



**Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme - Proposed Bowland
Section**

Environmental Statement

Volume 4

Appendix 6.2: Landscape Character Baseline

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1. Landscape Character Baseline

1.1 Introduction

- 1) A review of published landscape character information has been carried out to gain an understanding of the nature and value of the landscape character within the detailed assessment area. Baseline information is available at national, county, district and local levels as described in the paragraphs below.
- 2) National-level landscape character areas have not been assessed within this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). This is because of the broad geographical coverage of these character areas, which does not adequately relate to the scale of the Proposed Bowland Section. Instead, the distinct local-level landscape character assessments listed below have been considered. These areas are of a smaller geographical scale and therefore better inform an assessment more related to the scale and extent of the landscape character in the assessment area.
- 3) Refer to Figure 6.4 for the location and extent of landscape character.

1.2 National Character Areas

1.2.1 33. Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill

- 4) The key characteristics listed below have been summarised from *National Character Area profile: 33. Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill*¹.
 - An undulating, rolling landscape, with local variation created by numerous river valleys and by the moorland outliers of Beacon Fell, Longridge Fell and Pendle Hill. At the northern edge, drumlins are characteristic, while on the south, strong mounded outcrops or 'reef knolls' of limestone form distinct landscape features
 - Semi-natural woodland, much of which is ancient, occurs in the main valley bottoms, side valleys and ridges, and is dominated by oak, ash and alder
 - Small to medium-sized fields are defined by hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. Drystone walls are also common in some areas. Metal railings around estate boundaries and highway corners and junctions are characteristic of the southern and western edges
 - Land use is mainly permanent, improved pasture for livestock and dairy farming
 - To the west is the Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA), designated for its important populations of hen harrier, merlin and lesser black-backed gull
 - There are species-rich hay meadows, including several that are nationally and internationally designated. Rough grazing, rushy pasture and traditionally managed meadow at higher elevations are of national importance for breeding waders and important habitats for breeding skylark
 - There are numerous rivers of importance for many protected species, including bullheads, salmon, trout, eels, otters, kingfishers and dippers. There are also many brooks and small reservoirs
 - There are many archaeological sites, particularly on the moorland fringes and in valleys where agriculture has been less intensive
 - A network of winding, hedge-lined lanes connect small, often linear, villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads, mostly in local stone. Traditional stone barns are commonplace on higher ground, and are of stone with slate or stone flag roofs
 - Isolated country houses set in formal parkland are typical of the area, and may be enclosed by belts of woodland and estate fencing

¹ Natural England (2013) *National Character Area Profile: 33. Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill*. [Online] Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>. [Accessed: March 2020].

- The relatively urban areas of Clitheroe, Bentham and Longridge provide a contrast to the rural feel of the area.

1.2.2 34. Bowland Fells

- 5) The key characteristics listed below have been summarised from *National Character Area profile: 34. Bowland Fells*².
- A large-scale, sweeping landform incised by narrow, wooded, intimate valleys and cloughs
 - The dominant feature is the central upland core of Carboniferous Millstone Grit fells, with its large areas of moorland habitat
 - Extensive coniferous plantations to the south-east and east of the area
 - Moorland is ringed by extensive rough grazing enclosures with mosaics of woodland, unimproved meadows, pasture, marshes and streams. Rare and endangered species are associated with the mosaic of habitats
 - Many rivers and streams provide habitat for nationally and internationally important species. The area is also home to a number of rare or important plant species
 - Piecemeal, irregular-shaped fields around individual farms are found on the slopes, where there is also a complex system of narrow lanes with occasional wide historic drove roads
 - The area is sparsely populated, with the scattered settlements restricted to villages, hamlets and isolated farmhouses
 - Traditional farmhouses are generally of gritstone and typically shelter a barn under the same roof line (laithe houses). There is strong unity of building materials, styles and village form
 - Large areas are managed for field sports and areas of open access land enable access to, and enjoyment of, the landscape.

1.3 A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire

- 6) *A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire*³ provides a county-level landscape character assessment for Lancashire, dividing the county into a series of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The key characteristics of the revised LCAs identified within the assessment area are summarised below.

1.3.1 1b. High Bowland Plateaux

- A series of wide flat-topped ridges with gritstone boulders, including Tarnbrook Fell, Baxton Fell and the ridge linking Holdron Moss, Bleasdale Moors and Brown Berry Plain
- These large scale flat ridge tops coincide with deposits of peat which support extensive areas of blanket bog managed as rough sheep
- Peat hags have developed in eroded areas, particularly along the edges of the blanket bog
- May contain important archaeological material, which as yet has largely remained undiscovered due to its low visibility and the remoteness of the landscape
- Remoteness of the Bowland Moorland Plateaux and different patterns of land tenure mean it has not been severely affected by the drainage, heavy grazing, burning and pollution associated with the moorland plateaux of the South Pennine Moors

² Natural England (2013) *National Character Area Profile: 34. Bowland Fells*. [Online] Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>. [Accessed: March 2020].

³ Lancashire County Council (2000) *A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire*. Preston, Lancashire County Council. [Online] Available from: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/environmental/landscape-strategy/>. [Accessed: March 2020].

- Heather moorland and blanket bog in the Forest of Bowland are recognised for their nationally important plant communities and internationally important breeding raptors and other upland birds.

1.3.2 2b. Central Bowland Fells

- Land above the limit of enclosed farmland occurring on the central massif of the Bowland Fells
- Encompasses the smooth heather clad profiles of the escarpment slopes on the western limit of the fells, the wide undulating areas of open craggy moorland, and the deep upland valleys within the core of the Fells
- Landcover is semi-natural and is typical of acid upland areas
- Few intrusive elements in this landscape, although geometric conifer plantations are unsympathetic to the landform
- A wind farm on Caton Moor is highly visible from the Lancashire Plain and Victorian aqueducts, waterworks and water-carrying structures are a reminder of the water supply function of the Bowland Fells
- High level of remoteness and few routes across the moor
- Magnificent views from the edges of the Fells such as the view from the parking spot at Jubilee Tower stretch.

1.3.3 2d. Waddington Fell

- A grit outcrop, separated from the central core of Bowland Fells by the softer limestones of the Hodder Valley
- Largely open and supports a moorland vegetation cover of principally upland heath and acid grassland with some blanket bog
- Two passes over the fells; one minor route at Marl Hill and another at Waddington Fell from where there are magnificent views of the surrounding lowlands
- Conifer plantations are restricted to less dominant blocks compared to some of the other Bowland outliers, allowing the hills to retain their open exposed character
- An active quarry and communications mast are visual detractors.

1.3.4 4d. Bowland Gritstone Fringes

- Marginal farmed landscapes in the narrow, steep transitional zone between upland unenclosed moorland and the lower wooded fringes of the River Lune
- A relatively low altitude, between approximately 150 m and 250 m AOD
- Highly rural, unaffected by exploitation of resources, and sparsely populated
- Isolated farm dwellings at the end of dead-end tracks are built of distinctive, dark local gritstone. The underlying geology is also reflected in the gritstone walls whose dark colour contributes to the bleak appearance of the landscape
- Rough pasture, low growing gorse, bramble and small windswept hawthorns add to the texture and exposed character.

1.3.5 4e. Bowland Limestone Fringes

- Have a distinctive brightness of character, due to the lush and greener pastures, and the strong patterns of white limestone walls and barns
- Underlying limestone influences the soils, vegetation and landform of the limestone fringes
- Moorland fringe occurs between 150 m and 250 m AOD; the landform is less dramatic and this transitional zone therefore occurs as a wider belt

- More wooded than that of the gritstone fringes and the distinctive brightness of character contrast with the gritstone fringes
- Limestone knolls are distinctive features. These are seen as smoothly rounded hills and sometimes supporting species-rich limestone grassland
- Rock outcrops and the presence of disused lime kilns are other clues to the underlying geology.

1.3.6 5a. Upper Hodder Valley

- A unique hidden area of settled farmland enclosed by shale and Valley limestone uplands and the grit moorland of the Bowland Fells
- A well-wooded lush oasis in the middle of a bleak landscape
- Centred around the upper River Hodder and its tributaries
- Underlying geology is largely overlain by boulder clays, although the underlying limestone is evident as 'Reef Knolls', white stone walls, bridges and limestone built villages
- 'Reef Knolls', outcrops of limestone, and stands of beech, often on hill tops, are particularly characteristic.

1.3.7 5j. North Bowland Fringes

- North-facing gritstone slopes, known as the Forest of Mewith
- An area of undulating marginal farmland on the northern edges of the Bowland Fells
- Bordered by a drumlin field to the north which influences the landform of the lowland fringe; the broadly undulating landform contrasts with the steep scarps of west Bowland
- A rural area which is crossed by a dense network of footpaths and farm tracks
- A number of small stone farm holdings are found at the end of these dead-end farm tracks.

1.3.8 10b. North Bowland Valleys

- North Bowland Valleys of the Artle, Roeburn and Hindburn are relatively rural in character
- The Roeburn and Hindburn have a particularly high proportion of remnant ancient woodland and little settlement
- Waterfalls, weirs and fords are all features of this character area
- Steep lanes wind their way through the gorges, crossing the river course on stone bridges
- The banks of the fast flowing rivers contain evidence of former water powered mill sites.

1.3.9 13b. Bentham-Clapham

- A drumlin field between Kirkby Lonsdale and Giggleswick that follows the foot of the Yorkshire Dales
- A neat, well-maintained landscape of grazed pasture divided by a network of stone walls and neatly clipped hedgerows
- Some of the hills are up to almost 200 m AOD. Although the field occurs at a relatively high altitude, the individual drumlin forms are not always pronounced due to partial drowning of the drumlin field close to the Lune
- The area supports most of the infrastructure and settlement on the edge of the Dales; the A65 and A687 are amongst these major routes. The Roman road can be traced running south from Over Town, close to the Roman fort at Over Burrow
- The river courses of the Leck, Greta and Wenning wind their way through the peaceful drumlins; camping and caravan site are scattered along the banks of these picturesque wooded rivers

- Scattered stone farmsteads with slate or grit stone roofs and the traditional limestone or gritstone villages of Clapham, Newby, Ingleton and Burton in Lonsdale are characteristic of the area.

1.3.10 14a. Slaidburn-Giggleswick

- A large area of upland hills underlain by limestone, between the Bowland Fells and the Ribble Valley
- The hills are drained by a series of narrow wooded becks which flow into the Hodder and the Ribble
- A particularly rural area of intensively farmed land; regular large scale pastures are divided by a continuous network of dry stone walls
- The landform becomes more convoluted towards the east, where the topography is influenced by glacial till
- Pasture is marginal in the highest areas and there are a number of farms sharing their name with the moors they graze
- Rocky limestone knolls are an important feature of the landscape, as they provide texture and reference points in an otherwise open rolling landscape
- Roads are winding and closely bordered on each side by dry stone walls, which themselves shelter stunted hawthorns and oaks
- A large number of scattered stone farmsteads are located at the end of farm tracks where farm buildings are generally tightly grouped
- There are few pressures for built development in this rural area, although the landscape around the Stocks Reservoir has been dramatically influenced by the large area of open water and the plantation which surrounds it.

1.4 Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment

7) The *Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment*⁴ provides a local-level assessment of the Forest of Bowland's landscape. It divides the landscape into a series of LCTs and LCAs. The key characteristics of the relevant LCAs identified within the assessment area are summarised below.

1.4.1 B7. Langdon

- The ruins of Langdon Castle provide a landmark within views across the area
- Langdon Brook is a recognisable landscape features that contains a patchwork of pebbles along its bed and meanders gently through the adjacent moorland hills
- The area includes several farmsteads and small hamlets. Buildings include the remains of Trough House, an abandoned stone farmstead and Whitendale Farm
- The Trough of Bowland crosses this landscape character area, providing a dramatic route which facilitates open views across the surrounding Unenclosed Moorland Hills
- The grey stone along the Trough Road is a recognisable landscape feature which demarcates the old boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire
- Totridge provides a dramatic skyline backdrop within views southwards
- The Whitendale and Brennand river valleys cut through this area of Moorland Hills. Lush, green pastures associated with the fast-flowing river corridors contrast with the more muted colours of the surrounding Brennand and Whitendale Fells

⁴ Lancashire County Council (2009) Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment. Preston, Environment Directorate. [Online] Available from: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/Landscape-Character-Assessment>. [Accessed: March 2020].

- Engineered, water industry infrastructure such as water pumping stations, pipelines and associated buildings are visible human influence along the river corridor
- Boundaries are generally demarcated by gritstone walls, with a change to occasional limestone walls to the north of Sykes Farm.

1.4.2 B8. Crossdale to Lythe

- Panoramic, open views northwards towards the dramatic skyline profile of the Yorkshire Dales
- The northern half is underlain by gritstone; the southern half is predominantly underlain by sandstone
- Occasional farmsteads are a feature, located at the bottom of the hills
- The old Roman Road is also a key landscape feature, which provides visual contrast with the surrounding smooth, heather moorland
- The drystone walls within the Lamb Hill/Croasdale areas consist of narrow limestone stones
- Very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout
- The Great Stone of Fourstones, a large glacial erratic, has steps along its side and provides dramatic, panoramic open views
- Ingleborough and Pen Y Ghent (within the Yorkshire Dales) provide the backdrop to panoramic, open views north and eastwards
- Strong sense of openness, with dramatic, dominant ever-changing skies and far reaching skylines and horizons
- The colour of the landscape changes with the seasons
- The distinctive calls of birds including the Golden Plover, Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Meadow Pipit, Wheatear, Skylarks, Gulls, Grouse and Curlew all contribute to recognisable sense of place.

1.4.3 B9. Goodber Common

- A relatively large expanse of level ground and a strong sense of openness
- The dominant habitat is wet acid grassland, including some areas of (seasonally) very wet ground
- Small pools, supporting acid flora, damselflies, dragonflies and large heath butterfly are recognisable landscape features
- The distinctive stone sheepfold on Goodber Common, Thornton Castle cairn and Higher Thrushgill conifer plantation provide texture within an otherwise smooth landscape
- There are dramatic, panoramic views northwards towards Ingleborough
- Distinctive pattern of traditional sheep farming, which is linked directly to Roeburndale and Hindburndale.

1.4.4 C3. Easington

- Open views northwards from Easington Fell, towards the village of Newton, which is nestled against a backdrop of Burn Fell, Dunsop Fell and Beatrix Fell
- Examples of boundary and woodland creation and restoration are evident within parts of this landscape
- An extensive network of unsurfaced tracks cross this landscape
- Series of small stone cairns (including Old Ned and the Wife) are visible landscape features which introduce texture to the landscape
- Wide, open views southwards across the low-lying valley of the River Ribble towards Pendle Hill

- Patches of woodland (including Grindleton Fell plantation) contribute to a sense of enclosure within this otherwise open landscape.

1.4.5 C9. Newton and Birket

- Radio mast on Waddington Fell is a landmark within views to the area
- Waddington Fell sandstone quarry is also a recognisable landscape feature
- Dramatic, open views to the distinctive profile of Pendle Hill to the south
- The stone shooting cabin on Browsholme Moor and Browsholme Tarn are features within views
- Relatively strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Strong sense of openness, with long panoramas, coupled with wide horizons and skies
- Open views southwards across the distinctive pattern of adjacent Undulating Lowland Farmland with Parkland and Wooded brooks towards the recognisable skyline backdrop of Pendle Hill
- Patches of sandstone quarrying are also a feature of this area
- There is evidence of mining in the Newton Fells area
- A long history of estate owned and managed land within this area, displaying a patchwork of moorland and woodland blocks.

1.4.6 D2. Tatham

- Open views eastwards towards the Great Stone of Fourstone within Croasdale to Lythe Landscape Character Area
- Traditional stone field barns are landmark features within views
- A network of minor roads cross the area, providing access to this area and introducing a source of noise and movement
- Plantation woodland near Bank End brings regularity to the landscape and introduces a recognisable landscape feature within views
- A network of gritstone walls contributes to recognisable landscape pattern
- The sheep folds at the edge of Lythe Fell contribute to distinctive landscape pattern
- Visual contrast within views between the pattern and sense of enclosure of the Moorland Fringe and more open landscapes of the adjacent Unenclosed Moorland Hills.

1.4.7 D5. Beatrix to Collyholme

- The rocky outcrop of Knot or Sugar Loaf disused quarry is a distinctive landscape feature, as is the dilapidated field barn at Back of Hill
- Belts and patches of deciduous and coniferous woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure
- Dramatic open views into the Lower Hodder Valley contribute to recognisable sense of place
- Pockets of mature single deciduous trees contribute to landscape pattern
- Landscape is incised by a network of cloughs and sykes, which add variety and texture to the landscape
- Sled tracks are a key historic landscape feature on Dunsop and Burn Fells, which are set against the smooth moorland backdrop
- The ancient settlement of Beatrix hamlet is a feature of the lower end of the valley
- Hedgerows are a feature of the landscape in places.

1.4.8 D13. Park House

- Patchwork of grazed fields, which are delineated by drystone walls, hedgerows and occasional post and wire fences
- Mature deciduous trees line Park House Lane road corridor
- Framed views into Roeburndale Valley to the west and Hindburndale Valley to the north
- A distinctive pattern of farms within the area, which generally start at the river bottoms of the Roeburndale or Hindburndale Wooded Rural Valleys and finish with the common rights on Goodber Common
- Evidence of bell pit mining within the landscape
- Difficult land to farm, resulting in a patchwork of semi-improved pastures, meadows and rushy pastures
- Rising mass of Goodber Common provides a dramatic, smooth backdrop to views southwards and contributes to a recognisable sense of place.

1.4.9 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.

1.4.10 G3. Upper Hodder

- Patches of mature deciduous trees and single deciduous trees line the corridor of the River Hodder, which meanders through this area and often has shallow, grassy banks
- A long history of estate management throughout much of the area
- Patches of mixed woodland with sinuous edges contribute to a mature landscape structure, which provides an intermittent sense of enclosure. Sense of enclosure is also provided by Browsholme Moor and Easington Fells and the Bowland Fells
- White stone walls, bridges and limestone built villages within the valley bottom contribute to the sense of place
- Park woodlands, of oval shapes and enclosed by drystone walls or fenced boundaries. are a striking landscape features
- Underlying limestone geology has an influence on the landscape in buildings and drystone wall materials
- Limekilns, limestone quarries and stone field barns are recognisable landscape features
- Remnant hedgerows delineate some field boundaries, several containing hedgerow trees
- Distinctive grassy limestone knolls, often with woodland or tree cover on the hilltops, are features within views.

1.4.11 12. Roeburndale

- Steep-sided river valley, with ancient semi-natural woodland along the river and stream banks and associated species-rich damp/wet meadows and pastures
- Strong sense of enclosure within the valley provided by the Unenclosed Moorland Hills of Goodber Common to the east and the Enclosed Moorland Hills at the eastern end of Caton Moor
- An associated strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- This area forms an integral part of the distinctive traditional farming pattern of the area
- The course of the River Roeburn is lined with dense belts of deciduous woodland, which demarcate its path within views from surrounding higher landscapes. Water within the river, trickles over large, smooth boulders and smaller pebbles along the river bed, which contributes to a diverse pattern along the river corridor and introduces a source of noise and movement
- Within views southwards along the valley from the narrow road which follows the western bank of the river corridor, Mallowdale Fell provides enclosure and is visible as the skyline backdrop
- The Roman Road crossing Salter Fell is a key visible feature within views to Mallowdale Fell
- A relatively small-scale patchwork of pastoral fields lines the valley floor, delineated by an intact network of low stone walls; mosaics of grassland and hay meadows are also a feature. Mixed hedgerows with hedgerow trees also delineate field boundaries and mixed, ancient seminatural woodland
- Field barns contribute to recognisable sense of place. Mature, single deciduous trees along road corridors (which are often lined with stone walls) and patches of ancient woodland, waterfalls, weirs and fords are also features
- Two minor, dead-end roads lead into the valley and there is no access (other than by foot) from the southern end of the valley, further contributing to the overall sense of isolation and remoteness
- The small, nucleated village of Wray, at the northern end of the valley, encompasses rows of traditional stone terraced houses
- Where the narrow road corridors cross the river stone packhorse bridges are a key landscape feature
- This area has a history of iron smelting, stone quarrying and coppice activity in woodlands
- A distinctive area of open land, between Haylot and Lower Salter provides a habitat for oystercatchers and woodpeckers
- The banks of the fast-flowing rivers contain evidence of former water powered mill sites.

1.4.12 13. Hindburndale

- The Hindburn valley is steep sided, with a series of associated stream side valleys forking into the main valley
- A strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity, resulting from lack of access and the enclosing ring of Moorland Hills
- Two minor roads follow the course of the river, lined with thick stone walls and mature deciduous trees in places
- Sinuous belts of mature deciduous ancient, semi-natural woodland lines the river and stream corridors, providing a strong sense of enclosure, with associated species-rich, small damp/wet meadows and pastures
- Area forms an integral part of a distinctive traditional farming pattern, which is linked to Goodber Common
- Traditional stone field barns and the mosaics of grassland and hay meadows are landscape features

- Framed views northwards towards the peaks of the Yorkshire Dales (including Ingleborough)
- The small-scale field pattern is delineated by a series of low stone walls and mixed hedgerows with hedgerow trees
- Where the narrow, often winding road corridors cross the river stone packhorse bridges are a key landscape feature. Patches of ancient woodland, waterfalls, weirs and fords are also features of the landscape
- The banks of the fast-flowing rivers contain evidence of former water powered mill sites
- Settlement pattern includes Lowgill hamlet, several farmsteads and an associated network of narrow lanes
- Area has a history of iron smelting; and coppice activity in woodlands.

1.4.13 K2. Lower Tatham

- Mature, single deciduous trees are often located on ridgelines and in fields
- The network of minor roads crossing the landscape, are often lined with low mixed hedgerows (often trimmed and containing hedgerow trees) and mature deciduous trees
- Patches of mixed woodland and the rolling nature of the topography contribute to an intermittent sense of enclosure and frame views across the landscape
- Mixed ancient semi-natural woodland parcels show an extensive history of coppice activity and contribute a sense of enclosure
- Damp birch woodland blocks are also a feature of the landscape
- Framed views southwards into the corridor of the River Hindburn
- Dramatic, open views northwards towards the Peaks of the Yorkshire Dales
- Dramatic, open views southwards towards the rising mass of Moorland Hills and Plateaux within the Forest of Bowland
- Scattered traditional stone farmsteads punctuate the surrounding rolling pastoral farmland.