may result in loss of historic integrity and fittings associated with their original uses. Replacement farm buildings are generally larger, and can be visually intrusive and a source of lightspill. A combination of climate change, conservation objectives and new markets has resulted in farmers planting alternative crops within this LCT such as vines, biomass and phacelia. Ongoing changes to agricultural grants through the new Environmental Land Management Scheme will hopefully result in positive landscape and biodiversity impacts.	All
Biodiversity and soil loss	In previous decades, intensification of arable agriculture in this LCT resulted in field boundary loss, loss of habitats (e.g. moorland, rough grassland, coastal grassland and flower-rich meadow). This has led to a loss of species diversity of flowers, insects and birds, and reduced habitats for pollinators. Increased levels of water pollution affect river ecology. Ploughing light soils and steep slopes has resulted in soil erosion and loss, particularly where hedgerows/ walls were removed. The LCT also saw some planting on ancient woodland sites. An ongoing problem is 'coastal squeeze' of coastal grassland habitats as a result of coastal erosion.	All
Additional tree cover	<p>There are opportunities to increase tree cover within this LCT, including through extending and linking existing woodland, and encouraging growth of new woodland, wood pasture, and hedgerow, roadside and infield trees.</p> <p>When thinking about new wooded habitats, it is important to consider any potential impacts on archaeological sites and habitats of existing</p>	All

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
	biodiversity value (for example unimproved grassland). Some existing biodiversity-rich sites may not be designated or recorded.	
Climate change	This is likely to impact on crop choices, and the range of tree and plant species which can thrive in the LCT. Increased intensity and frequency of heatwaves and storms increases the potential for flooding, storm damage and accelerated coastal erosion. This results in increased 'coastal squeeze', leading to loss of coastal grassland habitats, and potentially a need to re-route coastal footpaths within this LCT. Problems will be exacerbated by sea level rise.	All
Tree disease and invasive species	Ash Dieback is already present within the LCT, and is likely to spread further in coming years. This will result in a loss of hedgerow and roadside trees within the landscape, as well as impacting on woodland composition and ecosystems. Other tree diseases, and invasive species in woodlands and watercourses, are also threats to both the appearance of the landscape and the functioning of ecosystems.	All
Recreation and visitor pressure	This LCT contains much of the tourist and recreation infrastructure which services the coastal 'honeypot' villages, and provides accommodation for visitors to the National Park. There are numerous caravan and camp sites within the LCT (some near the coast; others inland) as well as car parks, National Park Visitor Centres, and popular recreational routes such as the England Coast Path/ Cleveland Way (which forms the LCT boundary) and the Cinder Track. These facilities, and the resulting traffic and people, can impact on views, and lead to increased littering, path erosion, damage and anti-social behaviour.	All
Loss of tranquillity and dark skies	Dark skies are threatened by new development, traffic, street lighting, and lightspill from agricultural and industrial buildings. The area around Boulby mine has the greatest levels of light pollution in the National Park, and the areas on the edges of peripheral towns such as Whitby are also affected by light pollution. Tranquillity is affected by increased numbers of people, noise, traffic, industry and development. It is lowest on the edges of the LCT, closest to the peripheral settlements; near industrial sites, and in areas with concentrations of tourists.	All
Marine development	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.	All
Changes outside the National Park and in adjacent LCTs	Views from the LCT are vulnerable to visually-intrusive developments and land use changes outside the National Park, particularly around Whitby, Boulby and Burnistone. This potentially includes marine developments as well as those onshore. The Coastal Hinterland has a strong visual relationship with the adjacent Coast (LCT 10). Inland it has visual and ecological relationships with the adjacent Central Valley (LCT 8), Moorland (LCT 1) and Limestone Dale (LCT 7). Changes in these LCTs may therefore affect the character of the Coastal Hinterland landscape.	All



## Landscape Guidelines for the Coastal Hinterland LCT

### Protect

- Protect the settings of historic coastal villages (Staithes, Runswick Bay and Robin Hood's Bay). These include open land around settlements, and coastal valleys.
- Protect and manage the Mulgrave Estate and its setting.
- Protect field patterns, and seek opportunities to restore lost field boundaries.
- Protect the character of historic settlements, and their relationship with the surrounding landscape (for example by retaining field boundaries and mature trees around settlements). Pay particular attention to the settings of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.
- Protect the character of rural buildings, ensuring that conversion of redundant farm buildings is sensitive to their historic significance, former use and location. Where new buildings are required, they should be sited and designed to minimise their landscape impact (see National Park Design Guide).
- Protect the sense of relative tranquillity found in the more remote parts of this LCT, for example along the Cinder Track, and in valley bottoms.
- Protect the backdrop to coastal views formed by this LCT.
- Protect the setting of the National Park (including its marine setting), particularly from highly intrusive or cumulative development.
- Protect dark night skies.

### Manage

- Encourage active management of native woodland where it will provide clear landscape and biodiversity benefits alongside production of wood products. Seek opportunities to extend and link deciduous woodland, and to soften the appearance of conifer plantations with deciduous planting. Support initiatives to restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites to native woodland.
- Manage mature trees: parkland trees, veteran trees, hedgerow trees, infield trees and roadside trees, and allow new trees to grow out to become the mature trees of the future. Plant the next generation of parkland trees to continue their presence in the landscape.
- Manage arable areas to promote biodiversity and good soil management. Retain grass cover on the steepest land, and elsewhere use minimum tillage. Encourage linked flower-rich buffer strips and road verges to support rare species and pollinators.
- Manage coastal grassland, wet flush and moorland habitats, seeking opportunities to create connections with similar habitats in this LCT and adjacent LCTs, and to extend coastal grassland inland from cliff tops.
- Manage hedgerows and dry stone walls using traditional methods where possible. Encourage planting of new hedgerows to improve habitat connectivity between woodlands and to reduce soil loss and flooding, using species present in existing local hedgerows. Consult historic maps (see National Library of Scotland 'side by side' map viewer) to identify the lines of lost hedgerows. Reinstating these will also enhance the landscape pattern.
- Promote nature-based solutions for stream health, and avoid ploughing close to watercourses. Riparian buffers should be grassland or woodland.

- Work with landowners to encourage consideration of biodiversity when new types of crops / land covers are being planted.
- Manage SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments in accordance with Management Plans.
- Consider opportunities for dynamic boundaries between farmland, scrub and moorland where this LCT adjoins LCT 1.

## Plan

- Seek opportunities to increase tree and woodland cover through new native tree planting/ natural colonisation on existing arable or improved grassland areas. This may take the form of woodland, wood pasture or individual trees. The large scale, agricultural land use, and regular field patterns of this LCT mean that relatively large areas of new tree cover can be assimilated into the landscape. New woodland areas should include open glades and rides, and contain a diversity of native species. Avoid straight edges to woodlands and straight lines of trees as these will look very unnatural. Before commencing any tree planting, professional advice should be sought to ensure that there will be no negative effects on the historic environment, ecology or access
- Promote Natural Flood Management techniques where appropriate.
- Use existing or new hedgerows or woodlands to screen new development on the peripheries of settlements and help development to integrate into the landscape.
- Retain the rural character of traditional settlements, avoiding unnecessary signage, clutter and urbanising features, e.g. concrete kerbs, tarmac pavements and close-board fences.
- Carefully consider the landscape and visual impacts of large built structures in the rural landscape, such as solar farms, large agricultural buildings and mineral extraction sites. Consider views from both above and below, as well as from within this LCT. Work with developers to minimise the visual impacts of structures, and ensure that high-quality landscape restoration plans are in place for when active use ceases.
- Avoid siting masts and other vertical features in open locations, particularly where they would appear on the horizon. When they are unavoidable, site them close to existing trees or buildings, and consider non-standard designs to minimise visual impact.
- Seek to reduce or mitigate visual 'clutter' along main roads, avoiding unnecessary signage and structures, and using native tree / hedgerow planting for screening.
- Seek to reduce light pollution, particularly from sites outside settlements.
- Ensure that change to heritage assets is informed by an understanding of their importance, and can retain and where possible enhance their significance. Provision should be made for management plans, and research into materials, where appropriate.
- Work with recreation providers (particularly caravan parks) to minimise visual impacts of sites on the landscape and seascape. Seek opportunities to diversify recreation facilities within this LCT to reduce demand on 'honeypot' sites and protect more sensitive areas. Any new facilities must be sited and designed with care.
- Ensure development proposals within the National Park's setting are appropriately assessed, and adequate mitigation is in place, particularly when impacts may be cumulative. The setting includes areas beyond the National Park Boundary (such as around Whitby) and out to sea.