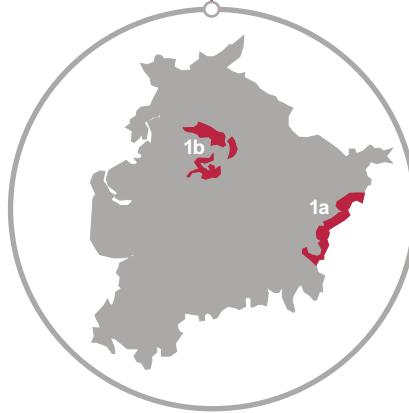


- 1a South Pennine Moors
- 1b High Bowland Plateaux

Summary

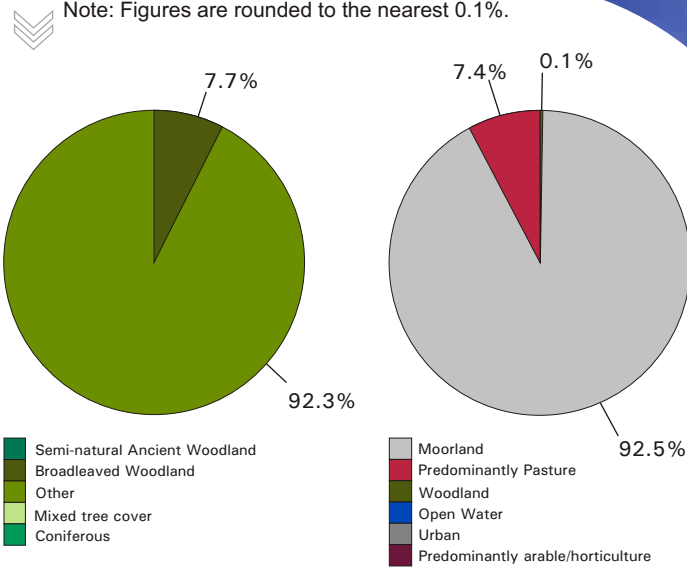
Predominantly located 300 to 600 metres above sea level, the Moorland Plateaux are remote and exposed landscapes. Perceptions of wilderness are further reinforced by an absence of trees and settlements, coupled with expansive views of a large-scale rolling landscape dominated by dwarf shrub heath. Found in the High Bowland Plateaux and the South Pennine Moors, the moorland landscape supports a diverse mosaic of highly valued habitats including blanket bog, mires, acidic flushes and heather moorland, many of which are nationally and internationally recognised important habitats especially for upland birds. The Moorland Plateaux are subject to pressures from recreation and in some areas, wind energy development, quarrying and mining.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 13.3 ha.

Character type area 9,880 ha.

Vision and Objectives



To establish robust stewardship of existing woodlands and encourage the natural regeneration of upland oak woodland in valley heads and cloughs.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Enhance existing semi-natural woodlands through active management.
- ⇒ Encourage natural regeneration in valley heads through grazing restrictions and stock fencing.
- ⇒ Increase upland oak woodland cloughs, a priority UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat.
- ⇒ Enhance the biodiversity and nature conservation value of the moorland habitat mosaic.
- ⇒ Make woodland connections with long distance ecological networks along cloughs to downstream river valleys.
- ⇒ Contribute to catchment management and downstream flood control by planting along cloughs.
- ⇒ Enhance the rights of way network as an outcome of the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act 2000).
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.
- ⇒ Less competition from other landuses raises potential to increase woodland cover in the moorlands.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that woodland planting and woodland regeneration do not adversely affect the distinctive ecological and historical assets of the moorland landscape.
- ⇒ Ensure that woodland planting is at a scale and size that is appropriate to the open landscape character, avoiding extensive planting.
- ⇒ Manage grazing levels to preserve the quality of existing woodlands and allow small-scale natural regeneration in valley heads and cloughs.
- ⇒ Balance recreational demand and nature conservation interest within woodlands.
- ⇒ Ensure that local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Moorland Plateaux have low capacity for woodland uplift, although natural regeneration, particularly of upland oak species, should be encouraged in valley heads and cloughs. New native woodland planting should, on the whole, be avoided in favour of natural regeneration. Grazing exclusion in sheltered valleys and cloughs should be secured to allow for natural regeneration. Regeneration should be focused around existing woodlands so as to generate the greatest ecological and visual benefit. Linkages to local and long distance ecological networks should be made wherever possible, to ensure the future long-term ecological viability of the Moorland Plateaux woodlands. Woodland regeneration should not be encouraged where this will threaten other important habitats or the open character of the landscape, which is important for breeding birds.

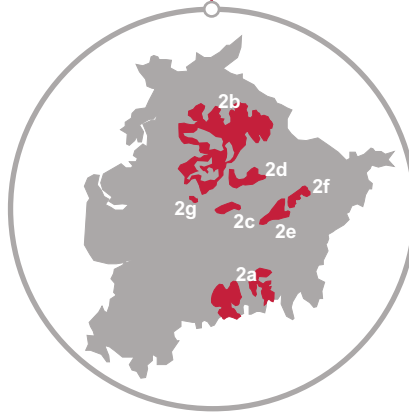


Character Areas

- 2a West Pennine Moors
- 2b Central Bowland Fells
- 2c Longridge Fell
- 2d Waddington Fell
- 2e Pendle Hill
- 2f White Moor/Burn Moor
- 2g Beacon Fell

Summary

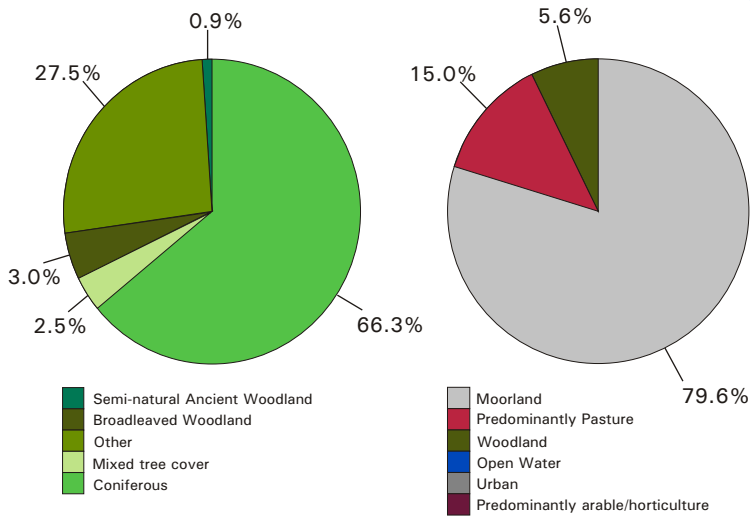
The Moorland Hills are found at lower elevations than the Moorland Plateaux. The soft rounded topography of the higher summits gives rise to deeply incised valleys, ravines and cloughs as water flows from the summits. The elevated nature of the Moorland Hills allows panoramic views across the surrounding lowland landscape. The landcover is predominantly blanket bog, heather moorland, acid grassland, semi-natural clough woodland, and there are several large coniferous woodland blocks. Many of these natural and semi-natural habitats are part of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Biological Heritage Sites (BHS).



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%



Woodland area 1,867.5 ha.

Character type area 33,147 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To undertake phased restructuring of existing coniferous plantations to enhance the visual and ecological diversity of the Moorland Hills, and to encourage natural regeneration in valley heads and cloughs to contribute positively to priorities for catchment management.



Opportunities

- ⇒ Enhance the visual character of the Moorland Hills through new native woodland screen planting around commercial forests to soften their visual impact.
- ⇒ Restructure coniferous plantations to increase the proportion of native broadleaved woodland.
- ⇒ Harness timber arising from woodland restructuring works as a local construction and energy resource.
- ⇒ Increase the biodiversity of existing woodlands through the creation of rides and glades, and through the retention of dead wood.
- ⇒ Contribute positively to catchment management and flood attenuation.
- ⇒ Enhance woodland connectivity and links with other priority habitats.
- ⇒ Secure active woodland management, particularly for SSSI woodlands.
- ⇒ Enhance and extend the rights of way network as a component of woodland management and creation.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that woodland planting does not adversely affect the distinctive ecological and cultural identity of the Moorland Hills.
- ⇒ Diversify the single age structure of coniferous plantations.
- ⇒ Balance recreation with nature conservation interests within woodlands.
- ⇒ Manage grazing regimes to maximise opportunities for natural regeneration.
- ⇒ Ensure that local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Moorland Hills have medium capacity for woodland uplift, although the restructuring of existing coniferous woodland plantations should be prioritised. Gradual replacement of non-natives with native broadleaf should be undertaken in line with current national forestry policy. New native woodland planting should also help to screen existing coniferous plantations where they form an intrusive landscape element. Natural regeneration should be encouraged wherever possible, particularly within existing clough and valley woodlands. Connections should be established between fragmented woodlands to enhance the ecological and visual qualities of the existing woodland resource. Woodland creation should be focused primarily on upland oak woodlands, especially where there are opportunities to reverse fragmentation and reinforce linkages with other priority habitats.

Summary

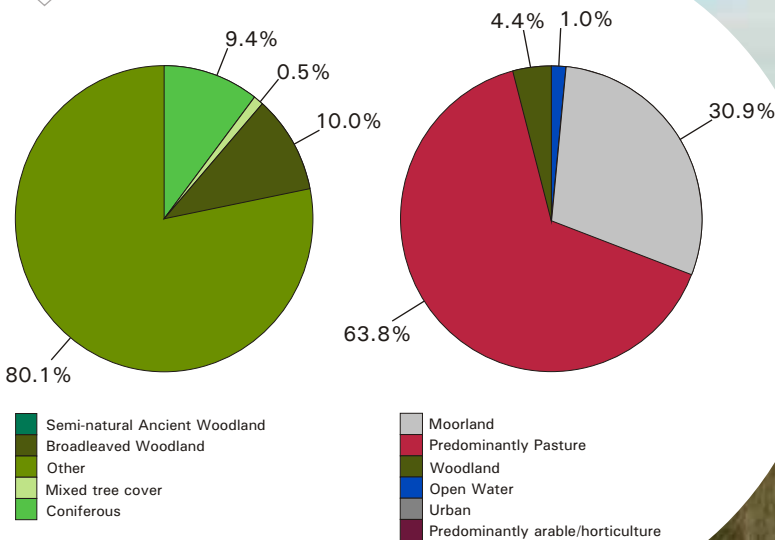
The Enclosed Uplands are found solely at the Rossendale Hills. The area is characterised by a distinct pattern of enclosure, with a network of gritstone walls and small remote farms being a key feature. The area also has a long history of mineral extraction and associated settlement of miner-farmer smallholdings. Many of the farm buildings and cottages are now abandoned as a consequence of a significant downturn in sheep and cattle farming, leaving the area on the margins of economic viability. The area is bleak and has an air of dereliction, which is further exacerbated by the presence of high tension powerlines traversing the landscape. The undulating landscape is dominated by rush pasture and there is a distinct absence of trees and woodland. Peat can be found on higher summits and the associated habitats of blanket bog and acid base rich flushes. These Enclosed Uplands provide a valuable habitat for upland birds.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 211.1 ha.

Character type area 4,831 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To encourage natural regeneration and new native woodland creation in valley heads and cloughs, and along the tributaries of the River Irwell, contributing to catchment management and flood attenuation.

Enclosed Uplands

Opportunities

- ⇒ Create small native mixed upland woodland on agricultural landholdings.
- ⇒ Contribute to catchment management objectives for the River Irwell through riparian planting along tributaries.
- ⇒ Enhance woodland connectivity and links with other priority habitats.
- ⇒ Manage grazing regimes to facilitate natural regeneration.
- ⇒ Reflect the topography of the enclosed uplands with strategically positioned woodland planting.
- ⇒ Expand upland oak woodlands to contribute to priorities in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).
- ⇒ Enhance the habitat mosaic of the Enclosed Uplands landscape.
- ⇒ Exploit opportunities for woodland creation on less viable agricultural landholdings.
- ⇒ Break up views of overhead transmission lines.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that woodland planting does not compromise the value of the Enclosed Uplands to upland bird species.
- ⇒ Protect the open character of the upland summits.
- ⇒ Manage grazing pressures.
- ⇒ Ensure that woodland planting does not restrict access to watercourses for maintenance purposes.
- ⇒ Ensure that local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Enclosed Uplands have low capacity for woodland uplift. In appropriate locations small-scale natural regeneration should be encouraged. Natural regeneration will be targeted at valley heads, cloughs and small farm woodlands. Streamside planting along tributaries could make a positive contribution to the catchment management objectives for the River Irwell by forming a hydrological buffer along tributaries. Mixed and upland oak woodlands should be prioritised. Local and long distance ecological linkages should be established to reverse woodland fragmentation within this degraded landscape.

Character Areas

- 4a Trawden Fringe
- 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe
- 4c Blackburn Moorland Fringe
- 4d Bowland Gritstone Fringes
- 4e Bowland Limestone Fringes
- 4f Longridge Fell Fringes
- 4g South Pendle Fringe
- 4h Leck Fell Fringe
- 4i North Pendle Fringe
- 4j West Pennine Fringes

Summary

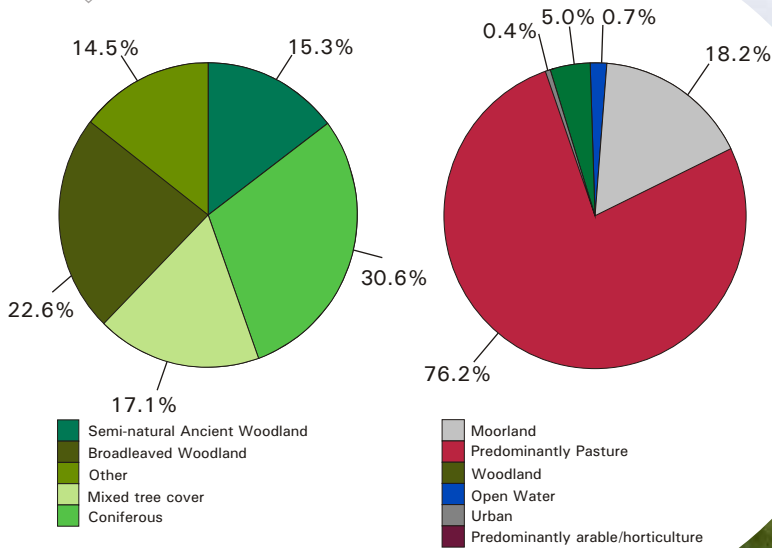
The Moorland Fringe is principally located above 200 metres above sea level forming a transitional landscape between the remote uplands, and the intensively farmed lowlands. Sheep grazing is the predominant land use. As a consequence of low intensity agricultural practices, the landscape boasts a wealth of archaeological heritage that has often been lost in the intensively farmed landholdings of lowland Lancashire. The landcover consists of marginal pastures including some traditionally managed meadows, wet rushy pasture, inbyes and acidic grassland. Woodland is sparse within this landscape, with present tree cover mainly associated with farmsteads. The Moorland Fringe has a long history of landuse and settlement and is primarily defined by its agricultural and industrial heritage.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 1,425 ha.

Character type area 28,692ha.

Vision and Objectives

To improve the texture and biodiversity interest of the Moorland Fringe by increasing woodland cover in the valleys and surrounding small farmsteads.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Enhance the characteristic diversity of the Moorland Fringe through small-scale woodland cluster planting with the dual purpose of enhancing ecological diversity.
- ⇒ Improve the structure and condition of the existing woodland resource through active management.
- ⇒ Emphasise the topography of the Moorland Fringe through strategically positioned woodland planting.
- ⇒ Introduce riparian planting within valleys to deliver catchment management priorities for river valleys.
- ⇒ Introduce small cluster planting to function as ecological stepping stones across the landscape without being visually obtrusive.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that new planting is sympathetic to local topography.
- ⇒ Establish a soft transition to upland moorland by ensuring tree planting is part of a mixed planting with woodland edge species and dwarf shrub heath.
- ⇒ Ensure that woodland creation does not damage important ecological and archaeological sites.
- ⇒ Manage grazing to facilitate natural regeneration.
- ⇒ Ensure that local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Moorland Fringe has medium capacity for uplift. Woodland should reflect the natural dynamics of the landscape, providing a transition from lowland to moorland via the inclusion of woodland edge and dwarf shrub heath vegetation extending up to the Moorland Plateaux. Natural regeneration should be encouraged wherever possible in favour of new planting. However, regeneration and creation activity should be focused on the valleys and small farm woodlands. Woodland expansion and creation in river valleys should make a valuable contribution to catchment management and flood attenuation, whilst small farm woodlands will form ecological stepping stones. Small-scale woodland should be favoured as blanket planting is inappropriate within this landscape. Care must be taken to protect sites of archaeological importance and existing sites of nature conservation value to ensure they are not adversely affected by woodland regeneration and creation.

Undulating Lowland Farmland

Summary

Located less than 150 metres above sea level this farmland landscape has a distinct sense of shelter and enclosure. Traversed by deeply incised woodland cloughs and gorges, the valley sides are often characterised by Ancient Woodland. The increased presence of Ancient Woodland results from the unsuitability of valley sides for agriculture. These Ancient Woodlands are an important natural asset for Lancashire and the Northwest, which is demonstrated by several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations. Field boundaries are marked by hedgerows which form an important ecological link between woodlands and other key wildlife habitats. Hedgerows are slowly being eroded due to agricultural changes and settlement expansion. The landscape has historically been well settled, with many stone villages, a high density of farms and scattered cottages. The scale and size of the Undulating Farmland landscape makes it a significant landscape type within Lancashire. It affords prominent views to and from many of the key settlements and transport corridors.



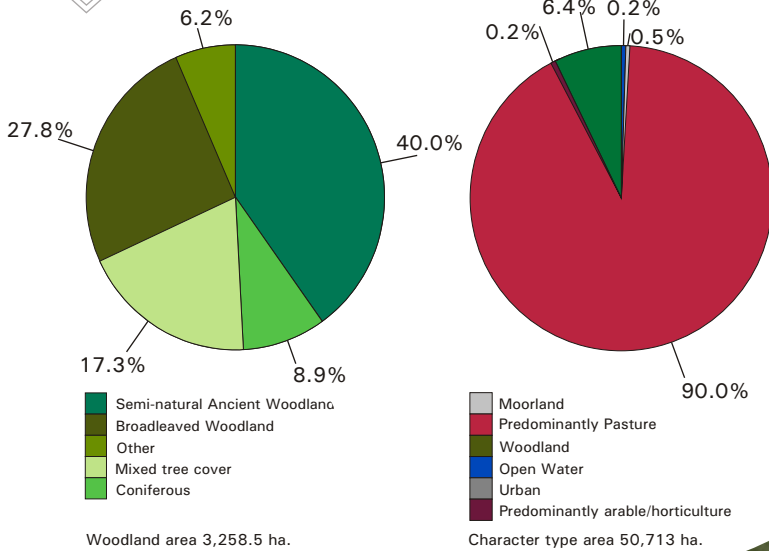
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Character Areas

- 5a Upper Hodder Valley
- 5b Lower Hodder & Loud Valley
- 5c Lower Ribble
- 5d Samlesbury-Withnell Fold
- 5e Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)
- 5f Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellfield)
- 5g South Bowland Fringes
- 5h Goosnargh-Whittingham
- 5i West Bowland Fringes
- 5j North Bowland Fringes
- 5k Cuerden-Euxton

Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Vision and Objectives

To secure the existing woodland resource through active management, particularly Ancient Woodlands. To buffer existing woodlands with native planting, priority being given to wet woodland planting on the valley floors, community woodland planting on the urban fringe and planting along major transport corridors.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Ensure the long-term viability of parkland trees and landscapes by restructuring, using species of local provenance wherever possible.
- ⇒ Increase the proportion of river corridor woodland through natural regeneration and new woodland planting.
- ⇒ Increase the percentage of lowland oak and mixed woodlands.
- ⇒ Link existing woodlands and hedgerows to create a continuous woodland network to reverse habitat fragmentation.
- ⇒ Encourage tree planting as an integral part of any new development.
- ⇒ Secure sustainable management of the existing woodland resource.
- ⇒ Increase woodland cover and improve existing resources within urban fringe locations, and manage them as a community recreational resource.
- ⇒ Improve the image of strategic transport corridors in Lancashire through woodland creation.
- ⇒ Create new hedgerows and regenerate existing hedges to maintain and enhance key landscape linkages.
- ⇒ Cultivate short rotation coppice to contribute to renewable energy production and support local community biomass projects.
- ⇒ Enhance the tourism role of woodlands through promotion and incorporation of appropriate facilities.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.
- ⇒ Exploit the social benefit of woodlands adjacent to the top 20% most deprived areas within the country

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that semi-natural habitats are safeguarded and linked to woodlands through ecological corridors and 'stepping stones'.
- ⇒ Resolve uncertainty regarding the economic viability of biomass in the context of current market conditions, seeking to generate greater demand for short rotation coppice products.
- ⇒ Maintain a balance between recreational demand and nature conservation.
- ⇒ Encourage farmers to adopt less intensive farming practices so that the vitality of existing woodlands is not compromised and to facilitate natural regeneration in and around woodland habitats.
- ⇒ Ensure that development pressures do not result (directly or indirectly) in the loss of woodlands, particularly Ancient Woodland.
- ⇒ Ensure that local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Undulating Lowland Farmland has medium capacity for woodland uplift. The existing woodland resource, including hedgerows, should be safeguarded through active management to ensure that the full range of public benefits are provided. In particular the Ancient Woodland of the Undulating Lowland Farmland is vital to the natural capital of Lancashire, so management of these areas is especially important. The strategic location of the Undulating Farmland in relation to key transport corridors and urban landscapes, means it is exceptionally important for perceptions of the County's vitality and economic viability.

Natural regeneration should be encouraged, wherever possible, in favour of new planting, to ensure local provenance, although planting will be an important mechanism for new woodland creation. Priority should be given to wet woodland along the valley floors, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat. New planting should be targeted in areas adjacent to settlements so that recreational opportunities for local communities are maximised. The Undulating Lowland Farmland has the potential to accommodate short rotation coppice, particularly on lower grade agricultural land, in close proximity to urban areas to enable viable community biomass projects to develop.