

- 11a Lower Ribble Valley
- 11b Long Preston Reaches
- 11c Aire Valley
- 11d Lune Valley

Summary

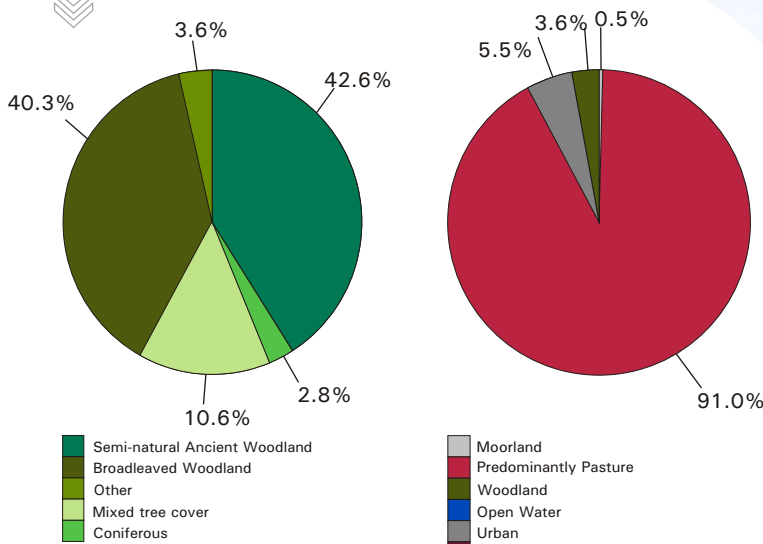
The Valley Floodplains are flat and open, characterised by large meandering rivers, eroded bluffs, terraces, areas of standing water and steep wooded banks. The environment is subject to occasional flooding which produces fertile grazing land which is predominantly used for cattle and sheep. Due to the intensity of agricultural land practices, nature conservation interests are confined to limited areas. Remnant habitats of neutral grassland, wet meadows, raised mosses, areas of standing water, and marshland provide ecological interest. Settlements within the valleys are located at the periphery of the floodplain primarily clustered around river crossings. The floodplain itself is a relatively unpopulated pastoral landscape. It is subject to pressures of sand and gravel extraction in addition to recreational demand.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.

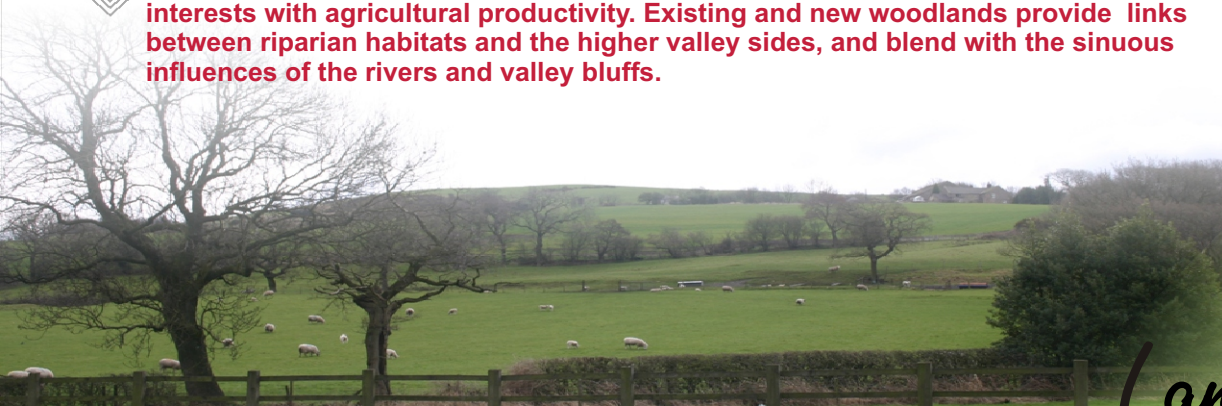


Woodland area 323.7 ha.

Character type area 9,058 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To achieve a productive grazing landscape that balances nature conservation interests with agricultural productivity. Existing and new woodlands provide links between riparian habitats and the higher valley sides, and blend with the sinuous influences of the rivers and valley bluffs.



Opportunities

- ⇒ Undertake riparian planting of wet woodland within a mosaic of other valuable habitats, including wet grassland to contribute to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ⇒ Link woodlands on the fringes of the floodplain with those on valley sides forming strong ecological linkages.
- ⇒ Allow natural regeneration through grazing restrictions wherever possible.
- ⇒ Plant native black poplar, a distinctive floodplain species that has seen rapid decline in recent decades.
- ⇒ Screen and soften the built edges of urban settlements using broadleaved woodland planting.
- ⇒ Frame strategic views from higher ground and bluffs.
- ⇒ Bring all woodlands into active management to secure their long-term future.
- ⇒ 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 settlement encroachment does not threaten the existing woodland resource.
- ⇒ Manage grazing to facilitate woodland establishment and natural regeneration, ensuring that stock fencing does not intrude visually on the landscape.
- ⇒ Avoid damage to valuable archaeological sites as a consequence of woodland planting, necessitating the need for robust heritage assessments prior to any woodland planting.
- ⇒ Balance access and recreation demand with nature conservation interests.
- ⇒ Preserve the long, open views of the valley plains through the careful selection of planting sites and species.
- ⇒ Ensure free access is available to the Environment Agency along rivers so that maintenance work can be undertaken.
- ⇒ Ensure woodland planting and expansion follows the sinuous form of the valley floodplain.
- ⇒ Ensure that woodland creation does not adversely affect existing areas of ecological or geological value.
- ⇒ Ensure that land managers have the appropriate skills and support to undertake woodland management.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Valley Floodplains have medium potential for woodland uplift. Existing woodland should be brought into active management. New planting of small-scale copses should be undertaken using native broadleaved species, whilst maximising the use of locally sourced native black poplar on the valley floor. Wherever possible, continuous linkages should be created between the valley floor and the higher slopes. Woodland is to be a component of a diverse landscape mosaic incorporating open grassland habitats favourable for wet land and wading birds.

The potential for natural regeneration is limited as the existing woodland resource is highly fragmented and the expansion of existing woodlands will have to be very carefully undertaken so as not to detrimentally affect the open character and long views of the valley floodplain.

Woodland should, wherever possible, be an intrinsic part of any new development, and new development schemes should contribute to wider woodland expansion and management through the use of Planning Agreements.



Character Areas

- 12a Camforth-Galgate-Cockerham
- 12b Warton-Borwick
- 12c Heysham-Overton

Summary

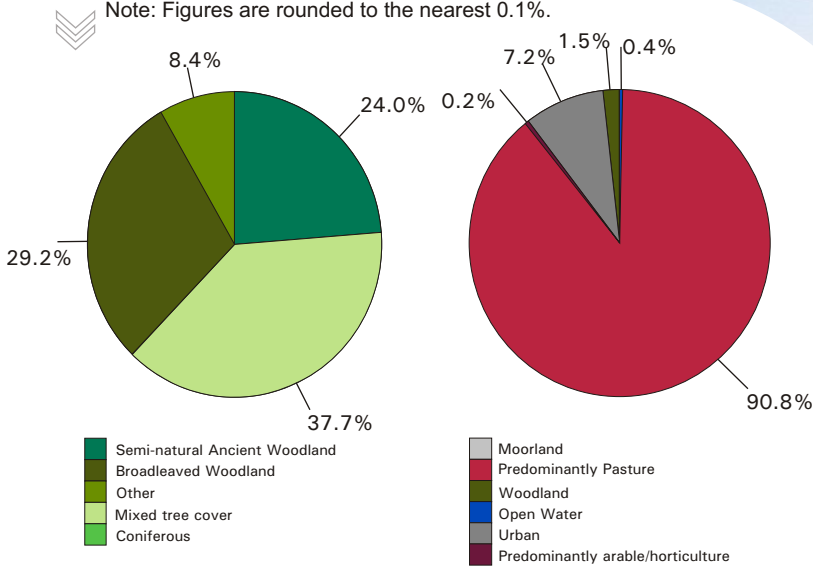
Low Coastal Drumlins are focused in the north west of Lancashire. These were formed during the last Ice Age, and form characteristic low hills which rise from the surrounding landscape forming a distinctive landform with broad rounded tops. The Coastal Drumlins are located at a lower altitude than the Drumlin Fields found inland, and the individual drumlins tend to be more isolated. Poorly drained pastures, standing water and occasional mossland, fens and fen meadow are located between the drumlins. Hedges characterise the enclosure of relatively unchanged field boundaries, whilst shrubs and trees are limited to small copses on the tops and sides of drumlins forming a distinctive landscape feature. Despite abundant development, which is generally located above the poorly drained land, the area has a predominantly rural feel.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 139.2 ha.

Character type area 9,049 ha.

Vision and Objectives



To maintain the distinctive grain of the drumlin landscape, by limiting woodland creation opportunities to the buffering of Ancient Woodlands and strategic transport corridors, and ensuring the long-term future of well-managed hedgerow field boundaries.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Undertake screen planting along strategic transport corridors, such as the M6 Motorway, to reduce the noise and visual impact of major roads on the landscape.
- ⇒ Harness opportunities and resources for woodland creation and management from residential and commercial development through planning obligations.
- ⇒ Undertake small-scale woodland planting on the peaks of the drumlins to form a woodland backdrop and give the impression of a 'well wooded' landscape.
- ⇒ Bring all woodlands and hedgerows into active management to deliver a maximum range of public benefits.
- ⇒ Enhance local and long- distance ecological linkages.

Challenges

- ⇒ Avoid loss and erosion of the existing woodlands and hedgerows from amalgamation of farms.
- ⇒ Maintain a robust planning policy framework to ensure that development does not result in any net loss of woodland, particularly erosion of woodlands by settlement expansion.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Low Coastal Drumlins have high capacity for woodland uplift, although small cluster planting on drumlin peaks would give the impression of a 'well wooded' landscape. Natural regeneration and new planting in close proximity to existing woodlands should be carefully considered, to ensure that new woodlands are sympathetic to the scale of the landscape.

Large scale woodlands are not suitable. A network of hedgerow corridors and small woods is considered the best approach. Trees should also be incorporated into hedgerows. Although these would not be classified as woodland, they would further reinforce the perception of a 'well wooded' landscape. The existing woodland resource should be brought into active management.



Character Areas

- 13a Gargrave Drumlin Field
- 13b Bentham-Clapham
- 13c Docker-Kellet-Lancaster

Summary

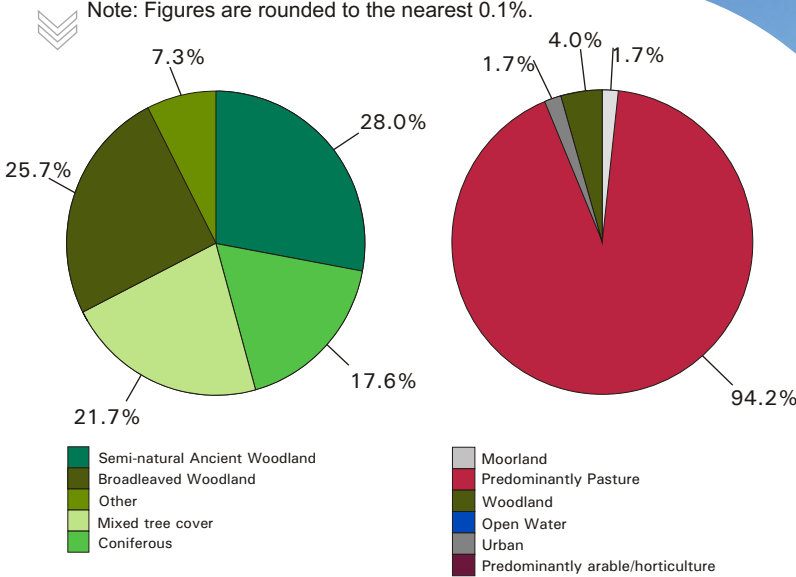
Fields of rolling drumlin align in parallel orientation, giving a uniform grain to the landscape. Hillocks rise 100-200 metres above sea level out of the surrounding landscape with steep sides and soft rounded tops. Pasture is the dominant landuse, bounded by hedgerows and stone walls giving a strong pattern to the landscape. Small mixed woodlands and those of country estates give the feeling of a rural, wooded landscape. Settlement is dispersed and predominantly consists of hamlets and farmsteads located in sheltered sites on the drumlin slopes.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 1,183.3 ha.

Character type area 29,793 ha.

Vision and Objectives



To enhance the distinctive and vibrant pastoral landscape with strong copse woodlands, managed to deliver ecological benefits.



Opportunities

- ⇒ Bring all woodlands into active management.
- ⇒ Increase the proportion of woodland cover through small-scale copse planting.
- ⇒ Establish localised and long-distance ecological networks that extend beyond the Drumlin Fields.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.

Challenges

- ⇒ Avoid loss and erosion of woodlands through the amalgamation and diversification of farms.
- ⇒ Due to the elevated nature of the landscape there is significant pressure for the erection of communication masts, which would need to be incorporated sensitively into the landscape.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective landscape and woodland management activities.
- ⇒ Incorporate objective visual assessments as part of woodland development plans to ensure that woodland planting is of a scale and form appropriate to the landscape context.
- ⇒ Ensure that new woodland does not adversely affect other valuable habitats or archaeological features.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Drumlin Field has medium capacity for woodland uplift. New woodland planting should be small-scale with an initial focus on the active management of the existing woodland resource. Additional trees should also be incorporated into hedgerows. The stewardship of hedgerows would facilitate local and long-distance ecological networks increasing the biodiversity of the Drumlin Field. Natural regeneration adjacent to existing woodlands should be encouraged.

- 14a Slaidburn-Giggleswick
- 14b Lothersdale & Cringles

Summary

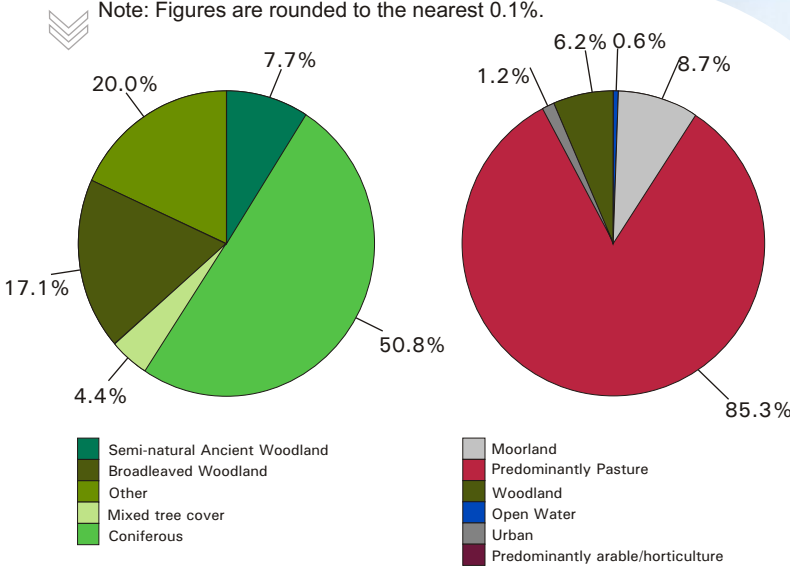
The pastoral, undulating farmland of East Lancashire provides a distinct contrast to the backdrop of the Moorland Hills. Moorland grassland dominates the highest summits, with stands of beech trees on steep rocky outcrops enclosed by rounded boundary walls forming distinct landmark features. Elsewhere lush green pastures dominate. Where intense agricultural practices have not intervened, isolated herb-rich hay meadows and pastures of national importance exist. The winding narrow lanes characterised by high stone walls are typical of the Rolling Upland Farmland. The Rolling Upland Farmland is also a favoured location for reservoirs, quarries and forestry plantations. The plantations are important for small mammals and birds. Individual trees and linear woodlands also provide significant ecological benefits.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 1,157.7 ha.

Character type area 18,676 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To enhance the distinctiveness of the local landscape through the expansion of woodlands and the planting of individual trees, particularly oak stands, ensuring resilience to a changing climate.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Enhance the visual character of the Rolling Upland Farmland through new native woodland screen planting around commercial forest plantations.
- ⇒ Restructure coniferous plantations to increase the proportion of native broadleaved trees.
- ⇒ Harness arisings from plantation restructuring as a timber supply to local construction and craft companies.
- ⇒ Incorporate rides and glades into woodland structure to increase their biodiversity.
- ⇒ Bring existing woodland into active management.
- ⇒ Increase links between existing woodlands to reverse the fragmentation of the woodland resource.
- ⇒ Enhance hedgerows to contribute to the impression of a wooded landscape, and provide valuable ecological linkages between individual woodland and other habitats.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the East Lancashire Regional Park.

Challenges

- ⇒ Retain limestone outcrops and prominent knolls as distinctive landscape features.
- ⇒ Manage grazing regimes to restrict stock encroachment of woodlands to increase the potential for natural regeneration.
- ⇒ Balance recreation and nature conservation interests.
- ⇒ Ensure that other wildlife habitats are not compromised by woodland development.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Rolling Upland Farmland has high capacity for woodland uplift. New woodland planting should be targeted around existing coniferous plantations, to screen commercial activity and to soften harsh linear edges. This will serve to increase both the wildlife and visual value of the existing woodland resource. Where appropriate, natural regeneration in proximity to existing woodland should be encouraged to reverse the fragmentation of the woodland network. This would be facilitated by restricting access to grazing stock which currently limits the regeneration potential.

Some restructuring of woodland plantations should be undertaken, however, continuous cover should be maintained during this period. Forests such as Gisburn provide a valuable recreational and visitor resource, so recreational use should not be interrupted by restructuring activities.

Existing woodlands should be taken into active management. Initial attention should be focused on the enclosed beech stands which form a distinct landscape feature. These could also be extended to further enhance local distinctiveness.



Summary

The Coastal Plain is predominantly located below 50metres above sea level. Large geometric fields of flat lowland farmland characterise this highly productive landscape. As a consequence of intensive agricultural practices, wildlife habitats are small and highly fragmented. Species-rich meadow and pasture can be found in small areas of secondary colonisation along man-made features such as roads and railways. Woodland cover is low and primarily exists in shelter belts, estate plantings and parkland trees. Low boulder clay banks, which mark the boundary of the coastal plain often support remnant semi-natural vegetation such as Ancient Woodland and species rich grassland and scrub. The Coastal Plain is densely settled and has a dense network of supporting infrastructure that traverses the lowland landscape. Pressure for residential infrastructure and industrial development is an issue in this landscape type.



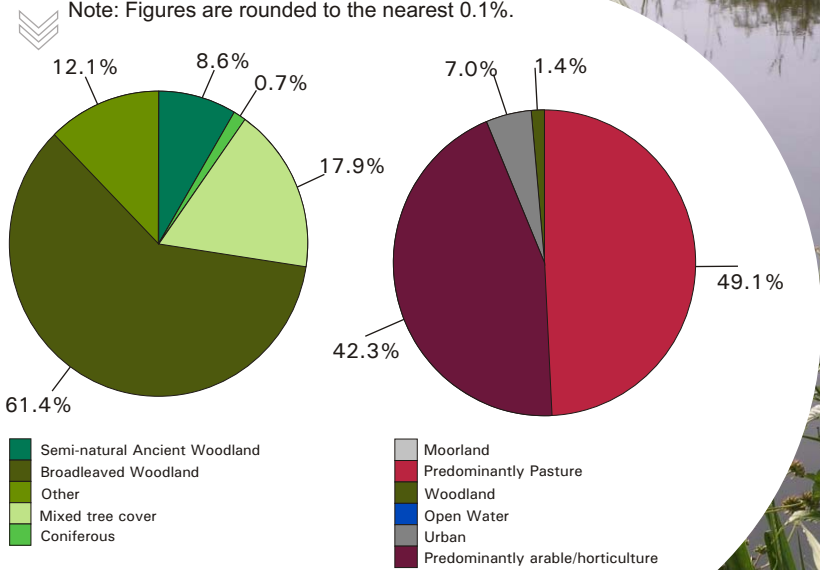
Character Areas

- 15a Ormskirk-Lathom-Rufford
- 15b Longton-Bretherton
- 15c Croston-Mawdesley
- 15d The Flyde
- 15e Forton-Garstang-Catterall
- 15f Knott End-Pilling

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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 670.6 ha.

Character type area 47,867 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To increase woodland cover in areas that do not detrimentally affect key views to the coastal plain but contribute positively to the landscape character, whilst ensuring that new development and key transport corridors are well integrated into the landscape.



Opportunities

- ⇒ Screen new and existing settlements with woodland to integrate built form with the wider landscape.
- ⇒ Plant along key transport corridors, in particular the M6 and M55 Motorways, to give the impression of a wooded landscape and to screen any unsightly development.
- ⇒ Integrate new woodland and trees into any new development proposals to ensure that schemes provide opportunities to contribute to woodland expansion.
- ⇒ Buffer field ponds that are valuable nature conservation features.
- ⇒ Contribute to catchment management and flood attenuation through riparian planting.
- ⇒ Incorporate recreation facilities into new and existing woodlands, particularly those in close proximity to large residential and business populations.
- ⇒ Create linkages to reverse the fragmentation of the woodland landscape.
- ⇒ Enhance the rights of way network as an outcome of woodland management and creation initiatives.

Challenges

- ⇒ Avoid loss of the existing woodland resource to development.
- ⇒ Avoid threats to the existing woodland and hedgerow network from agricultural intensification and subsequent field expansion.
- ⇒ Avoid fragmentation of historic estates leading to the degradation of historic woodlands as they are subjected to differing management regimes and intensities.
- ⇒ Manage recreational pressures that may threaten the natural balance of woodlands.
- ⇒ Maintain the openness of the landscape whilst increasing woodland cover.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.
- ⇒ Exclude woodland planting from the Sefton Coast Red Squirrel Buffer Zone.
- ⇒ Consider the potential detrimental impacts of individual schemes in relation to farmland wildlife, in particular farmland birds.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Coastal Plain has high capacity for woodland uplift. New woodland planting should integrate with old and new development and transport infrastructure, screening unsightly buildings and maintaining the perception of a wooded and attractive landscape. Linkages between existing woodlands should be made wherever possible, by restricting grazing to encourage natural regeneration. Planting should also be focused along rivers and streams making a positive contribution to flood attenuation and water quality management.