



**Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme - Proposed Marl Hill  
Section**

**Environmental Statement**

**Volume 4**

**Appendix 6.2: Landscape Character Baseline**

June 2021



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## Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme - Proposed Marl Hill Section

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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 Marl Hill 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<sup>1</sup>.
  - 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

<sup>1</sup> 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*<sup>2</sup>.
- 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 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*<sup>3</sup> 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 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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].

<sup>3</sup> 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].

**1.3.2 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.

**1.3.3 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.

**1.3.4 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.

**1.3.5 5b. Lower Hodder and Loud Valley**

- Undulating lowland farmland to the south of the Forest of Bowland
- Includes the deeply incised wooded course of the Hodder below Whitewell and its tributary, the River Loud
- Underlying bedrock is limestone which is overlain by good soils, providing lush green pastures and good tree growth
- The Hodder is particularly well wooded and the pattern of incised minor wooded tributaries is distinctive to this character area
- Little affected by modern development and the picturesque limestone villages of Chipping and Waddington have retained their vernacular character.

### 1.3.6 5g. South Bowland Fringes

- Forms the lowland fringes of Waddington Fell, to the south of the Forest of Bowland
- A well-wooded area whose limestone slopes are particularly notable for their pattern of wooded cloughs
- Tributaries which descend the valley side before feeding into the River Ribble
- The villages of Waddington, West Bradford, Grindleton and Holdon are located at the foot of wooded cloughs
- Browsholme Hall has an influence over landscape character; shelter belts and beech hedges are features of the area around Cow Ark.

## 1.4 Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment

7) The *Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment*<sup>4</sup> 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 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.

### 1.4.2 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.

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<sup>4</sup> 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].

#### **1.4.3 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.

#### **1.4.4 D7. Moorcock**

- Relatively strong sense of enclosure provided by patches of woodland
- Open views northwards to Waddington Fell and southwards towards Pendle Hill with Pendle Hill as a backdrop.

#### **1.4.5 F2. Bolton by Bowland to Waddington**

- Gently sloping limestone topography is incised with a pattern of wooded cloughs which descend the slopes and flow into the valley of the River Ribble
- The villages of Waddington, Grindleton, Holdon and Bolton-by-Bowland are situated at the foot of the wooded cloughs or brook. Waddington and Grindleton are two relatively large, linear villages, which display terraces of traditional stone buildings lining the road corridors
- The brook corridors are lined with mature deciduous trees and woodland which provides a sense of enclosure and breaks up the surrounding predominantly pastoral farmland. Between Waddington and Grindleton, the wooded brooks flow from northwest to southeast. This woodland is key feature within views across the area
- Framed views southwards across the broad valley of the River Ribble
- The Copy Nook hotel is a recognisable landscape feature which contributes to sense of place and orientation
- Stone bridges which cross the River Ribble are landscape features
- At Grindleton, bluebells introduce strong colour when in season
- A network of narrow lanes cross the landscape, often lined with hedgerows, stone walls and white railings. Lanes in the Forest Becks and Bolton-by-Bowland area are often lined on one or both sides with trees, shrubs, varied flora and mixed hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Lanes in the Holden and Copy Nook area are often lined with drystone walls and white railings
- The Sawley and Gisburn B roads run east-west across this area, connecting the villages and introducing a source of noise and movement into the landscape
- Patches of woodland provide a sense of enclosure and single deciduous trees at the edges of the road corridors and within fields are also a feature
- The smell of wild garlic within the numerous woodlands is recognisable in the Spring.



#### **1.4.6 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.

#### **1.4.7 G7. Browsholme**

- Dramatic, open views northwards towards the central Bowland fells, which provide a distant sense of enclosure
- The Duchy of Lancaster own part of this area, which is reflected in the management of the landscape and the colours of gates and signs. Duchy metal field gates are recognisable landscape features
- Park woodlands are shaped with drystone walls or fenced boundaries
- Limestone, drystone walls are a feature of the northern half, whilst mixed hedgerows with hedgerow trees are a feature of the southern half
- Browsholme Hall is a key landscape feature; On the Browsholme Estate, beech hedgerows and beech within woodlands contribute to recognisable sense of place
- Relatively large blocks of coniferous and mixed woodland contribute to a varied sense of enclosure
- Mixed, ancient semi-natural woodland and strips/blocks of damp birch woodland contribute to a mixed sense of enclosure. In-field trees, including oak, alder and ash are landscape features
- Influenced by activity associated with pheasant, partridge and duck shoots
- The small hamlet of Cow Ark and a series of scattered, isolated farmsteads contribute to settlement pattern
- A network of relatively narrow rural lanes, lined with stone walls, hedgerows and occasional white railings, crosses this landscape. Between Bashall Eves and north Waddington, narrow, sunken lanes are lined with mixed hedgerows (including holly) and trees.