

LCT 9: Western Escarpment Landscape Character Type



Fig.124 The Western Escarpment, with agricultural fields below, near Guisborough

Location, Context and Setting

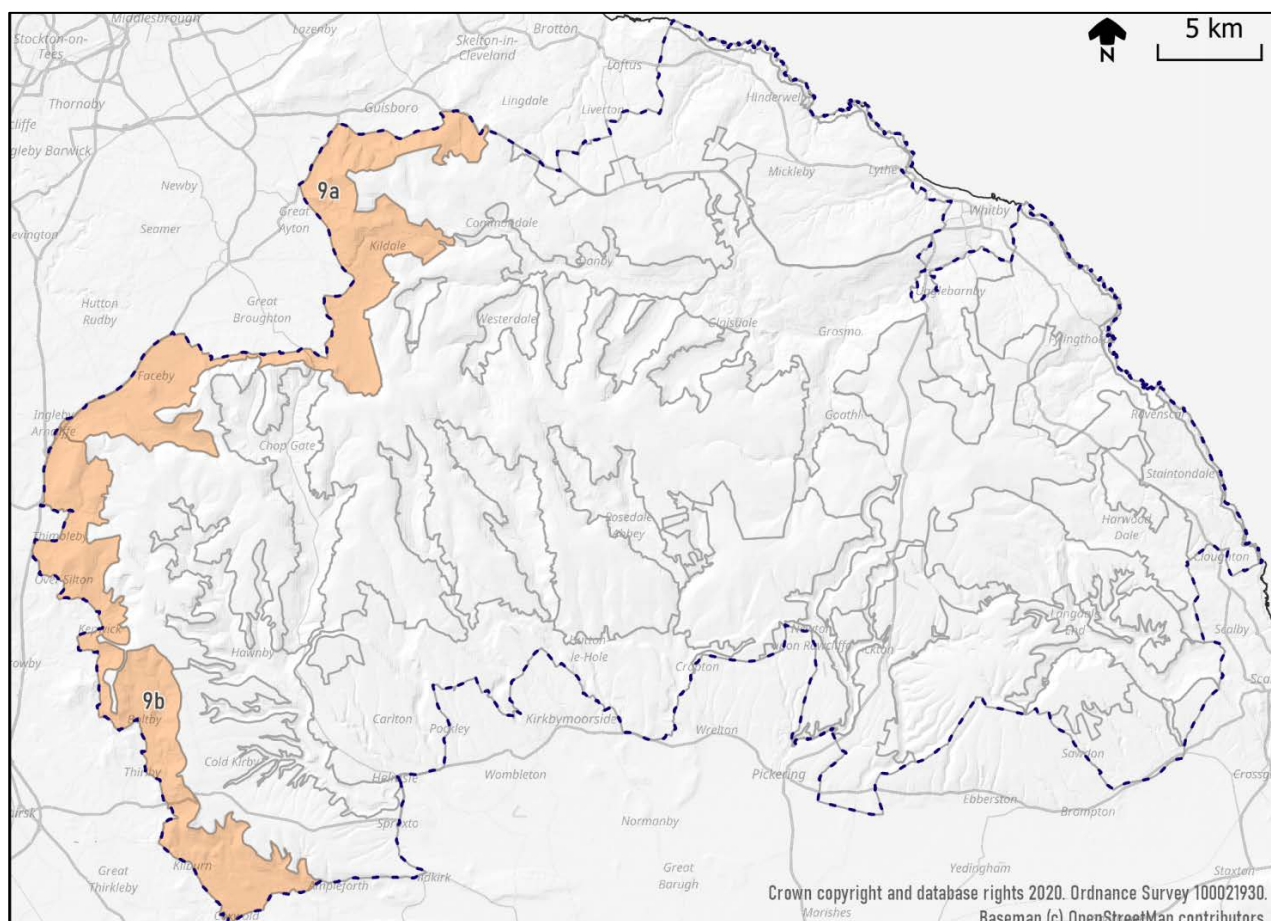
This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located on the western edge of the North York Moors National Park. It comprises the escarpment and foothills between the National Park Boundary and the high land of the Moorland and Limestone Hills LCTs which forms the Cleveland and Hambleton Hills. The larger villages of Swainby and Osmotherley are within this LCT, along with several smaller villages, many hamlets and farms. The LCT has very strong intervisibility with the Vales of York and Pickering, and the Cleveland Plain, which form the western setting to the National Park. The panoramic views to the west are integral to the LCT's character, and the escarpment is a constant presence above the lowlands.

Summary Description

The dramatic, tree-clad escarpment rises up from the lowlands and forms a dominating feature in the landscape, connecting the lowlands to the west and the high moors to the east. Its distinctive shapes of flat promontories, indentations, crags and outlying conical hills add interest and variety to views from a very wide area. Landmarks such as Roseberry Topping, Captain Cook's Monument and Kilburn White Horse add to the sense of place.

Nestling beneath the escarpment, in its foothills and dales, is a rich historic landscape. These more gentle slopes contain a mosaic of fields dotted with attractive historic villages, farms, castles and estates. Byland Abbey and Mount Grace Priory form dramatic ruins against the backdrop of the escarpment and are a legacy of the importance of this area in the medieval period.

The magnificent views over the surrounding lowlands are fundamental to the character of the Western Escarpment. They are very popular with visitors and enjoyed from viewpoints and paths.



Location map for Western Escarpment Landscape Character Type (LCT) 9a = Cleveland Foothills; 9b = Hambleton Foothills

Key Characteristics

- Underlying geology of banded mudstones, ironstone and limestone, capped with Deltaic Sandstone and Corallian limestones.
- Complex topography of indented escarpment rising approx. 200m, with gentle slopes at the base and vertical crags at the top. Distinctive outlying conical hills e.g. Roseberry Topping.
- Numerous springs and streams flow into lowlands below. Reservoirs, ponds and Gormire Lake.
- Land uses predominantly a mixture of agriculture (arable and improved pasture) and forestry.
- Semi-natural habitats include extensive woodland areas, patches of moorland (heather and grass), flushes, meadows, hedgerows and verges.
- Extensive forestry and woodland blocks on the escarpment, with riparian, parkland, hedgerow, roadside and in-field trees in lower areas.
- Generally irregular and medium-scale field pattern, with well-established hedges in lower areas, with occasional stone walls and fences. Often a smaller field pattern around villages.
- Many historic villages at base of scarp, often linear or nucleated, constructed of local stone.
- Rich archaeology including prehistoric cairns often sited close to the escarpment edges, and numerous industrial sites, including ironstone and alum working along the steep slopes.
- Outstanding surviving medieval sites, including abbey, priory, churches, castles and manors.
- Winding lanes and tracks at base, but few routes (including Sutton Bank) up escarpment.
- Roseberry Topping, Captain Cook Monument & Kilburn White Horse are prominent landmarks.
- Panoramic views from escarpment, including exceptional views over surrounding lowlands.
- Strong sense of tranquillity away from main roads and settlements.

Natural landscape features

The geology of the Western Escarpment comprises layers of soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland Ironstone with thin limestone beds which form the lower and middle slopes. The highest parts of the escarpment are capped with deltaic sandstone, and – in the south – Corallian limestone. The sandstone and limestone can occasionally be seen in crags / quarries along the top of the escarpment or capping the summits of outlying conical hills.

The topography is complex, reflecting the indented shape of the Western Escarpment. Some of indentations run back as dales (e.g. Kildale and Scugdale). Sometimes flat-topped promontories occur between the indentations or dales. There are occasional prominent rock outcrops, often occurring as vertical faces near the top of the escarpment. Distinctive outlying conical hills are capped by hard rocks. The most famous of these is Roseberry Topping, but they occur throughout the LCT.



Fig.125 The lopsided pinnacle of Roseberry Topping is a prominent landmark and geological SSSI.

The elevation ranges from approx. 70m above sea level at the National Park boundary to approx. 300m at the top of the escarpment. The escarpment often has a convex shape, with gentle foothills at the base rising up to near-vertical crags at the top.

Gormire Lake, below Sutton Bank, is the largest natural lake in the National Park, and is the remains of a glacial lake formed in the last Ice Age. It is an SSSI, along with the adjacent Garbutt Wood. There are also smaller lakes, pools and reservoirs. Numerous streams flow down the dales and the escarpment, and through the foothills at the base into the River Tees and River Swale.



Fig.126 Gormire Lake SSSI and Garbutt Wood

Many of the steepest parts of the Escarpment are covered by trees. These are a mixture of deciduous woodlands (including some Ancient Woodlands), Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, and other large and small plantations. Often the woodland and forest emphasise the shape of the landform. On lower slopes, which are generally farmed, there are also many hedgerow trees, roadside trees, riparian trees, parkland trees and copses which add to the soft and verdant feel of the landscape.

Other semi-natural habitats include patches of unimproved pasture, moorland (grass and heather), meadow, bracken, scrub and rock. Some are designated, as shown in the following table below.

Designation	Sites
SAC, SPA, SSSI	Small parts of the North York Moors designations where this LCT abuts moorland.
SSSI	Mostly geological, including Roseberry Topping; Kildale Hall; Cliff Ridge; Whinsill Dyke; Gormire
LWS	Wileycat Wood; Aysdale Gate Wood; Hutton Hall Grassland; Hutton Village Grassland; Newton Wood
LGS	Roseberry Topping; Guisborough Forest
LNR	Garbutt Wood (Yorks. Wildlife Trust)

Key designated nature conservation sites

Cultural landscape features

At the foot of the dramatic escarpment is a rich cultural landscape with a particularly impressive range of surviving medieval sites and features. This is reflected in the large number of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas found within this LCT.

The dramatic ruins of Byland Abbey and Mount Grace Priory still show the importance of these ecclesiastical sites in the medieval period. There are also many smaller religious sites in the form of parish churches. Other medieval sites include castles (for example Whorlton Castle), deserted medieval villages and moated sites. Most of the settlements and farms, and the lanes which link them, also have medieval (or older) origins. Country estates, such as Kepwick Hall and Hutton Hall, as well as smaller estates, influence the landscape through their architecture, the presence of estate structures such as walled gardens, and parkland and avenue trees. The stone tower of Captain Cook's Monument, high on the escarpment above Kildale, is visible from a wide area.



Fig.127 Byland Abbey

The fertile soils and availability of fresh water meant that many villages developed at the base of the escarpment. They are generally nucleated (such as Osmotherley) or linear in form (such as Boltby and Swainby). The linear villages may run parallel to or at right angles to the escarpment. Most of the buildings within the historic cores of the villages are vernacular in style (sometimes with estate influences such as decorative barge boards) and built of local stone, with pantile roofs. There are often more modern houses on the edges of settlements which are not always sympathetic to village character.



Fig.128 Boltby is a typical example of a linear village below the escarpment

Disused quarries and mineral workings dot the landscape, including extraction sites for sandstone, ironstone, alum and jet. Some are Scheduled Monuments. The Cleveland Dyke of igneous rock is visible as a V-shaped notch where it has been quarried at Whinstone

Ridge. Within the LCT are the remains of railway lines which transported material quarried within the National Park. The line through Kildale is still open as the passenger service between Middlesbrough and Whitby. The railway incline which formerly carried ironstone from the Rosedale mines to Battersby Junction is now a public right of way, with a shallow descent of the scarp.

Land use within the Western Escarpment is predominantly woodland/ forestry on the steep slopes of the escarpment, and agriculture (mainly improved pasture or arable) on the lower slopes beneath. Farms are generally fairly large in size and often isolated, nestled into sheltered folds in the landform. Fields are variable in size and shape, generally being smaller and less regular in shape around villages. Hedgerows are often well-developed, particularly alongside roads, and contain a variety of native species as well as hedgerow trees. There are occasional stone walls, particularly on higher land, and some use of fencing.



Fig.129 Farmland scene on lower slopes west of Boltby

Main roads (the A170, A172 and A173) generally skirt the periphery of the LCT, sometimes forming the National Park Boundary. Sutton Bank, where the A170 climbs the escarpment, is notoriously steep and prohibited to caravans. Within the LCT, a network of winding lanes, tracks and

footpaths provides access to villages and farms at the base of the escarpment, but there are few through routes. Only a small number of roads climb the escarpment. Some of these roads and tracks have their origin as historic drove roads, used by drovers walking livestock from Scotland to markets in London.

Designation	Sites
Scheduled Monuments	Whorlton Castle; Pinchinthorpe Hall; Kildale Hall Garth; Easby Castle Motte; Byland Abbey; Hood Hill Motte & Bailey; Ravensthorpe Manor; Kirby Knowle medieval settlement; Mount Grace Priory.
Conservation Areas	Swainby, Carlton in Cleveland; Hutton Lowcross; Osmotherley; Thimbleby; Nether Silton; Kewwick; Boltby; Kilburn; Coxwold
HPG	Arncliffe Hall
Listed Buildings	Numerous, including houses, farms, churches, schools, castles, abbeys; chimney to ironstone workings; halls; bridges and monuments.

Key designated heritage conservation sites

Perceptual qualities and views

There is a striking contrast between the colours, textures and patterns of the escarpment, and the scarp foot and dales below. Because the escarpment and lower land are so intervisible, this contrast is a key part of the character of the LCT.

The extensive and varied tree cover on the escarpment gives it a darker, strongly-textured appearance. The occasional crags and patches of moorland add variety, for example through purple heather and yellow gorse. Within the trees there is a strong sense of enclosure, which emphasises the sudden and expansive views which appear when you emerge from the trees.

The farmland of the dales and foothills is much lighter in colour, and more open in feel. Fields create irregular patterns which contrast with the larger blocks of trees on the

escarpment. The farmland also has a much more settled and less dramatic character. The many historic villages and sites give it a strong sense of history.

Much of the LCT is relatively quiet and inaccessible, with few through roads (Sutton Bank is an exception). Away from villages and main roads the area has a strong sense of tranquillity and dark skies. The escarpment also has a sense of remoteness, which is enhanced by the sense of detachment from the more settled lowlands visible below. Much of the woodland and moorland pockets are identified as remote land due to their landcover, and parts of the LCT (for example around Nether Silton and Boltby Forest) are Policy ENV 3 Remote Areas.

Dramatic, panoramic views – both towards and from the escarpment – are fundamental to the character of the LCT. From the escarpment there are magnificent views over the Hambleton Hills, and the lowlands of the Vale of York, Vale of Mowbray, and the Tees Lowlands, where the landscape appears as a vast patchwork spreading into the distance. There are also long views eastwards towards the heart of the North York Moors.



Fig.130 View south from the summit of Roseberry Topping. The southern part of the Western Escarpment forms the horizon

All these views can be appreciated from numerous paths (including parts of the

Cleveland Way) and viewpoints. Carparks and other visitor infrastructure cater for the many visitors who come to enjoy them.

Several of these popular viewpoints are also distinctive landmarks in their own right, for example Captain Cook's Monument, Roseberry Topping and Kilburn White Horse. These features all provide a sense of orientation in views over a wide distance.



Fig.131 Captain Cook's Monument, Easby Moor

The escarpment is a constant presence in views from the villages and farmland at its foot. It is also a key feature in views from beyond the National Park boundary, where it forms a dramatic and distinctive horizon. This LCT is therefore extremely important in views towards the National Park from the surrounding lowlands.



Fig.132 Roseberry Topping and the Western Escarpment as seen from outside the National Park near Middlesbrough

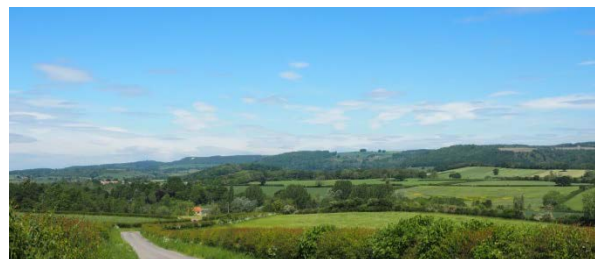


Fig.133 View of the Western Escarpment as seen from outside the National Park south of Ampleforth (In the Howardian Hills AONB)

Ecosystem Services provided by the Western Escarpment LCT

Type of Ecosystem Service	Existing Contributions	Opportunities
Cultural Services	Popular viewpoints such as Roseberry Topping and Captain Cook's Monument provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and the appreciation of views, contributing to people's health and wellbeing. Historic sites and villages provide opportunities to enjoy and learn about the history of the area, as well as contributing to the aesthetic experience. People can also experience tranquillity and dark skies.	There are opportunities to reduce dependence on car travel to access viewpoints and historic sites, for example by supporting bus services and developing off-road circular walks from larger settlements (including those outside the National Park).
Provisioning Services	Extensive areas of plantations and woodlands provide large quantities of timber, wood fibre and biomass. Farmland provides food and fibre (in the form of wool). Springs, streams and reservoirs provide and store fresh water.	There may be opportunities to experiment with growing new crops and tree species to reflect changing climatic conditions. There are also opportunities to improve farming practices to enhance biodiversity.
Regulating Services	Trees play an important role in storing carbon, helping to mitigate climate change. They also improve air quality by absorbing pollutants. Soils and vegetation absorb rainwater and slow water flow, helping to regulate downstream flooding. Plants provide habitats for pollinating insects.	Tree planting/ colonisation schemes have potential to increase carbon storage and reduce pollution. Trees and hedgerows can also contribute to Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes. Changes to agricultural practices could reduce pollution and runoff.
Supporting Services	Woodlands (particularly native woodlands), moorland, grassland, hedgerows, crags, verges and streams provide habitats and habitat links for a range of species. Trees and plants contribute to soil formation and photosynthesis.	There are opportunities to extend and link habitats, and to manage habitats such as field edges, to enhance them and make them more resilient to climate change.

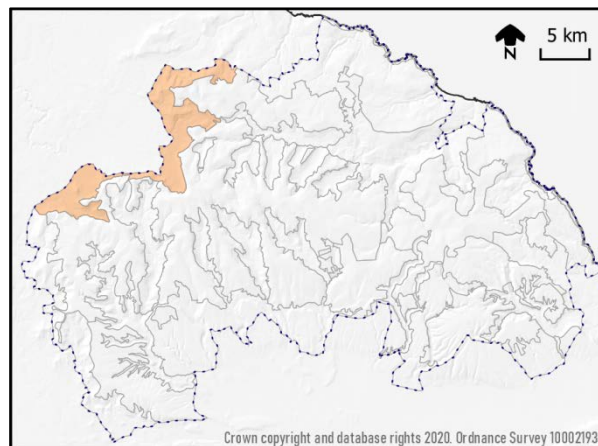
Landscape Character Area Descriptions

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

Landscape Character Area 9a: Cleveland Foothills



Fig.134 A typical scene in LCA 9a, showing the escarpment looking north from Carlton Moor. Roseberry Topping can be seen on the skyline



Map showing the location of LCA 9a within the National Park

This LCA is located in the north-west of the National Park, and comprises the transition between the lowlands of the Tees Lowlands and Vale of Mowbray (outside the National Park) and the uplands of the Cleveland Hills (LCT 1). It includes the villages of Hutton Village, Kildale, Battersby, Ingleby Greenhow, Carlton in Cleveland, Faceby and Swainby, as well as numerous hamlets and farms.

The scarp is steep and strongly indented, comprising a series of flat-topped promontories. It is well-treed, with extensive conifer/ mixed plantations and some deciduous woodland. At its base is a band of gently-rolling farmland, where most of the villages are located. The parkland at Hutton provides a softer and more pastoral character on the edge of Guisborough. The Cleveland Way passes through the parkland, connecting with Guisborough Forest and Walkway Visitor Centre at Pinchinthorpe, which forms a gateway to the National Park.

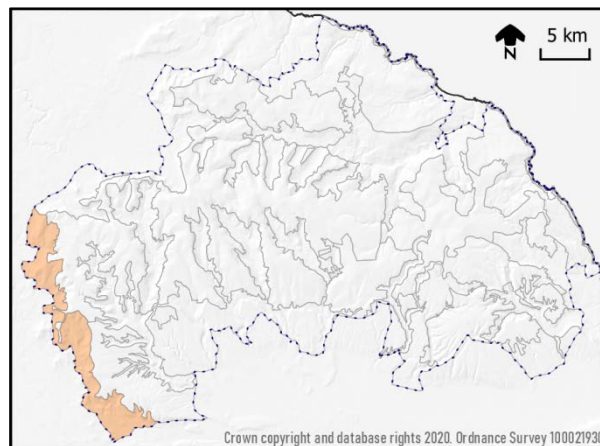
A number of dales cut through the escarpment. The largest of these is Kildale, which forms a watershed with Esk Dale and is used as the route of the Middlesbrough-Whitby railway line, and as a road connection into the National Park. Captain Cook's monument overlooks Kildale from Easby Moor, and is a prominent landmark with outstanding views. There is also a route through the escarpment to Bilsdale, used by the B1257.

The outlying conical hills of Roseberry Topping and Whorl Hill are very distinctive features, providing a strong sense of place. From Roseberry Topping there are 360 degree views taking in the open moorland, the sea, Teesside, Middlesbrough, the Cleveland Plain, the valley of the River Leven and the escarpment stretching down to the south.

Landscape Character Area 9b: Hambleton Foothills



Fig.135 A typical scene in LCA 9b, looking south-east from Kilburn White Horse



Map showing the location of LCA 9b within the National Park

This LCA is located on the south-western edge of the National Park, and comprises the transition between the lowlands of the Vales of York and Mowbray to the west, and the Howardian Hills to the south (all outside the National Park) and the uplands of the Hambleton Hills (LCAs 1a and 5a). It contains many picturesque villages, the largest of which is Osmotherley.

The topography is complex, comprising the indented escarpment, outlying conical hills, and lower foothills dropping gradually down into the Vale of York and the Vale of Pickering. Inland cliffs can be seen at the top of the escarpment (for example at Roulston Scar), which in places is capped by Corallian limestone. This adds local variation to the soils, habitats and trees.

Much of the escarpment is covered in trees. Some of the forests have car parks and trails, whilst others (such as Boltby) are inaccessible by road, although they can be reached using the Cleveland Way and other public rights of way. The lower land below the escarpment is also very well treed, including numerous mature oaks, sycamore and chestnut trees. Some of these reflect the influence of the parkland estates and country houses which are present in this LCA and add to the lushness of the landscape.

This is an ancient landscape with many historic features, particularly from the medieval period. Byland Abbey and Mount Grace Priory are both located within this LCA, as well as numerous historic villages (many of which are Conservation Areas) and Listed Buildings. Villages and farms are connected by narrow lanes winding between high hedges. In contrast, the A170 climbs the escarpment at Sutton Bank – one of the steepest ‘A’ roads in the country.

There are magnificent views looking up at the escarpment from below, and also from the top looking out over the foothills to the Vale of Pickering (to the south) and the Vale of York (to the west) which form the setting to the National Park. The view from Sutton Bank was described by author James Herriot as ‘The finest view in England’.

Forces for Change acting on the Western Escarpment LCT

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Infrastructure and communication	The skyline of the escarpment is especially sensitive because of its prominence, distinctive shape and visibility over a wide area. It is the visible part of the National Park in views from the lowlands. The construction of any structures such as masts which break the skyline would therefore have significant impacts.	All
Settlement expansion	There is likely to be development pressure, particularly in the larger villages, to accommodate new housing and related development. There is a risk that such development may not fit with the form or character of the settlement, or that elements such as property boundaries could introduce a suburban – rather than rural – character	All
Abandonment of traditional agricultural buildings, and demand for new buildings	Changing farming practices require larger and more modern farm buildings. Old buildings no longer serving their original purpose may become derelict unless an alternative use can be found (e.g. conversion to holiday accommodation). This may result in loss of historical integrity or fittings associated with their original uses. New larger agricultural buildings are likely to be much more prominent in the landscape and may also contribute to light pollution unless carefully designed. Hedgerows may become gappy if they are no longer required to be stockproof, or they may be replaced by post-and-wire fencing.	All
Loss of rural character	Increased signage and ‘clutter’ on roads can lead to a loss of rural character. It is most likely to occur on the approaches to villages and along main roads, although it is not yet a major problem in this LCT.	All
Tree disease and invasive species	Pathogens currently pose risks to many different trees within the UK. For example, larch is susceptible to phytophthora, and Ash Dieback is already present in the National Park. Invasive species are also threats to both the appearance of the landscape and the functioning of ecosystems.	
Biodiversity loss	20 th Century forestation of former moorland and woodland areas of the escarpment reduced biodiversity. Intensification of agriculture at the base of the escarpment has resulted in some localised field boundary loss, and also a reduction in farmland habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, hedgerows and field margins.	
Additional tree cover	<p>There are many opportunities within this LCT to increase tree cover in a variety of ways, including new/extended woodland, woodpasture, and new individual trees including hedgerow trees, parkland trees, roadside trees, infield trees, riparian trees and parkland trees. There may also be opportunities for natural colonisation, particularly on steep slopes or close to the boundaries with moorland.</p> <p>When thinking about increasing tree cover, it is important to consider the future impacts of tree growth on the long views which are integral to the character of this LCT. It may also impact on habitats which are already rich in biodiversity (such as flower-rich grassland) and on buried archaeology. New tree cover in lower parts of the LCT may</p>	

	affect the current distinction between the wooded scarp and the more open agricultural land below.	
Climate change	Increased temperatures, higher concentrations of nitrogen and longer growing seasons may enable more vigorous tree growth, and the opportunity to grow alternative species of trees. However, some species susceptible to heat or drought (such as beech and fir) may no longer thrive in a changing climate. New pests and diseases thrive in warmer temperatures. More frequent and intense storms make trees vulnerable to wind throw, particularly mature planted trees growing in shallow soils. Heavy rain erodes soil exposed after tree felling. Warmer temperatures and longer growing season may affect farmers' crop choices.	
Erosion and soil loss	Felling of trees on steep slopes can result in increased erosion of soils and run-off of water, increasing downstream flood risk. This can also occur along tracks, particularly if they have been churned up or compacted by vehicles. Ploughing of soils on steeper slopes may result in soil erosion and run-off of soil into watercourses.	All
Damage to earthworks and buried archaeology	Tree/ scrub roots physically damage earthworks and buried archaeology. It is also vulnerable to physical and chemical attack by bracken, and to damage by burrowing animals. People can also cause damage where access is easy or there are large numbers of visitors.	All
Illegal vehicle use	Unauthorised use of vehicles such as 4x4s and trail bikes can damage track surfaces, making them more vulnerable to erosion, and creating scars within the landscape. They can also damage habitats.	All
Overgrowing of viewpoints	Viewpoints need regular management of vegetation in order to keep them open and views visible.	
Farming and land management	<p>The consequences of past changes in farming practices are described in 'biodiversity loss' above. In addition the artificial fertilisation of fields, and the farming of livestock, may result in nitrate enrichment and the pollution of water supplies unless carefully managed.</p> <p>Forthcoming changes to agricultural grant schemes are likely to result in changes to how land is managed, with payments for 'public goods' such as managing water and improving biodiversity. This is a change in emphasis to the subsidy system which will hopefully be a positive force for change in the landscape. Within the LCT there are places where management of land for horses is not being done sensitively.</p> <p>Intensive pheasant-rearing impacts on landscape character and biodiversity in some parts of the LCT, with large enclosures, blue plastic feed bins, growing of feed/ cover crops such as maize and millet, and loss of woodland ground flora.</p>	
Changing forest management practices	This is a positive change enabling restoration of semi-natural habitats such as Ancient Woodland which were previously planted with non-native trees. The introduction of 'fuzzy forestry' creates softer, more gradual and naturalistic edges to plantations, reducing the geometric appearance of the original forest boundaries. Modern forestry management encourages the creation of glades and rides, increasing	All

	diversity of woodland habitats and promoting insects (particularly butterflies) and birds. Felling coupes are becoming smaller, reducing their visual impact, and straight edges and rides are being replaced to fit better with the landform and reduce artificial lines in the landscape. Forest management is also influenced by timber price and demand, and by the availability and emphasis of grant schemes.	
Recreation and visitor pressure	Concentrations of visitors at key destinations can lead to issues with parking, erosion of paths, damage to fragile habitats, disturbance of wildlife, and littering.	
Loss of tranquillity and dark skies	Dark skies are affected by light pollution from traffic, street lighting, buildings, security lighting and agricultural buildings. Many of these sources are outside the National Park, and increased development is likely to exacerbate the problem. Tranquillity is affected by development, noise, traffic and people. Sources outside the National Park may impact on levels of tranquillity within this LCT.	
Changes outside the National Park and in adjacent LCTs	Views out over surrounding lowland landscapes (which form the setting to the National Park) are a key feature of this LCT. Developments within the setting are likely to affect these views, particularly if there is a cumulative impact. Visible developments may include infrastructure, energy and development schemes. Because of the difference in height, such developments will be seen from above, meaning their full extent can be seen. They may also impact on tranquillity and dark skies. There are also visual and ecological connections between this LCT and the adjacent Moorland and Limestone Hills LCTs. Changes within these LCTs may therefore impact on the Western Escarpment.	All

Landscape Guidelines for the Western Escarpment LCT

Protect

- Protect the distinctive and prominent skylines created by the escarpment, avoiding all forms of built development.
- Protect dark night skies, particularly around the Dark Sky Viewpoint at Sutton Bank National Park Centre (just outside this LCT).
- Protect significant archaeological sites – both well-known complexes, and those not open to the public.
- Protect the strongly-rural character and sense of tranquillity away from main roads and large settlements.
- Protect the distinctive linear and nucleated forms of historic settlements, and the character of the buildings within them.
- Protect the relationship between farms/settlements and the surrounding landscape. Where new buildings are required, maintain this relationship through careful siting, design and mitigation (see National Park Design Guide).
- Protect the settings to settlements, for example historic field patterns and mature trees.

- Protect the setting of the National Park, particularly from highly intrusive or cumulative development.

Manage

- Continue efforts to increase the biodiversity of forests, and the range of habitats within them. Seek opportunities to restore Ancient Woodland sites with native broadleaved species, including through natural colonisation.
- Continue to improve the fit of forests into the landscape, including through the replacement of abrupt edges with more gradual boundaries (particularly at the junctions of forest and moorland), and by allowing forest edges to reflect the underlying landform.
- Encourage active management of broadleaved woodland where it will provide clear landscape and biodiversity benefits alongside production of wood products where appropriate. Seek opportunities to extend and link deciduous woodland.
- Manage grassland and moorland habitats, seeking opportunities to create connections with similar habitats in this LCT and adjacent LCTs.
- Manage hedgerows and dry stone walls using traditional methods where possible. Use new hedgerows to improve habitat connectivity between woodlands, and to promote Natural Flood Management where appropriate, using species present in existing local hedgerows. Plant new hedgerow and roadside trees, and encourage existing trees within hedgerows to grow out as standards.
- Manage farmland, promoting good soil health and minimising pollution and runoff. Seek opportunities for Natural Flood Management.
- Encourage good practice with regard to pheasant-rearing, to minimise landscape and biodiversity impacts.
- Manage parklands, promoting the use of Parkland Management Plans and the planting of new trees to become the parkland trees and avenues of the future.
- Manage popular visitor sites, paying particular attention to path maintenance and making sure that fragile habitats are not being damaged.
- Manage viewpoints, ensuring that they are kept open and free from vegetation growth.
- Manage SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments to ensure that they remain within 'favourable' or 'not at risk' status.
- Consider opportunities for dynamic boundaries between farmland, trees, scrub and moorland where this LCT adjoins LCT 1.

Plan

- Seek opportunities to expand native woodland cover using planting and/or natural colonisation as appropriate. New individual trees, in hedges, along roads and streams and in parkland should also be encouraged. There may also be opportunities to introduce woodpasture. 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. Also make sure that new tree growth will not block views from viewpoints.

- Promote Natural Flood Management techniques where appropriate.
- Ensure development proposals within the National Park's setting are appropriately assessed, and adequate mitigation is in place, particularly where there may be cumulative impacts. The impacts of noise and light pollution should be considered as part of this process.
- Use existing or new hedgerows or woodlands to screen new development on the peripheries of settlements and help it to integrate into the landscape.
- Where communications masts or other vertical features are unavoidable, site them where they will not break the skyline of the escarpment, and against a backdrop of trees. Use colour to minimise visual impact.
- Retain the rural character of settlements, avoiding unnecessary signage and urbanising features such as concrete kerbs, tarmac pavements/ driveways and close-boarded fencing.
- Promote sustainable access to popular viewpoints, particularly from settlements outside the boundary, to reduce dependency on car travel.
- Seek opportunities for LiDAR survey of forested areas to identify currently unknown archaeological sites and landscape features.
- 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.