

## Jane Tucker

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**From:** Lorimer, Elliott <Elliott.Lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 August 2019 14:31  
**To:** planning  
**Subject:** Application Ref: 3/2019/0690  
**Attachments:** Undulating Lowland Farmland E.pdf

Dear Harriet

Please find below my response (on behalf of the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership) regarding the planning application 3/2019/0690.

The proposal is sited within the AONB landscape character type, *Undulating Lowland Farmland, E1 Whitechapel*. The character type description (attached) suggests that the overall sensitivity of this type is considered to be moderate. The description also outlines the following relevant guidelines for managing landscape change:

- Encourage conservation of existing key landscape features and habitats
- Create new hedgerows and regenerate existing hedges to maintain and enhance key landscape linkages
- Restore white railings, walls and hedgerows

The proposal outlines that the manège will be 'illuminated by six pole mounted LED lighting units, each of approximately 100 LUX' with limited hours. The AONB Partnership has produced a [position statement](#) on lighting to help protect dark skies within the area. The AONB Partnership requests that the Council requires the applicant to use lighting systems/arrangements to minimise glare and spill.

In addition, the proposal outlines plans to enhance and creation new hedgerows. To help further mitigate the landscape and visual effects of the proposal, the AONB Partnership recommends the inclusion of hedgerows trees within any enhanced or new hedgerows.

Kind regards  
Elliott

**Elliott Lorimer**  
Forest of Bowland AONB Manager

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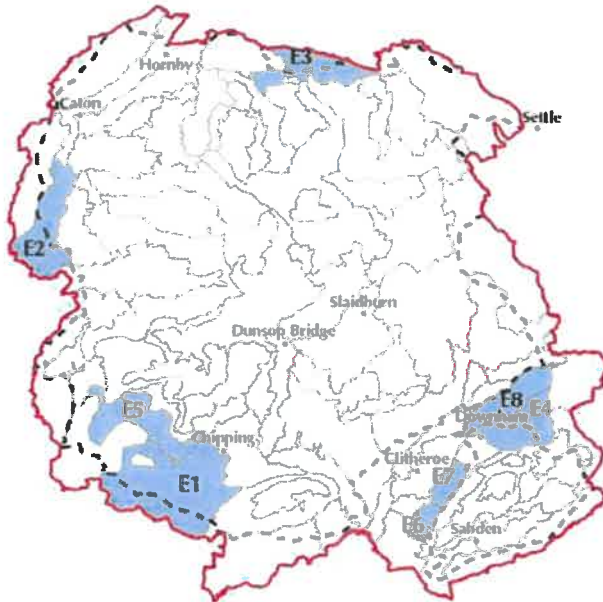
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## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE E: UNDULATING LOWLAND FARMLAND



### Key Characteristics

1. Many mixed farm woodlands, copses and hedgerow trees
2. Intricate tapestry of grazed fields
3. A patchwork of wood and pasture when viewed from the fells



## **E: UNDULATING LOWLAND FARMLAND**

### **CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

#### **Location**

- 1.1.1 There are eight occurrences of the Undulating Lowland Farmland within the Study Area. Landscape Character Areas within this Type occur at the northern, western, southwestern and eastern edges of the Study Area; and in all cases, this Landscape Character Type extends outside the boundary of the AONB. To the south of Quernmore, this LCT is adjacent to the Farmed Ridges (N), Moorland Fringe (D) and Wooded Rural Valleys (I) Landscape Character Types, whilst to the southwest of Chipping, the type borders the western edge of a swathe of Undulating Farmland with Parkland (Landscape Character Type G). To the south of High Bentham, this Type abuts the northern edges of Moorland Fringe (D), Unenclosed Moorland Hills (B) and Wooded Rural Valleys (I) Landscape Character Types, whilst to the east and west, the landscape is enclosed by the Drumlin Field (K) Landscape Character Type. In the southeast of the Study Area, this Landscape Character Type borders the Undulating Lowland Farmland with Settlement and Industry (H), Undulating Lowland Farmland with Wooded Brooks (F), Moorland Fringe (D) and Drumlin Field (K) Landscape Character Types.

#### **Landscape Character Description**

- 1.1.2 Undulating Lowland Farmland covers much of the lower parts of the Study Area. It is also the underlying layer to 3 other linked Landscape Character Types – Undulating Lowland Farmland with wooded brooks, Undulating Lowland Farmland with parkland and Undulating Lowland Farmland with Settlement and Industry. In this case (E) the Landscape Character Type is predominantly farmland.
- 1.1.3 This lowland landscape, largely under 150m, has its underlying geology masked by heavy boulder clays deposited by glacial activity. Viewed from the fells this enclosed landscape comprises a rich patchwork of pastures, mixed farm woodlands, copses, hedgerows and scattered picturesque stone villages. Wading birds, hares and roe deer can all be seen here. The small villages consist of stone houses and cottages and the churches provide landmarks in the landscape. Isolated farmsteads are often marked with single mature trees. Quarries and mines can also be found. Winding lanes are lined with hedgerows and herb rich verges, and

hedges with mature trees clearly delineate the pastures and meadows in summer and autumn time. Dry stone walls are only seen as boundaries in the areas where boulder clay is absent. This is an intimate and scenic landscape, where there is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity in many places.

### **Key Environmental Features**

#### **Physical**

- I.1.4** Generally below 150m, the Undulating Lowland Farmland forms a transitional zone between the low lying plains of soft glacial deposits and the high fells of Bowland, formed from Millstone Grit. This Landscape Character Type, whether composed of limestone, grit, shale or sandstone, is of gentle topography when compared to the fells and hills. Glacial action has accentuated the differences by further tempering the relief of the low-lying areas by the deposition of glacial drift. Deep drift is conspicuous where hedges predominate over stone walls, as quarrying is only possible where the drift is sufficiently thin. Many of the woodlands which survive on the steep slopes of the deep cloughs and valley sides are of ancient origin and represent a rich natural resource. They include alder and ash woods on the base-rich soils of the valley floors grading through to lowland oakwoods and upland oak woods on the upper valley sides.

#### **Ecological**

- I.1.5** Within the Lowland Farmland Landscape Character Type, hedges, hedgerow trees, roadside verges and small stream corridors provide important ecological habitats within an otherwise intensively farmed landscape. Pockets of habitat within this Landscape Character Type are designated as local wildlife sites for their ecological interest.

#### **Cultural and Historical**

- I.1.6** The landscape proved more favourable to early settlers than the nearby uplands. By the Roman period it is probable that much of this Landscape Character Type was already settled fairly densely and the fort established at Ribchester (outside the southern boundary of the AONB) is known to have had some civilian government functions. Whilst Roman remains (besides roads) outside the immediate area of the forts are poorly represented in the record, the presence of Roman Kilns at Quernmore show that they exploited the natural resources of the area. Medieval

population pressures, which saw the utilisation of small areas of the mosslands elsewhere in Lancashire also led to the continuation of small woodland clearances along the Ribble and the Lune. This created a small scale intimate landscape of scattered farms linked by winding roads with irregular fields and patches of surviving woodland on stream and field edges, a landscape which has remained intact to this day. The majority of enclosure dates from the medieval period and has created a landscape of small fields which are mostly hedged although stone walls are evident where geology lies close to the surface. A field pattern of ridge and furrow is still visible in several places.

- 1.1.7 During the 17<sup>th</sup> century lime was used for land improvement in these lowland fringe areas and many small farm kilns remain in the landscape, along with the larger industrial kilns and quarries of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The quarrying of Millstone Grit also proved to be important in this Landscape Character Type. Where suitable stone was available, querns and millstones could be quarried and manufactured to meet the needs of the population. Lead and Silver were extracted in Rimington from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and mined and manufactured in places such as at Quernmore to meet the demands of the rapidly industrialising county.

#### **Development, Settlement and Buildings**

Pattern of small, nucleated hamlets and villages, including Whitechapel and Quernmore, which contain an assortment of traditional gritstone vernacular houses and cottages. The churches in both villages provide landmarks within views from surrounding Undulating Lowland Farmland landscapes.

#### **Landscape Character Areas**

Landscape Character Areas within this Landscape Character Type include:

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| E1 Whitechapel      | E2 Quernmore         |
| E3 Forest of Mewith | E4 Rimington         |
| E5 Bleasdale        | E6 Pendleton         |
| E7 Worston          | E8 Dudland & Gisburn |

## **EI: Whitechapel**



**A patchwork of gently undulating pastoral fields which are delineated with a network of stone walls and hedgerows;**

**Traditional gritstone buildings within the small hamlet of Whitechapel;**

**Cheese press stone is feature of the landscape at Whitechapel, which contributes to recognisable sense of place;**

**Network of hedgerows and stone walls provide a sense of intermittent enclosure along the extensive network of narrow lanes;**

**Single deciduous trees are landscape features, often associated with isolated farmsteads;**

**Barns Fold reservoir is a key landscape feature with several views across the area;**

**Dramatic, open views northwards towards the central Bowland Fells, which form the skyline backdrop;**

**The rising mass of Beacon Fell, with its dense coverage of coniferous woodland provides the immediate backdrop within several views northwards**

## E2: Quernmore



- Dramatic, open views to Clougha Pike and Birk Bank Quarries which form the skyline horizon within views eastwards;
- Caton Moor windfarm is a striking landscape feature on the horizon of views to the east;
- Distinctive pattern of low drystone walls (several of which contain smooth boulders) cross the patchwork of pastoral fields;
- Quernmore church tower is a landmark within views across this landscape;
- A patchwork of pastoral fields, interspersed with patches of coniferous and mixed woodland and occasional single deciduous field trees;
- Landscape is crossed by a network of minor roads which are often lined with stone walls, and occasional hedgerows (which include a mix of beech, hawthorn and holly);
- Beech hedgerows are also a striking feature in places;
- Telecommunications masts and pylons are visible features on the ridge at the western edge of the AONB, to the west of Quernmore
- Views westwards along the corridor of the M6, which introduces a source of noise and movement;
- The buildings of Lancaster University are also visible within views westwards from this landscape



### **E3: Forest of Mewith**



- Framed views westwards into the Hindburndale Valley;
- Dramatic, open views southwards towards the rising mass of Moorland Hills at the centre of the Forest of Bowland;
- Patchwork of rolling pastoral fields, delineated by a network of stone walls;
- Settlement pattern of scattered, relatively isolated farmsteads (several of which have been redeveloped as residences);
- The landscape is dissected by a series of stream (beck) corridors and is crossed by a network of narrow rural roads;
- Single, mature deciduous trees are a feature of the landscape, often associated with farmsteads;
- Panoramic, open views northwards towards the peaks of the Yorkshire Dales

#### E4: Rimington



- The rising mass of Pendle Hill provides a strong sense of enclosure and recognisable sense of place within views southwards from this area of undulating, predominantly pastoral farmland;
- Looking northwards across the area there is a greater sense of openness, resulting from views into the gently meandering corridor of the River Ribble to the north;
- Landscape pattern comprises a patchwork of relatively small, regular and irregular fields, which are divided by a network of hedgerows and drystone walls;
- Mature deciduous trees, both within fields and hedgerow boundaries create texture within the landscape and are striking landscape features;
- The landscape is crossed by a network of narrow rural lanes, which provide access to the small, traditional linear hamlets of Rimington and Newby, in addition to occasional scattered farmsteads

## **E5: Bleasdale**



- Linear belts of mixed woodland provide a varied sense of enclosure and contribute texture to this patchwork of gently undulating pastoral fields;
- A series of brook (or stream) corridors also cross the landscape and field boundaries comprise a combination of hedgerows, fences and occasional stone walls;
- Within views northwards, Bleasdale Moors provide a dramatic backdrop, of which, the relatively smooth profile contrasts with the more textured landscape of rolling farmland within this area;
- To the south, there is a stronger sense of openness with views into the northern end of the Brock Valley and towards Beacon Fell Country Park providing recognisable sense of place;
- Settlement pattern encompasses isolated, scattered farmsteads and other landmark buildings such as Bleasdale church and tower;
- There is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout much of this area due to the general absence of road corridors crossing the landscape

## E6: Pendleton



- This Landscape Character Area is situated outside the boundary of the AONB;
- This area encompasses a distinctive pattern of narrow, linear pastoral fields, the pattern of which extends from the adjacent moorland fringe at the eastern edge of Pendle Hill;
- These fields are lined with a network of hedgerows which often contain hedgerow trees. These corridors of vegetation create texture and visual interest within the landscape;
- To the east, the instantly recognisable profile of Pendle Hill contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- The small, linear village of Pendleton, with its rows of traditional stone-built terraces provides the main settlement within this landscape;
- Several minor rural roads run east-west across the landscape, connecting Pendle Hill and other settlements to the south and east, with the town of Clitheroe to the northwest;
- Sense of tranquillity within this area is greatly disturbed by its proximity to the A59 main road corridor to the northwest and Pendleton Road to the southeast;
- Views of the urban edge of Clitheroe are also characteristic of views northwards across this landscape

## E7: Worston



- In views north-westwards from this area, the urban edge of Clitheroe is a recognisable feature, set against the rising backdrop of Moorland Hills towards the centre of the AONB;
- Sense of tranquillity within this area is greatly disturbed by its proximity to the A59 main road corridor to the northwest and Pendleton Road to the southeast;
- The patchwork of regularly shaped pastoral fields are lined with a network of hedgerows, which often contain hedgerow trees;
- Within views south-eastwards from the area, the dramatic profile of Pendle Hill contributes to recognisable sense of place and orientation;
- The small, traditional linear village of Worston, in addition to one isolated farmstead, is the only settlement within the area

## E8: Dudland and Gisburn



- Situated immediately to the south of the Ribble Valley corridor, this area contains a series of meandering narrow stream corridors (becks and sykes), which feed the main river;
- In places these are lined with belts of mature deciduous woodland, which highlight the corridors as features within the surrounding patchwork of pastoral fields;
- Views into and across the Ribble Valley from the northern part of this area contribute to a recognisable sense of place, whilst Pendle Hill, to the south, provides a distant sense of enclosure;
- Field boundaries are predominantly lined with hedgerows, which often contain hedgerow trees and provide an intermittent sense of enclosure;
- At the eastern end of the area, the medium-sized linear village of Gisburn, situated at the junction of the A682, A62 and A59 main road corridors, contains an assortment of traditional stone and white-painted buildings;
- Within the remainder of this area, settlement pattern is dispersed;

- Sense of tranquillity is greatly disturbed within this area due to the presence of the main A59 road corridor which crosses the landscape;
- Buildings (i.e. Castle cement works and chimney) associated with the industrial quarries between Chatburn and Clitheroe are dominant within views westwards from the western edge of the area

## **CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Forces for Change**

#### **Past Landscape Changes**

**1.1.8** Observable changes in the past include:

- A decline in mature hedgerow trees as a result of age or loss due to agricultural intensification;
- Expansion of villages or modernisation of farmsteads utilising non-local building materials (e.g. red brick) which are intrusive to local vernacular character;
- Amalgamation and diversification of dairy farms;
- Intensification of agricultural management, involving chemical fertiliser and herbicide applications, which has affected herb-rich meadows.

#### **Current Landscape Condition**

**1.1.9** The overall condition of the Undulating Lowland Farmland Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. Most landscape features are generally well managed. Patches of unmanaged woodland are, however, visible and there is also evidence of neglected stone walls and loss of hedgerows which have been replaced by fences.

#### **Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities**

**1.1.10** An overall consistency in the use of vernacular building materials indicates a local desire to retain the traditional character of the area.

**1.1.11** Negative changes may include the amalgamation of farms, leading to a change in the character of the landscape, with new access tracks and the creation of larger fields leading to a loss of traditional stone wall and hedgerow field boundaries. Amalgamation of farms may also result in farmhouses and associated buildings being converted to new uses and key landscape features being lost through neglect or removal to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. The increased farm size



may lead to the demand for new agricultural buildings, affecting character and views. Increased financial pressures and reduced availability of higher level agri-environment payments, may lead to field boundaries, walls and hedges suffering from a lack of management.

- I.1.12 Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The AONB Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key guidelines within this Landscape Character Type are outlined below:

*Agricultural Change and Land Management* – The amalgamation of farms and increased drive for efficient farm businesses or farms being sold as farmers and their families leave the industry; all have a direct impact on how the land is managed. As the key characteristics of the area are significantly influenced by agricultural practices, change in the industry could lead to an erosion of landscape quality.

*Climate Change* – The likely effects of climate change on this landscape are not easily identifiable with current information, however, agricultural practices could be affected, with a move to plough up pasture and plant new crops.

*Development* – Diversification of farm businesses leading to introduction of new buildings and the conversion of farm buildings from residential and other uses could gradually change the nature of the working landscape and its associated attributes. The erosion and loss of vernacular building styles through introduction of cheaper alternatives will reduce the distinctive characteristics of this area. Encroachment of large scale development such as wind farms, masts and pylons into the area would also have a significant effect on landscape character. It is likely that there will also be increased pressure from residential and tourist related developments, affecting the character and quality of the landscape.

### **Sensitivities and Capacity for Change**

- I.1.13 The ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type is represented by a combination of hedges, hedgerow trees and small stream corridors. Sensitive cultural and historic features include the intact network of stone walls, stone

bridges and historic villages. In addition, the landscape displays a mature structure of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, culminating in moderate landscape character sensitivity. Overall, visual sensitivity is considered to be moderate. In places, woodland and hedgerows limit views, whilst there is strong intervisibility with the Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills and Moorland Plateaux Landscape Character Types.

## **GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

1.1.14 The overall strategy for the Undulating Lowland Farmland Landscape Character Type is to manage the impact of changes in land and building use, conserve or restore neglected landscape features and encourage the retention and restoration of historic and vernacular building materials and details and the careful design of new buildings. There is also a need to conserve the network of dry stone walls, hedgerows and hedgerow trees which contribute to a diverse landscape pattern. The network of lanes, together with the rich roadside verges should be maintained and enhanced. Open views towards the Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills, and the Moorland Plateaux Landscape Character Types should be conserved.

1.1.15 Specific guidelines include:

### **Physical Character**

- **Conserve and enhance** woodland, hedges and stone walls.

### **Ecological Character**

- **Link** existing woodlands and hedgerows to create a continuous woodland network to reverse habitat fragmentation<sup>1</sup>;
- **Create** new hedgerows and regenerate existing hedges to maintain and enhance key landscape linkages<sup>2</sup>;
- **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<sup>3</sup>;
- **Conserve** ancient semi-natural woodlands;
- **Conserve** the lowland herb-rich haymeadows and unimproved neutral grasslands;

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<sup>1</sup> Lancashire Woodland Vision, Lancashire County Council, Forestry Commission and TEP.

<sup>2</sup> Lancashire Woodland Vision, Lancashire County Council, Forestry Commission and TEP.

<sup>3</sup> Lancashire Woodland Vision, Lancashire County Council, Forestry Commission and TEP

- **Conserve** species-rich grass verges and increase species diversity by management where appropriate;
- **Ensure** the long-term viability of parkland trees and landscapes by restructuring, using species of local provenance wherever possible<sup>4</sup>;
- **Encourage** conservation of existing key landscape features and habitats;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change;
- **Ensure** that verges are managed to maximise floristic biodiversity value.

#### Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** conservation of significant historic features and buildings;
- **Avoid** road widening, improvement works, cable and pipeline laying which would affect species-rich grass verges;
- **Avoid** road improvements that would affect the setting or structure of stone bridges or walls;
- **Encourage** sympathetic new uses for disused farm buildings to ensure that they remain a viable and contributory feature within this landscape; and;
- **Encourage** the use of local building materials, in particular gritstone and limestone;
- **Ensure** that highway improvement schemes respect and reflect local character and **encourage** the use of traditional signage where possible;
- **Conserve** traditional boundary features, such as stone/metal boundary markers, signage and wells;
- **Maintain** stone walls, which are often located on the outskirts of villages, respecting local differences in style and construction;
- **Conserve** local features such as small farm lime kilns which signify the past use of limestone as a soil conditioner;
- **Restore** white railings, walls and hedgerows.

#### Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** open views towards the surrounding higher Moorland Plateaux and Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills Landscape Character Types;
- **Conserve** the distinctive settings to rural settlements;
- **Ensure** that any potential new development on the edges of villages reflects the characteristic clustered form; development should be sited to retain views to

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<sup>4</sup> Lancashire Woodland Vision, Lancashire County Council, Forestry Commission and TEP

landscape features and landmarks, such as church towers on the approaches to villages

**For more information about the Forest of Bowland Landscape**

**Character Assessment please visit**

[http://www.forestofbowland.com/landscape\\_character](http://www.forestofbowland.com/landscape_character)