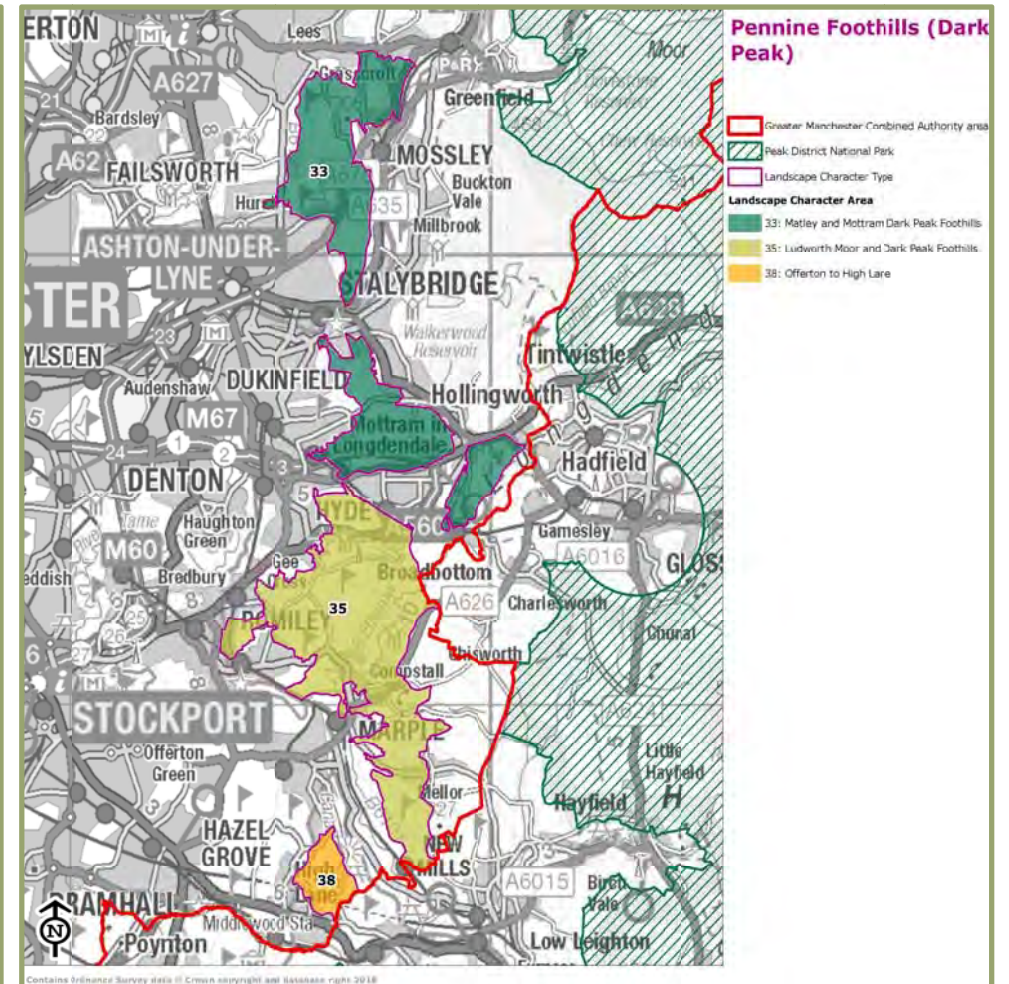
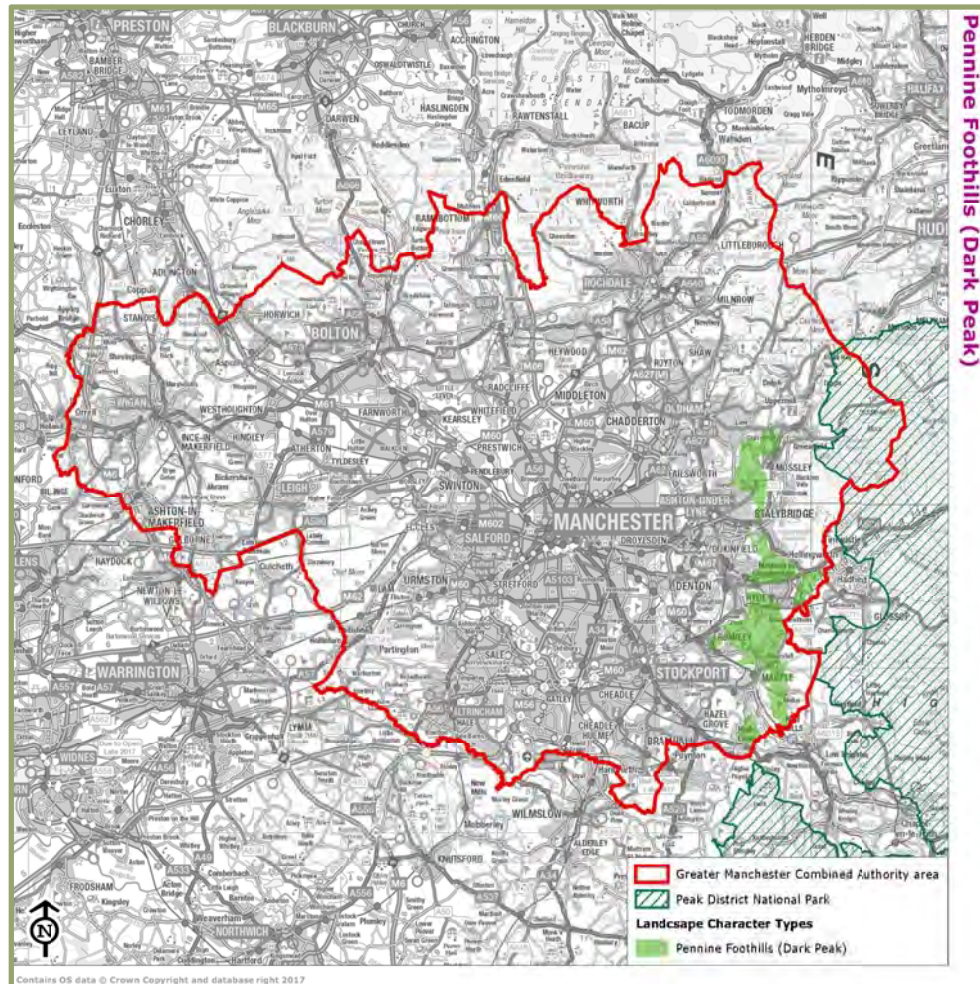


LCT: Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak)



This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is found in Oldham, Tameside and Stockport Districts.

Representative photographs



View over Romiley (Stockport) from the hills above



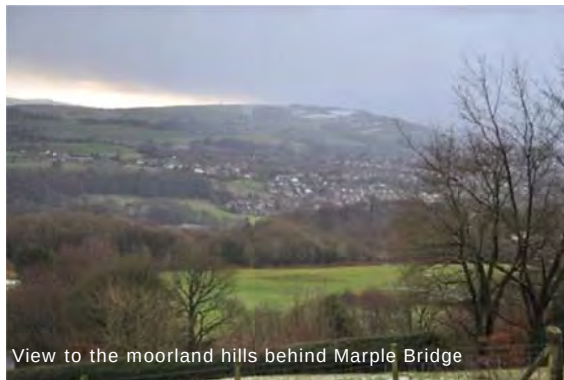
Werneth Low war memorial above Hyde and Dukinfield



The fringes of Stalybridge from Harrop Edge



Grade II St George Church, Mossley, visible through low cloud from the hills to the south



View to the moorland hills behind Marple Bridge



View across Oldham to the South Pennines beyond



Hartshead Pike Tower, Tameside



View across Mossley towards the Dark Peak fringe



View into Hyde from Werneth Low (Stockport)

Landscape character description

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Complex landscape with intricate steeply sloping land climbing up from the intersecting river valleys of the Tame, Medlock, Etherow and Goyt. It transitions to the Dark Peak upland fringes to the east.
- Land rises to open, elevated hill summits and ridgelines such as Werneth Low, affording strong visual connections to surrounding upland and urban landscapes. Elevation exceeds 300m above Capstone (Stockport) and Holly Bank (Oldham).
- Drained by multiple springs, brooks and cloughs forming tributaries to the main valleys below.
- Landscape underlain by bands of mudstones, siltstones and sandstones from the Carboniferous period – with rocks from the Millstone Grit group in the east grading to Pennine Coal Measures to the west.
- Bedrock overlain by glacial till and glaciofluvial deposits, producing sandy and clayey loams. Agricultural land is classed as Grade 3 or 4.

Land use and field patterns

- Farmland is predominantly pastoral; a mix of dairying and semi-improved sheep pastures on higher slopes. Horse paddocks also feature, particularly in areas closer to low-lying settlement.
- Fields are enclosed by hedgerows, lines of fencing and gritstone walls on higher ground. Tree lines following boundaries, particularly at lower elevations, bring a sense of enclosure and texture.
- Varied field pattern; small, irregular fields of medieval origin, post-medieval piecemeal enclosures of differing shapes and sizes and regular Parliamentary and 20th century agglomerated fields.
- Other land uses include a number of golf courses, popular Country Parks at Etherow and Werneth Low and a number of publicly accessible nature reserves.

Semi-natural habitats and woodland cover

- Cloughs cloaked in broadleaved and mixed woodland, including ancient woodland, snake through the intricate landscape adding colour and texture. Many are designated as Sites of Biological Interest.
- Nature reserves found at Knot Hill (wetlands, grassland, ancient woodland), Eastwood (clough woodland and ponds) and Werneth Low County Park, with a mosaic of woodland, grassland and ponds.
- Compstall Nature Reserve is nationally designated as a SSSI for its woodland, wetland and open water habitats. Other wildlife habitats throughout include ponds, flushes and wet pastures.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Conservation Areas at Lydgate, Mottram, Compstall, Mill Brow, Mellor and Brook Bottom, with clusters of listed buildings including village churches, vernacular farmhouses, cottages and mill buildings.
- Mottram includes the Grade II* Listed church of St Michael & All Angels and nearby village cross.
- A number of stone-built farm buildings, barns and cottages throughout the LCT are also Grade II listed, as is the prominent local landmark of Hartshead Pike Tower in Tameside.
- Disused quarries, views to mill buildings and chimneys in nearby valleys, and the Macclesfield Canal (Conservation Area) provide evidence for the area's industrial heritage.

Settlement, road pattern and rights of way

- The foothills are hemmed in by urban areas at their bases, including the suburbs of Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple.
- Within, settlement is generally limited to occasional hamlets, small clustered historic villages, dispersed farms and cottages. Some linear spread of development is evident on the edges of Marple Bridge.
- Landscape crossed by a rural network of minor lanes and farm tracks, with occasional main roads linking the adjoining urban areas, including the M67 north of Hattersley.
- Fields crossed by a dense network of public rights of way, with links to nearby communities. Long distance recreational routes include the Tameside Trail, Tame Valley Way and the Cown Edge Way.
- Open Access Land is found at Werneth Low Country Park (Tameside) and the Holly Bank ridge above Mossley Brow.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Elevated points, including the two Werneth Low ridgelines, afford expansive views over the sprawling urban lowlands, often featuring mill chimneys, tower blocks and industrial warehouses.
- Strong visual relationships with the surrounding South Pennines and Dark Peak moorlands and foothills; collectively forming a contrasting dramatic, remote edge to Greater Manchester.
- Strong rural and sometimes remote qualities eroded by the presence of neglected farmland and anti-social behaviour (e.g. fly tipping) on urban edges, along with the background noise of traffic on nearby busy roads.

Intactness and condition

This rural landscape sits on the immediate doorstep of urban communities, evidenced by the presence of urban fringe land uses such as golf courses and over-grazed pony paddocks, detracting from the traditional farmed 'Dark Peak' character of the wider area. Views to and sounds from nearby urban development and transport infrastructure result in associated impacts on perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness. Issues relating to current condition largely relate to a decline in the management of component landscape features, including a significant fragmentation or complete loss of sections of characteristic gritstone walls and hedgerows in favour of fencing; anti-social behaviour evident in fly-tipping and litter in verges; neglect of traditional farms, with an abandonment or lack of management of agricultural land (e.g. used for storage, overgrown due to a lack of grazing), traditional farm buildings falling into a state of disrepair, and the introduction of non-vernacular buildings and structures. Characteristic clough woodlands have similarly suffered from a lack of management, with Compstall Nature Reserve SSSI now classed as in 'unfavourable recovering' condition - an invasion of non-native species being addressed through conservation grazing and clearance programmes.

Despite these issues, intact areas of Dark Peak character are retained, with a pleasing pattern of pastures, dry stone walls and snaking clough valleys underpinned by traditional farming communities. Strong visual relationships with the moorlands of the South Pennines and the Peak District National Park reinforce a connection with the uplands (strengthened by good opportunities for access and enjoyment), combining to result in Greater Manchester's distinctive landscape setting.

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Rating
Physical character (including topography and scale)	- Complex upland fringe landscape with intricate steeply sloping land climbing up from the valleys of the Tame, Medlock, Etherow and Goyt. - Land rises to open, elevated hill summits and ridgelines, to over 300m AOD in parts. - To the east it transitions to the higher upland fringes of the Dark Peak. - Varied field pattern; small, irregular fields of medieval origin, post-medieval piecemeal enclosures of differing shapes and sizes and regular Parliamentary and 20th century agglomerated fields. - Small-scale landscape elements formed by stone walls, fences, trees and buildings.	M-H
Natural character	- Agricultural land is predominantly pastoral; a mix of dairying, beef cattle grazing and semi-improved sheep pastures on higher slopes. - Cloughs cloaked in broadleaved and mixed woodland, including ancient woodland. Many are designated as Sites of Biological Interest. - Nature reserves found at Knot Hill (wetlands, grassland, ancient woodland), Eastwood (clough woodland and ponds) and Werneth Low County Park, with a mosaic of woodland, grassland and ponds. - Compstall Nature Reserve is nationally designated as a SSSI for its woodland, wetland and open water habitats. - Other wildlife habitats throughout include ponds, flushes and wet pastures.	M
Historic landscape character	- Varied field pattern; small, irregular fields of medieval origin, post-medieval piecemeal enclosures of differing shapes and sizes and regular Parliamentary and 20th century agglomerated fields. - Conservation Areas at Lydgate, Mottram, Compstall, Mill Brow, Mellor and Brook Bottom, with clusters of Grade II listed buildings. - Mottram includes the Grade II* Listed church of St Michael & All Angels and nearby village cross. - A number of Grade II listed stone-built farm buildings, barns and cottages throughout. - Disused quarries and views to the mill heritage of the nearby valleys and the Macclesfield Canal (Conservation Area).	M
Form, density and setting of existing settlement / development	- Foothills hemmed in by urban areas, including Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple. - As such, this LCT provides an immediate rural backdrop to settlement, forming a character transition to the upland fringe and open moorlands above. - Within, settlement is generally limited to occasional hamlets, small clustered historic villages, dispersed farms and cottages. - Some linear spread of development is evident on the edges of Marple Bridge.	M-H
Views and visual character including skylines	- Elevated points, including the two Werneth Low ridgelines, afford expansive views over the sprawling urban lowlands, often featuring mill chimneys, tower blocks and industrial warehouses. - Strong visual relationships with the surrounding South Pennines (including prominent wind farms) and Dark Peak moorlands and foothills. - Wooded cloughs create contrasting enclosed areas with limited views.	H

	- Important local landmarks on skylines include church towers/spires, Hartshead Pike Tower and the Werneth Low war memorial (Tameside). - Prominent pylon lines mark some skylines (e.g. cutting through LCA 34), and telecommunications masts feature on some hill summits.	
Access and recreation	- Fields crossed by a dense network of public rights of way, with links to nearby communities. - Long distance recreational routes include the Tameside Trail, Tame Valley Way and the Cown Edge Way. - Open Access Land is found at Werneth Low Country Park (Tameside) and the ridgeline of Holly Bank above Mossley Brow. - Golf courses occur in several locations.	M-H
Perceptual and experiential qualities	- Strong rural and sometimes remote qualities. - These are eroded by the presence of neglected farmland, fragmented field boundaries, traditional farm buildings in a state of disrepair and anti-social behaviour (e.g. fly tipping) on urban edges. - Tranquillity is impacted by the background noise of traffic on nearby busy roads, including the M67.	M

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity

Landscape Character Type level					
Development scenario	Sensitivity				
2-3 storey residential housing developments			M		
Commercial/industrial developments				M-H	
Steep upper slopes and land at the highest elevations, including the prominent ridgelines at Werneth Low (the Country Park in Tameside and the separate ridge on the Stockport/Tameside border – both in LCA 35), Holly Bank, Hough Hill, Mottram Hill and above Oldham Golf Club (LCA 33) and above Capstone (LCA 38) would be of high sensitivity to any scale or type of development. This is due to their visual prominence from long distances, functions as undeveloped skylines above lower-lying urban areas, and their intervisibility with the moorlands of the South Pennines and Peak District National Park. Therefore it is of paramount importance that the guidance below is closely followed when development proposals are considered in these locations.					

Special landscape qualities and key sensitivities

The following provides a summary of the special landscape qualities and key features/attributes that would be sensitive to change (e.g. as a result of development): - The open ridgelines and hill summits providing panoramic views across urban areas and the uplands of the South Pennines and Dark Peak (Peak District National Park). These elevated landforms create undeveloped, distinctive skylines. - Complex and often intricate landform, especially where associated with cloughs and tributaries. - Important semi-natural habitats including broadleaved, mixed and ancient woodland, wetlands, grasslands and ponds – with many SBIs and SSSI land at Compstall Nature Reserve (Stockport). - Traditional pastures contained by gritstone walls and hedgerows, including surviving areas of small, medieval fields. - Historic rural villages, some evidencing their mill heritage with clusters of Grade II listed buildings. Conservation Areas at Lydgate, Mottram (with Grade II* church), Compstall, Mill Brow, Mellor and Brook Bottom. - Grade II listed stone-built farm buildings, barns and cottages found throughout. - Historic landmarks on skylines including church towers/spires, Hartshead Pike Tower and the Werneth Low war memorial (Tameside). Mill buildings and chimneys featuring strongly in views to adjacent valley landscapes. - The opportunities the landscape provides to nearby urban communities for access and recreation,
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including Werneth Low Country Park (Tameside) and lengths of the Tameside Trail, Tame Valley Way and the Cown Edge Way.

- Pockets of tranquillity and remoteness with strong visual and character connections to the upland edge of Greater Manchester.

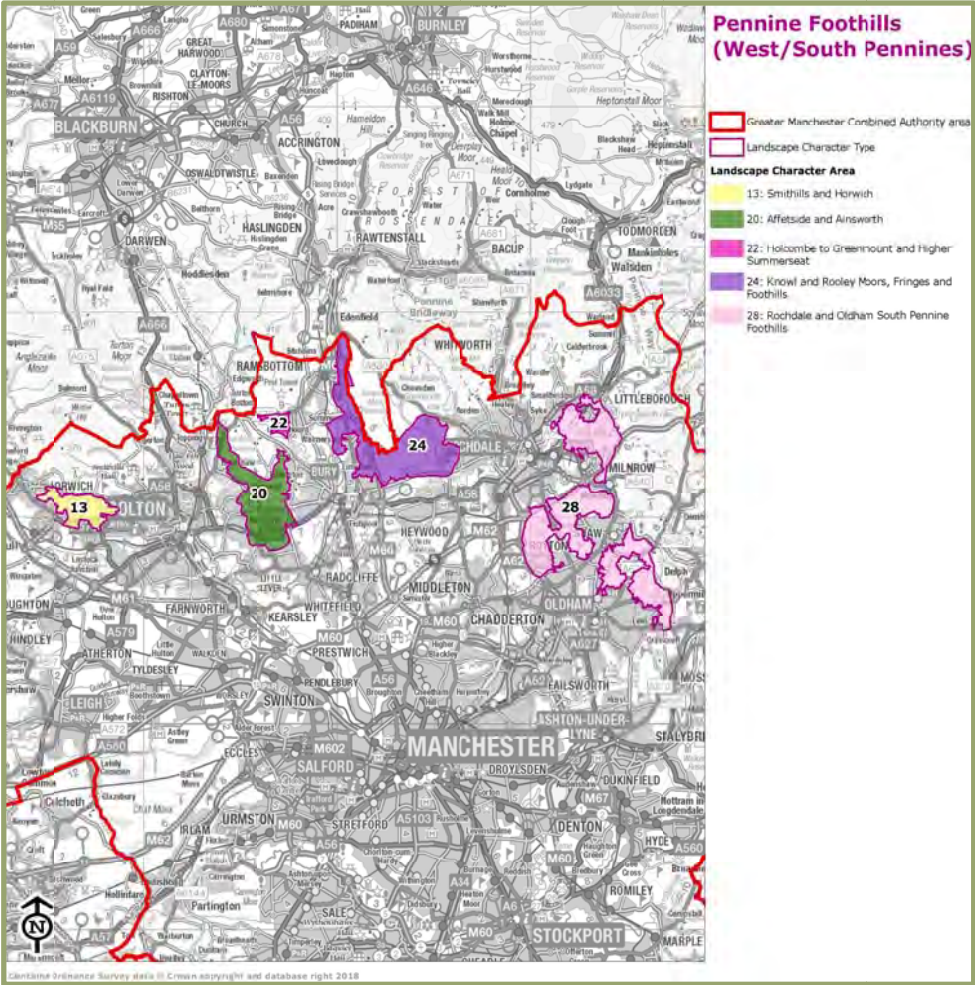
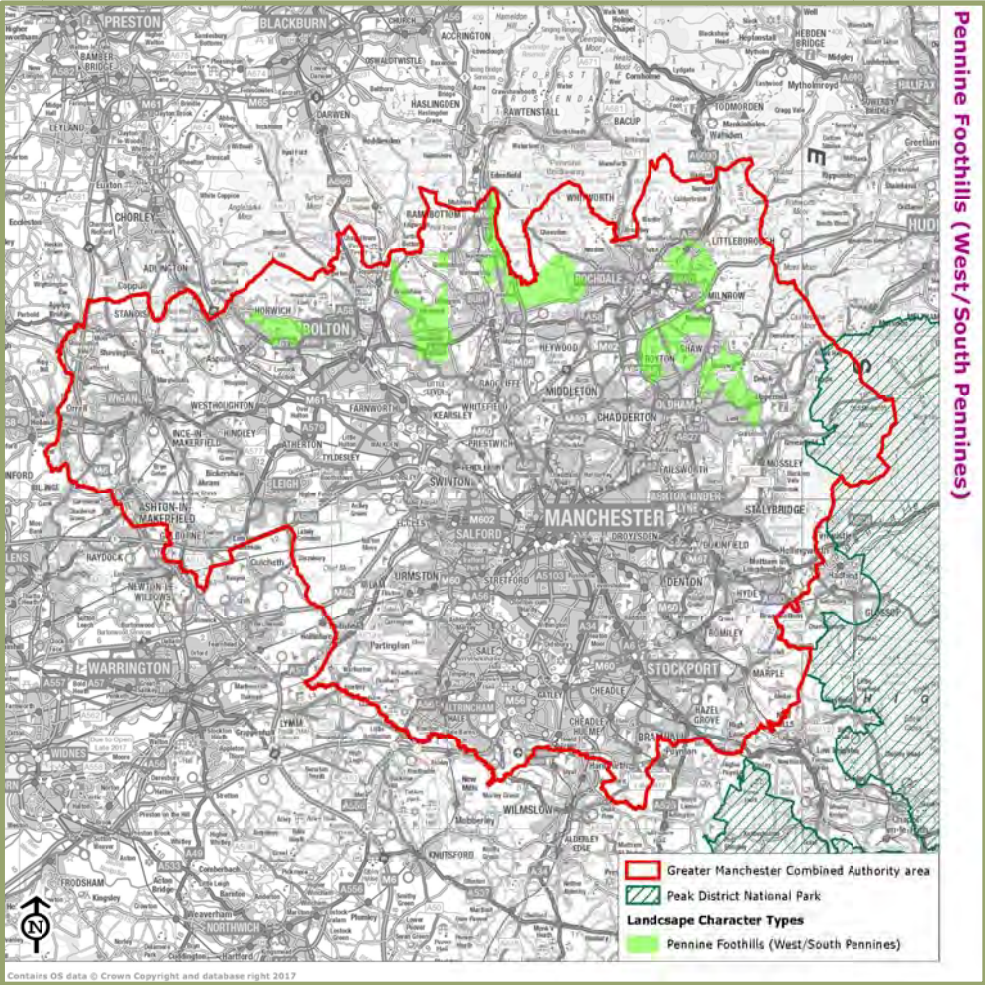
Guidance and opportunities for future development and landscape management/enhancement

Guidance and opportunities to consider within this Landscape Character Type include:

- Avoid siting any development on the highly prominent, elevated ridgelines and hill summits of the LCT, including Werneth Low (the Country Park in Tameside and the separate ridge on the Stockport/Tameside border), Holly Bank, Hough Hill, Mottram Hill, above Oldham Golf Club and above Capstone.
- Protect the landscape's role as an immediate rural hinterland and backdrop to the adjacent urban areas of Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple.
- Conserve expansive views from elevated land to the distinctive remote moorlands of the Peak District National Park and South Pennines, as well as visual connections with important mill heritage features at lower elevations.
- Protect the character and setting of historic landmarks, including Hartshead Pike Tower, church spires/towers (including the Grade II* church at Mottram) and Werneth Low war memorial.
- Protect and enhance the landscape's contribution to the character and setting of Conservation Areas at Compstall, Mill Brow, Mellor and Brook Bottom, with their concentrations of Listed Buildings.
- Protect the wider LCT's important relative sense of tranquillity and remoteness with a dispersed pattern of stone-built farms and cottages, including a number of Grade II Listed buildings.
- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape's semi-natural habitats in association with new development, including ancient and broadleaved woodlands, wetlands, ponds and grasslands.
- Utilise areas of tight valley landform and woodland cover to integrate new development into the landscape, avoiding sites designated for their nature conservation importance.
- Encourage the natural regeneration of woodland and wetland habitats within valleys (as well as new planting/habitat restoration) to improve their function in flood prevention and preventing diffuse pollution.
- Strengthen the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.
- Ensure any new development does not further dilute the areas of surviving historic field patterns, particularly those of medieval origin.
- Ensure any new development does not adversely affect the special qualities of the Peak District National Park, including its beautiful views, sense of tranquillity and dark night skies, and the vital benefits that flow beyond its boundary¹.
- Respect local building styles and materials in new housing developments, seeking to reflect these in their design and build (particularly the use of local stone).
- Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology (and subsequent knock-on effects such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off).
- Improve and enhance sustainable opportunities for access and enjoyment by nearby communities, such as a more attractive gateway into Etherow Country Park at Compstall (Stockport) and additional promoted multi-user access points, particularly linking to urban areas and adjacent landscapes.

¹ Taken from the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 (Final consultation draft, March 2018)

LCT: Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines)



This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is found in Bolton, Bury, Rochdale and Oldham Districts.

Representative photographs



View to chimney stacks on the edge of Brightmet



The hilltop War Memorial in Tandle Hill Country Park



View across Hollingworth Lake to the uplands beyond



Pylons and overhead lines cross the farmland south of Scouthead, with the Pennines visible beyond



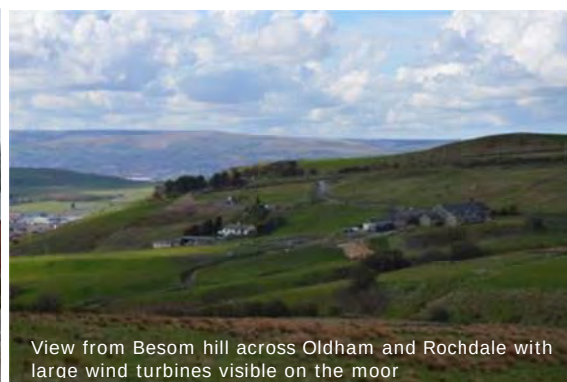
Wet grassland and broadleaved woodland habitats, with a mast dominating the skyline



Modern housing at Smithy Bridge, locally prominent on the skyline



Birtle brook Retirement Village, a converted mill



View from Besom hill across Oldham and Rochdale with large wind turbines visible on the moor



View from Grotton Hall across the Oldham to the uplands beyond. A pylon breaks the skyline.

Landscape character description

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Transitional landscape sloping up from the northern fringes of Greater Manchester towards the uplands of the South and West Pennines.
- Strongly rolling and undulating topography punctuated by locally distinctive hills and carved by intricate stream valleys. Elevation ranges from 100 to over 350 metres AOD at Besom Hill.
- Primary underlying geology of Pennine Coal Measures, with areas of Millstone Grit overlain with glacial till deposits. Soil fertility is generally poor, with much of the LCT defined as Grade 4 agricultural land, with some pockets defined as Grade 3.
- Streams drain through cloughs to a number of reservoirs, although these are generally smaller than those on higher ground within the Unenclosed Uplands and Fringes LCT.

Land use and field patterns

- Land use is dominated by lush semi-improved grassland pastures enclosed by a mix of gritstone walls, hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Horse paddocks are often found adjacent to settlement.
- Varied small-medium scale enclosures, divided by a mixture of field boundaries including gritstone walls, hedgerows and post and rail fencing. Field are predominantly piecemeal post-medieval enclosures, with some modern agglomeration.
- Various other land uses, including quarries and reservoirs and frequent recreational facilities such as golf clubs. Country Parks are located at Tandle Hill (Oldham District) and Hollingworth (Rochdale District).

Semi-natural habitats and woodland cover

- Numerous semi-natural habitats scattered throughout the farmland including woodland, grassland, heathland and streams/brooks, some of which are locally designated as Sites of Biological Importance.
- Well wooded landscape with extensive tree and woodland cover with trees in stream valleys, along field boundaries and avenues of trees along roads. Tracts of dense broadleaved woodland also define cloughs, including large areas of ancient woodland.
- Reservoirs including Hollingworth Lake (designated as a Site of Biological Importance) enhance the nature conservation interest and are important for wintering waterfowl.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Numerous Conservation Areas reflecting the historic character of settlements, including Ainsworth, Nangreaves, Stone Breaks, Clegg Village and Riding Gate which contain clusters of Listed Buildings.
- A number of historic buildings are scattered throughout the landscape including Grade II* Listed Buildings including Clegg Hall, Grotton Hall and Birchinley Manor Farmhouse.
- Evidence of the area's industrial heritage in the form of old mill buildings, chimneys, disused quarries and mines and the Rochdale Canal.

Settlement, road pattern and rights of way

- Settlement mainly comprises scattered traditional stone farmsteads and halls, with some small groups of dwellings including Victorian terraces. The largest settlement is Ainsworth, located between Bury and Bolton. The foothills provide an important separation function between distinct urban areas.
- Numerous footpaths and bridleways cross and provide access to the landscape from nearby urban areas and also link to the moorlands. These include the Rotary Way, Oldham Way and Rochdale Way.
- Road pattern mainly comprises minor winding lanes and tracks connecting farms. Occasionally, more major routes cross through the LCT, including the M62 and several A-roads.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Variable visual character depending on topography and vegetation cover; there are long views across the urban conurbation to the West and South Pennine uplands beyond where vegetation allows. Areas within the Peak District National Park are visible from some vantage points. Other areas are visually enclosed due to valleys or vegetation which creates wooded skylines.
- Occasionally, masts and pylons/overhead lines intrude on the wooded skylines. Other intrusive modern influences include the M62 motorway and prominent views of urban development, including tower blocks breaking horizons.
- Other skyline features including chimneys, the war memorial in Tandle Hill Country Park and views to monuments on higher ground within the uplands including Peel Tower and Bishop Park Monument.
- Windswept and exposed on higher ground as the landscape transitions to the upland fringe. This contrasts with the sheltered, enclosed feel of the valleys which have limited views in and out.
- Areas with relatively high levels of tranquillity despite the close proximity of urban development and major infrastructure e.g. Tandle Hill Country Park.

Intactness and condition

Despite the close proximity of urban development, this is a strongly rural and traditional working landscape characterised by pasture fields, reservoirs and wooded stream cloughs with a transitional, upland fringe feel. Trees are frequent and provide a naturalistic quality to the landscape and characterise skylines. Locally designated habitats actively managed for the benefit of wildlife are found throughout the foothills landscape. Some former industrial and agricultural buildings have been converted to new uses, often retaining traditional features.

The deterioration of stone walls is visible in many places, with supplementation by post and wire fencing frequently occurring. Adjacent to settlements, there are often urban fringe influences including areas of horsiculture with associated structures and pony tape and numerous golf courses. Within the wooded stream valleys, invasive species are present including large areas of rhododendron which outcompete native vegetation. Anti-social behaviour including fly tipping and litter has an adverse effect on the landscape in some localities. Pylon lines and masts form intrusive modern features on the skyline, while noise and movement introduced by transport infrastructure can detract from the rural qualities and sense of tranquillity in the landscape.

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Rating
Physical character (including topography and scale)	- Strongly rolling and undulating landscape, rising towards the South and West Pennine Uplands. - Punctuated by locally distinctive hills (reaching a maximum elevation of 356 metres AOD) and carved by intricate stream valleys. - The overlying field pattern is small-medium in scale. - Frequent small-scale features occur throughout the landscape, including trees, stone walls, hedgerows and buildings. These contrast with larger-scale features including pylons and masts.	M-H
Natural character	- Land use is largely semi-improved pastures used for traditional sheep grazing. - Well wooded character with extensive tree and woodland cover with trees in stream valleys (including tracts of ancient woodland) and along field boundaries. - Semi-natural habitats include woodland, grassland, heathland and streams/brooks. A number of these are locally designated as Sites of Biological Importance, including Hollingworth Lake. - Areas of wet grassland often occur on lower ground.	M
Historic landscape character	- Conservation Areas including Ainsworth, Nangreaves (Mount Pleasant), Stone Breaks, Clegg Village and Riding Gate which contain clusters of Listed Buildings. - Other historic buildings are scattered throughout the foothills, including a number of Grade II* listed halls and farm houses. - Evidence of industrial heritage including frequent mill buildings, chimneys and the remnants of mines and quarries. - Fields are mostly of post-medieval origin, with some 20th century boundary loss and field agglomeration.	M
Form, density and setting of existing settlement / development	- A sparsely settled landscape. Settlement mainly comprises scattered traditional farmsteads and halls, small groups of dwellings and the larger village of Ainsworth. Mix of traditional vernacular and modern houses. - Immediate undeveloped backdrop and upland fringe setting to adjacent large urban areas, as well as small villages/scattered dwellings within the LCT. - In a number of places, this LCT provides an important sense of separation between distinct settlements and urban areas.	M-H
Views and visual character including skylines	- There are long views across the urban conurbation to the dramatic uplands beyond where the topography and vegetation cover allows. These views include the uplands of the Peak District National Park from some vantage points. - The frequent trees create wooded skylines, while mill chimneys and church towers/spires form landmark built features on the skyline. - Occasional overhead pylon lines and telecommunications masts are intrusive features on skylines. - Some elevated locations are marked by monuments e.g. Tandle Hill. There are also views to features on the adjacent uplands including Peel Tower (Grade II Listed). - Prominent views to nearby residential and industrial development in Greater Manchester, including tower blocks and large-scale warehouses.	M-H
Access and recreation	Dense network of footpaths and bridleways provide access between urban communities and the adjacent uplands. The LCT contains parts of the Oldham Way, Rotary Way and Rochdale Way.	M-H

	- The road network is relatively sparse and mostly limited to minor roads and tracks. Occasional A-roads and the M62 cross through the landscape. - Golf courses are a frequent feature within the landscape. - Reservoirs form popular recreation destinations, including Hollingworth Lake. - Pockets of Open Access Land are located on higher ground and within some valleys. Country Parks are located at Tandle Hill and Hollingworth.	
Perceptual and experiential qualities	- Highly varied perceptual qualities which are dependent on the elevation of the landscape, vegetation cover and the proximity of urban development. - Strong rural and upland fringe qualities despite the close proximity of urban development. These qualities are broken locally by pylon lines/overhead wires and masts which form occasional features. - The foothills have a strong visual and perceptual connection within the surrounding uplands.	M

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity

Landscape Character Type level					
Development scenario	Sensitivity				
2-3 storey residential housing developments			M		
Commercial/industrial developments				M-H	
Areas of steep and/or complex landform, distinct hills, and prominent ridgelines would be of high sensitivity to any type or scale of development. These include (but are not limited to) Besom Hill, Tandle Hill, the ridgeline south of Bentgate, Strine Dale, Wood Brook (all within LCA 28), north of Harwood (LCA 20) and Green Hill (LCA 30). These areas are highly prominent, widely visible from existing urban areas and the surrounding uplands and provide an undeveloped setting to development. It is therefore of paramount importance that the guidance below is closely followed when development proposals are considered within these parts of the landscape.					

Special landscape qualities and key sensitivities

The following provides a summary of the special landscape qualities and key features/attributes that would be sensitive to change (e.g. as a result of development): - The strongly undulating landform punctuated by distinctive hills and carved by intricate stream valleys. - The undeveloped skylines, including both wooded and open skylines. Some hill summits are punctuated by monuments which form landmarks in the wider landscape (e.g. Tandle Hill). The views to landmarks in adjacent landscapes (e.g. Peel Tower on the adjacent uplands) are also distinct. - The distinct field pattern of enclosures demarked by a mixture of gritstone walls and hedgerows. - The sparsely settled traditional rural character of the landscape, with scattered farms and houses and occasional settlements constructed of a local stone vernacular, a number of which are designated as Conservation Areas. - Pockets of upland habitats amongst the pasture fields. Locally designated habitats including broadleaved woodland, wet grassland and wetlands (including Hollingworth Lake SBI). - Areas of woodland including tracts of ancient woodland along stream corridors. Creating wooded skylines and a sense of visual enclosure. - The undeveloped backdrop and the sense of separation that the landscape provides between distinct settlements. - Views to and from the Peak District National Park and the surrounding South and West Pennines which overlook the landscape. - Important recreational value of the landscape with important networks of public rights of way including Rotary Way, Oldham Way and Rochdale Way and destinations including Tandle Country Park and

Hollingworth Country Park.

- Features relating to the industrial heritage of the area including chimneys and mill buildings. Chimneys form distinct skyline features.
- Long views afforded from higher ground which reach across Greater Manchester and to the surrounding uplands.
- Pockets of tranquillity and remoteness despite the close proximity of urban development.

Guidance and opportunities for future development and landscape management / enhancement

Guidance and opportunities to consider within this Landscape Character Type include:

- Avoid areas of the landscape with distinct or complex landforms, including the locally prominent hills and intricate stream valleys, including Besom Hill, Tandle Hill, the ridgeline south of Bentgate, Strine Dale and Wood Brook.
- Ensure that the sense of separation the landscape provides between distinct settlements is retained.
- Retain the role of the landscape as an undeveloped backdrop to existing development.
- Strengthen the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.
- Utilise areas of undulating landform and woodland cover to integrate new development into the landscape, avoiding sites designated for their nature conservation importance.
- Protect areas of semi-natural habitat including woodland, grassland and heathland which are locally designated as Sites of Biological Importance. Seek to enhance these where possible and provide linkages to form robust habitat networks.
- Protect areas of broadleaved woodland (particularly ancient woodland) which provide important semi-natural habitat and create wooded skylines. Utilise the screening effects of existing woodland to integrate development into the landscape where possible.
- Encourage the natural regeneration of woodland and wetland habitats within valleys (as well as new planting/habitat restoration) to improve their function in flood prevention and preventing diffuse pollution.
- Ensure that any development is in keeping with the form, density and vernacular of existing buildings. Avoid any large scale development to retain the sparsely settled character of the landscape.
- Protect the setting of important heritage assets within the landscape, including Conservation Areas/Listed Buildings.
- Retain the important recreational function of the landscape. Seek to improve public rights to way to encourage sustainable travel. Join up and promote multi-use routes to major destinations within the landscape including Hollingworth Country Park and Tandle Hill Country Park.
- Retain the distinct visual character of the landscape, including views to monuments on skylines which form local landmarks (including Tandle Hill War Memorial and Peel Tower), church spires and chimneys.
- Ensure any new development does not adversely affect the special qualities of the Peak District National Park, including its beautiful views, sense of tranquillity and dark night skies, and the vital benefits that flow beyond its boundary¹.
- Reinforce the structure of the landscape, through strengthening the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.
- Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology (and subsequent knock-on effects such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off).

¹ Taken from the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 (Final consultation draft, March 2018)

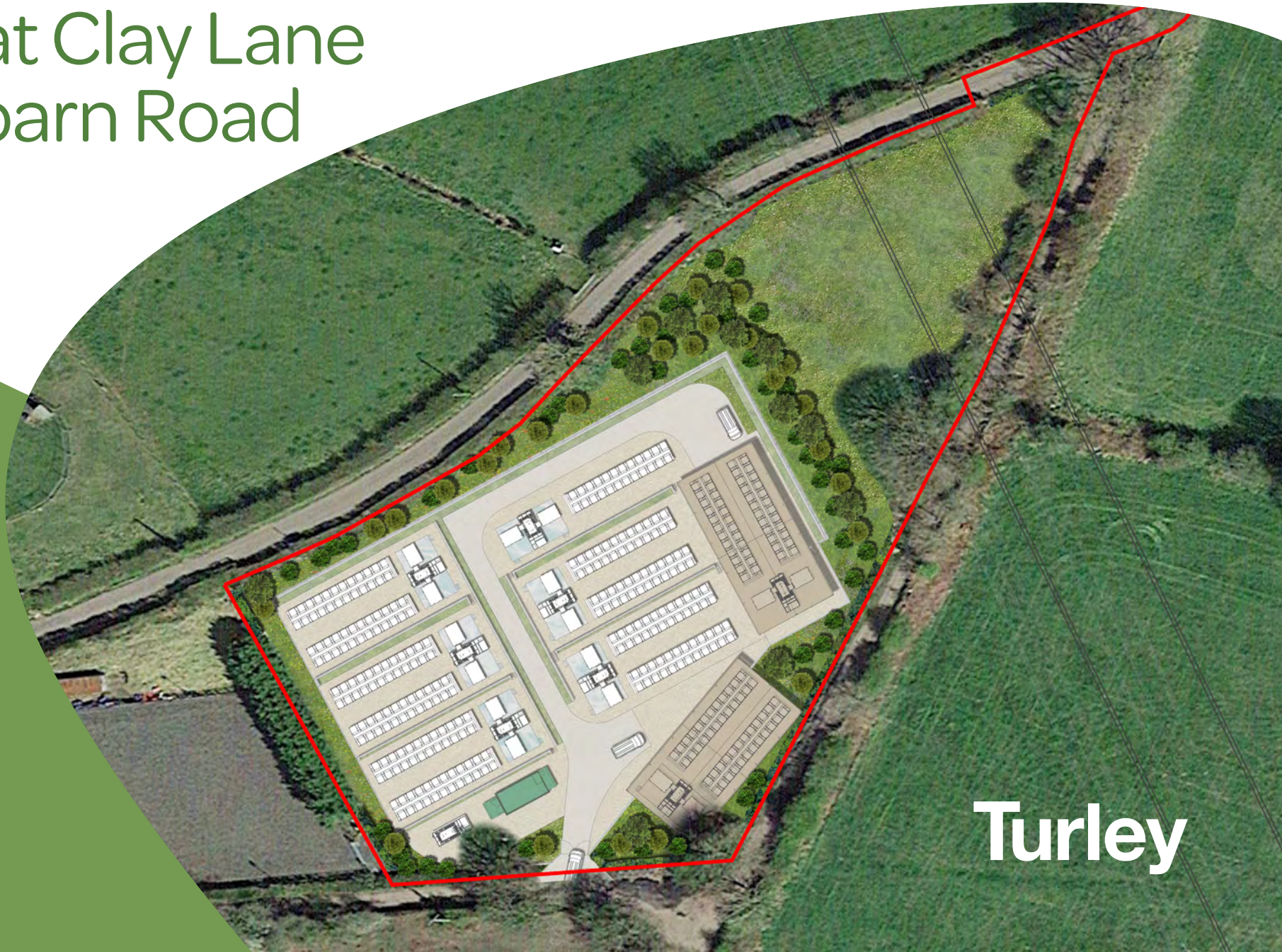
Appendix 4: Landscape Strategy

LANDSCAPE & PLANTING STRATEGY

Land at Clay Lane & Furbarn Road

Rochdale

June 2023



Turley

Landscape & Planting Strategy

Turley Design were commissioned by Shaw Energi to provide a Landscape and Planting Strategy for Land at Clay Lane, Rochdale. This Landscape and Planting Strategy is informed by a Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA) undertaken by Turley and Ecology Appraisal undertaken by ERAP. This Landscape and Planting Strategy also reflects the guidance set out in the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment.

The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that the proposed development is landscape led, appropriate to the local landscape character context according to the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment, and conserves and where possible enhances key landscape characteristics within the site, while complementing the surrounding context. Most importantly, this Landscape and Planting Strategy optimises opportunities for landscape enhancement. The following objectives and plant specification collectively form a cohesive and resilient Landscape and Planting Strategy for the Site.

Landscape Objectives

- Existing trees, hedgerows and scrub along the field boundaries to be retained to maintain existing levels of visual containment. Root protection areas to be observed.
- Where there has been a fragmentation of the existing hedgerow structure, reinstatement of field boundaries would define the extents of the Site, increase existing levels of visual containment and provide enhanced green infrastructure connections.
- Rural lanes are characteristic of the local landscape. Individual and informal tree planting to line the hedgerows to Lower Jowkin Lane, Furbarn Road and Rake Lane to

enhance the rural lane characteristic. This would also limit views into the Site from the adjacent Public Rights of Way and Bridleway.

- Development to be set outside of overhead powerline easements. Tree planting to also observe this easement.
- A native woodland block would be planted between the battery/inverter units and the overhead powerline easement to provide further visual screening and to help assimilate the proposals into the wider landscape pattern.
- Retaining walls to utilise the Flex MSE Vegetated Wall System (or similar product) to establish green vertical faces where there would typically be hard engineered solutions. To be planted with grasses, ferns and small shrubs.
- Battery storage and inverter units to be arranged in a linear formation to work with the topography of the site, ensuring the height of the units does not sit above the northern hedgerow, and to retain visual permeability through the site. Where possible, all equipment will be designed using recessive colours to reduce visual prominence.
- Certain battery storage and inverter units will be housed within two small timber barn structures. These will be located at the lower parts of the Site to ensure they are not visually prominent in the wider landscape setting. Elevations to be 'hit and miss' timber with metal sheet roofing to reflect barn structure and material in the area.
- The existing and proposed green infrastructure would screen the proposals in long-range views from the surroundings. However, in the short-range views from the east and south, the barn structures would terminate views with a feature that is common in this agricultural

landscape. The barn structures would also screen any of the exposed battery storage and inverter units to the north (beyond the buildings).

- The battery storage units will be a light grey (RAL 7035), the Inverter Units will be in a mid grey (RAL 9006) and the and Sub Station and associated equipment will be green with green fencing to reduce its prominence in the wider landscape.
- Access into the site will be via the existing access gate. Parking for maintenance vehicles will be provided on site. The access road will be loose stone chippings. Hardcore stone surfacing will be applied to all other areas.

Planting Objectives

- Mix of both evergreen and deciduous species to provide year-round visual interest and screening benefits. Aim to maintain a degree of visual permeability through the site, avoidance of full enclosure.
- Utilise a combination of native trees and shrubs species alongside grassland meadow mixes.
- Where appropriate, planting proposals should use native species appropriate to the local area sourced from stock of local provenance.
- All planting will be subject to further detail design.

Biodiversity Objectives

- High proportion of native species to contribute to and improve the biodiversity value of the site through the selection of wildlife friendly species which provide opportunities for foraging, nesting and shelter.
- Retained and enhanced opportunities for movement of wildlife within and across the Site through retention and new lengths of hedgerows, new tussock grassland habitat and new native woodland habitat.
- Provision of bird and bat boxes on retained trees for roosting and nesting opportunities.
- Provision of log, brash and stone piles to be placed in both sunny and shady locations to provide refuge and hibernation habitats for invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.
- Provision of a net biodiversity gain.
- The battery storage and inverter units to be sat on raised platforms. The ground under the platform to be hardcore stone surfacing, a permeable material which would assist with surface water drainage and maintain run off rates.
- The invasive plant species Himalayan balsam was recorded on site. Measures for biocontrol during works to prevent the spread of this species and the control and eradication of this species are proposed.



Hedgerow retention, enhancement and reinstatement



Boundaries to PRoW and Bridleway to have additional screening



New areas of native woodland planting



Native and species-rich planting to attract wildlife



Fig. 1: Illustrative Landscape Masterplan



Application boundary

1. 2.5m high galvanised weldmesh gates to site entrance
2. Maintenance vehicle parking on site
3. 2no. new 'barn structures' to house battery storage units and inverters
4. Battery storage units in light-grey
5. Inverter units in mid-grey
6. Sub-station and associated equipment in green
7. Battery and inverter units to be arranged in a linear formation to work with the topography of the site
8. 2.5m high galvanised weldmesh security perimeter fencing
9. Vegetated retaining walls to use Flex MSE system (or similar product, and include galvanised tubular handrails/ barriers
10. Compacted MOT Type 1 aggregate in a buff/sandstone colour to access road
11. Loose limestone / hardcore stone chippings in light grey to all other surfaces
12. Galvanised metal grate decking, steps, handrails and stillage
13. Overhead powerlines with 20m easement either side of centreline. Development and tree planting to avoid this easement.
14. Existing trees to be retained
15. Existing hedgerows to be retained
16. Proposed native, species-rich hedgerow to the site perimeter to enclose the site
17. Individual and informal tree planting to line the hedgerows to Lower Jowkin Lane, Furbarn Road and Rake Lane

18. Native woodland to provide further visual screening and to help assimilate the proposals into the wider landscape pattern
19. Creation of a new species-rich habitat under the powerline and within the easement. A tussock grassland mix with low growing native mixed scrub planting.
20. Temporary vehicle access for construction vehicles - to be converted to landscape post construction.

Individual Trees

Individual tree planting to Lower Jowkin Lane, Furbarn Road and Rake Lane to provide light screening benefits and enhance the rural lane characteristic. Species have been chosen to be consistent with existing species on Site and locally.

Indicative native species to include:

- Common Beech *Fagus sylvatica*
- English Oak *Quercus robur*
- Field Maple *Acer campestre*

Planting Specification

- Trees to be planted individually and distributed informally to the perimeter of the site, avoiding the overhead powerline and the associated easement.
- To be heavy standard 12-14cm girth and 350 - 400cm in height.



Common Beech



English Oak



Field Maple

Native Woodland and Understorey

Native Woodland block to the eastern extent of the Site, to visually buffer the proposed development from views in the surrounding area and to help assimilate the proposals into the wider landscape pattern.

Trees - Indicative native, species-rich mix to include:

- Alder *Alnus glutinosa* (10%)
- Bird Cherry *Prunus padus* (5%)
- Common Beech *Fagus sylvatica* (5%)
- Downy Birch *Betula pubescens* (10%)
- English Oak *Quercus robur* (5%)
- Field Maple *Acer campestre* (10%)
- Hazel *Corylus avellana* (15%)

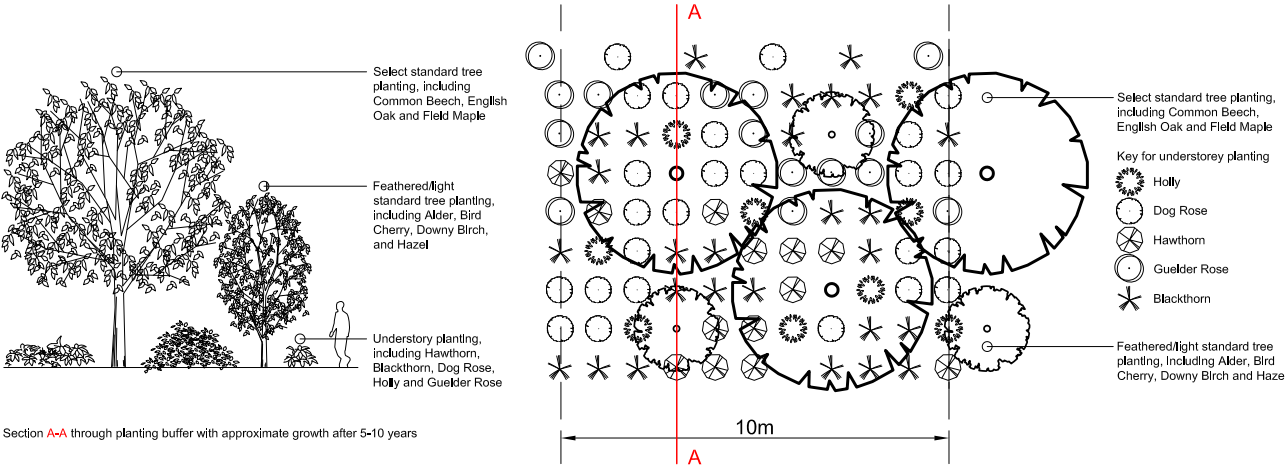
Shrubs - Indicative native, species-rich mix to include:

- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* (5%)
- Dog-rose *Rosa canina* (5%)

- Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus* (5%)
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* (20%)
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium* (5%)

Planting Specification

- Alder, Bird Cherry, Downy Birch and Hazel to be feathered or light standard 6-8cm girth and 200 - 250cm in height.
- Common Beech, English Oak and Field Maple to be select standard 10-12cm girth and 300 - 350cm in height.
- Trees to be planted individually and distributed evenly throughout.
- Shrubs to be planted in groups of 3, 5 or 7no. of each species. Density: 4/m2 except Holly which is to be planted at 1/m2.
- Refer to planting matrix and section for visualisation of planting.
- Trees suitable for soil types: Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with peaty surface.



Section A-A through planting buffer with approximate growth after 5-10 years



Maturing woodland with understorey



Field Maple



Downy Birch

Habitat Area

Opportunity for an ecologically valuable Habitat Area under the overhead powerline and within the easement. A mix of Tussock Grassland and Native Scrub.

Tussock Grassland

A tussocky grassland with tall flowers and grasses, to form a good habitat for insects, small mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, providing nesting sites during spring, food during summer and autumn, and shelter during winter. Once established, the tussocky grassland would require little to no maintenance.

- To be sown with a tussock grassland mixture of 80% grasses and 20% wildflowers (Emorsgate Mix EM10 Tussock Mixture or similar, sown at 40kg/ha)

Native Scrub

Thickets of low maintenance, native shrubs set within the Tussock Grassland. Species have been chosen for their wildlife supporting properties, soil suitability and low ultimate heights for underneath the powerline. Allow for unplanted areas for natural regeneration. Ideally use plants of local provenance from locally-collected seeds or bare-rooted whips.

Indicative native, species-rich mix to include:

- Dog-rose *Rosa canina*
- Field Rose *Rosa arvensis*
- Goat Willow *Salix caprea*
- Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*
- Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana*
- Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*

Planting Specification

- To be planted in informal, mixed-species groups of approximately 5-9 plants at 1.5m centres.
- To be maintained to 2.5-3m in height.



Tussock Grassland Mixture



Tussock Grassland Mixture



Dog-Rose



Mixed native scrub



Goat Willow



Wild Privet

Hedgerows

New native and species-rich hedgerows to reinstate the field boundaries of the Site as well as enhancement to the existing hedgerows. Hedgerows are a strong characteristic within the wider landscape. Hedgerows to the perimeter of the Site would provide wildlife connections between various existing on and off-site habitats as well as proposed on-site habitats.

Indicative native, species-rich hedgerow mix (and their percentage mix) to include:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| • Blackthorn | Prunus spinosa | (10%) |
| • Common Beech | Fagus sylvatica | (10%) |
| • Dog-rose | Rosa canina | (5%) |
| • Field Maple | Acer campestre | (10%) |
| • Hawthorn | Crataegus monogyna | (55%) |
| • Holly | Ilex aquifolium | (10%) |

Planting Specification

- Planted in a double staggered row, 450mm between rows, at 5no. plants per linear metre
- Maintain rough grassland margins along hedgerow bases



Rough grass margins to hedgerow base



Species-rich hedgerows

Meadow Grassland

Opportunity to create a meadow grassland habitat outside of the BESS compound for biodiversity enhancements. Utilise a species-rich grassland composed of wildflowers and fine grasses which can support a wide range of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and birds.

- To be sown with a meadow mixture of 80% grasses and 20% wildflowers (Emorsgate Mix EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture or similar)



EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mix



Common Kapweed



Oxeye Daisy



Creasted Dogtail

Retaining Walls

Retaining walls would utilise the Flex MSE Vegetated Wall System (or similar product) to establish green vertical faces where there would typically be hard engineered solutions. Flex MSE bags and interlocking plates are used to build naturally resilient geomodular structures which are strong and easy to install.

Flex MSE bags are filled with sand and organics, are an ideal planter block for many types of vegetation, are water and root permeable and are flexible enough to create almost any contour or angle.

The retaining walls are to be planted with a mix of ferns, grasses and small shrubs which collectively grow less than 1.5m in height, offer good groundcover and evergreen seasonal interest. Indicative mix to include:

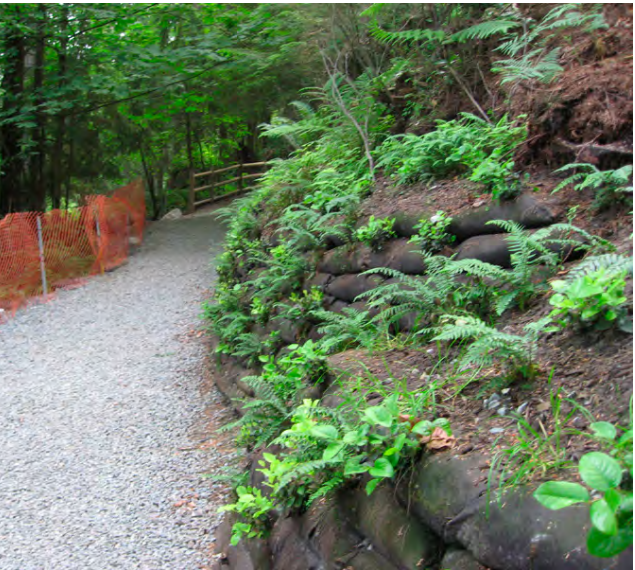
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • Hard Fern | Blechnum spicant |
| • Male Fern | Dryopteris filix-mas |
| • Shuttlecock fern | Matteuccia struthiopteris |
| • Soft Shield Fern | Polystichum setiferum |
| • Coral Bells | Var. Heuchera species |
| • Sedges | Var. Carex species |
| • Hellebores | Var. Helleborus species |
| • Ivy | Var. Hedera species |



Mixed ferns and sedges



Hellebores and ferns



Flex MSE shortly after construction



Flex MSE once planting is well established



Hard Fern



Coral Bells



Sedge and ivy

Hard Landscape Materials

The materials palette will be specified to be sensitive to the semi-rural setting of the Site yet suitable for the intensity of the uses and footfall.

- Access road surface material: Compacted MOT Type 1 aggregate in a buff/ sandstone colour
- All other surfacing material: Loose limestone / hardcore stone chippings in light grey
- Fencing: 2.5m high green weldmesh fencing to gates and perimeter of the site
- Battery units: The battery storage units will be a light grey (RAL 7035), the Inverter Units will be in a mid grey (RAL 9006) and the and Sub Station and associated equipment will be green.



Compacted MOT Type 1 aggregate



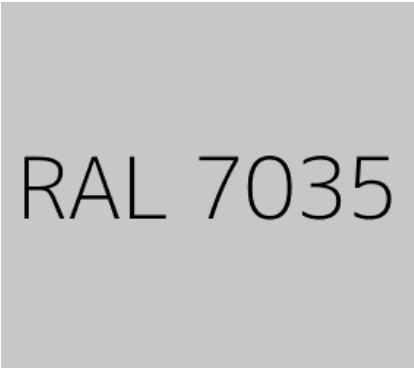
Loose limestone / hardcore chippings



Battery storage units in greys



Weldmesh fencing in green



Light grey



Mid grey



KEY

Application boundary

Existing

- Native species tree
- Native, moderate-quality, single-species hedgerow (Hawthorn)
- Native, low-quality, single-species hedgerow (Cypress)
- Native, low-quality, mixed-species tree group

Proposed

- Native species tree
- Native species rich hedgerow
- Native woodland and understorey
- Habitat area
- Meadow grassland
- Green retaining wall
- 20m powerline offset (no tree planting)



BNG HABITAT CREATION SCHEDULE

Typology	Area/Length Achieved
AREA	
Retained native, low-quality, mixed-species tree group	0.03 ha
Proposed woodland/ tree group	0.05 ha
Proposed habitat area	0.15 ha
Proposed meadow grassland	0.10 ha
Proposed green retaining wall	0.02 ha
TOTAL	0.35 ha
LENGTH	
Existing native, moderate-quality, single species hedgerow	149 m
Existing native, low-quality, single species hedgerow	32 m
Proposed hedgerow	130 m
TOTAL	311 m

Fig. 2: Landscape and Planting Strategy Plan

For further information contact

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