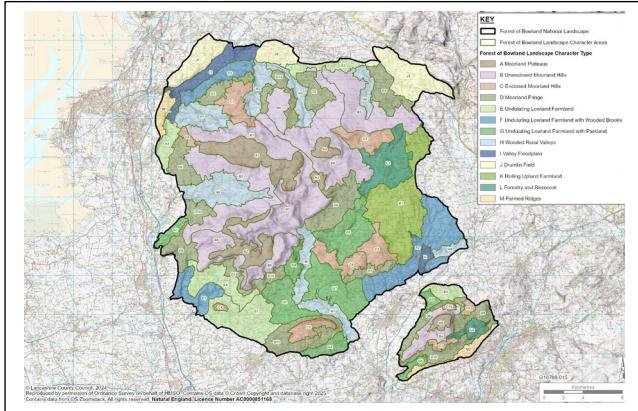


Forest of Bowland Landscape Character Assessment Summary of Landscape Character Types



Forest of
Bowland
National
Landscape



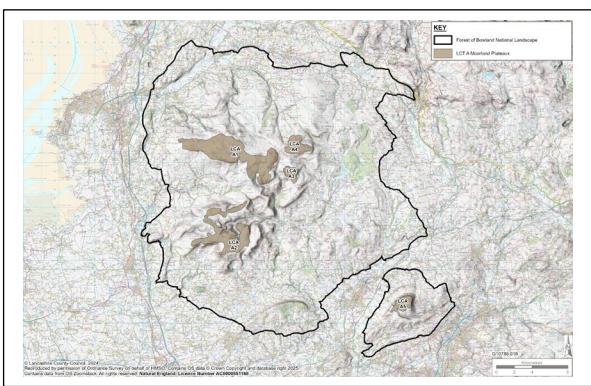
Landscape Character Types and Areas

LCT A: Moorland Plateaux

Description and Location

The Moorland Plateaux LCT is found on the very tops of the Bowland Fells where the wide, flat topped or gently rolling ridges dominate the skyline and views from the rest of the Forest of Bowland.

The Moorland Plateaux LCT generally occurs towards the centre of the Forest of Bowland, forming part of the central upland core. This LCT also occurs on the highest part of Pendle Hill. This LCT is generally surrounded by the Unenclosed Moorland Hills (LCT B).



LCT A Moorland Plateaux

Key Characteristics

- A strong sense of elevation with vast, expansive skies and uninterrupted views.
- Some moorland summits are punctuated with gritstone boulders and occasional outcrops.

- A windswept landscape affected by changing seasons, weather and light pattern.
- Landcover is predominantly blanket bog or heather moorland, and trees are generally absent

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Very open character with smooth uncluttered skylines and far-reaching panoramic views across the surrounding LCTs including the Unenclosed Moorland Hills (LCT B) and Enclosed Moorland Hills (LCT C) and lower landscapes beyond.
- The LCT forms a striking backdrop to views from adjacent landscapes.
- An extensive mosaic of habitats, with much of this moorland habitat designated as the Bowland Fells SAC and SSSI for its ecological value including supporting internationally important populations of hen harrier and merlin.
- Very strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and wildness.
- Overgrazing of blanket bog and heather moorland has reduced its condition and damaged the composition and structure of these habitats in places.
- Sphagnum moss is generally sparse due to a combination of past burning practices and the installation of drainage grips.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

A1: Ward's Stone

A2: Brown Berry Plain and Holdron Moss

A3: Baxton Fell

A4: White Hill

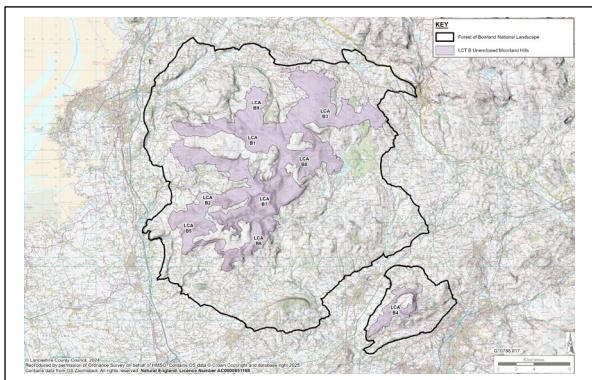
A5: Pendle Hill

LCT B: Unenclosed Moorland Hills

Description and Location

The Unenclosed Moorland Hills LCT comprises a series of hills with distinctive rounded profiles which surround the highest Moorland Plateaux summits.

The Unenclosed Moorland Hills LCT occurs in the central area of the Forest of Bowland around the higher Moorland Plateaux (LCT A) with predominance to the north and west. It is also present on Pendle Hill. The outer or lower edges of the Unenclosed Moorland Hills are generally adjacent to Moorland Fringe (LCT D) or Wooded Rural Valleys (LCT H).



LCT B Unenclosed Moorland Hills

Key Characteristics

- An open and exposed character, with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
- Dramatic cloughs or valleys which are incised into the hillsides and often contain fast-flowing streams.
- Woodland on the clough/valley sides.
- Open landscape with occasional stone walls and wire fences.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- High visual sensitivity resulting from its openness and generally uninterrupted skylines.
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent areas including the Moorland Plateau (LCT A) and Moorland Fringe (LCT D).
- The LCT forms a striking backdrop to views from adjacent lower lying landscapes both from within and outside the National Landscape boundary.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the LCT, only partially disturbed during times of shooting.
- Mosaic of upland habitats including moorland and blanket bog, acid grassland, clough woodland, wet flushes and steep incised cloughs.
- This LCT supports a diverse range of rare habitats and species, recognised by the fact that much of this landscape is designated as the Bowland Fells SAC and SSSI.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

B1: Black Fell to Mallowdale

B2: Abbeystead Fell to Harrisend Fell

B3: Burn Moor Fell

B4: Pendle Hill Moorland

B5: Bleasdale

B6: Parlick to Totridge

B7: Hareden and Langdon

B8: Croasdale to Lythe

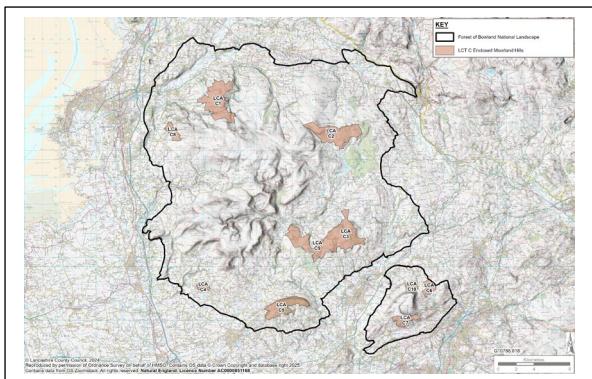
B9: Goodber Common

LCT C: Enclosed Moorland Hills

Description and Location

The Enclosed Moorland Hills LCT forms part of the central core of moorland hills in the centre of the Forest of Bowland. Along with the Unenclosed Moorland Hills (LCT B) they have distinct hill profiles and are at a slightly lower elevation than the highest Moorland Plateaux (LCT A).

This LCT is found in several places in the central core of the Forest of Bowland with some areas also present on Pendle Hill.



LCTC Enclosed Moorland Hills

Key Characteristics

- Open and exposed character.
- Enclosed by dry stone walls of roughly hewn blocks.
- Strong sense of elevation with expansive skies and uninterrupted views.
- Tree cover is generally limited to remnant clough woodland and coniferous plantation.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- The landscape has a strong sense of openness and generally uninterrupted skylines.
- There is strong intervisibility with adjacent LCTs.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, only partially disturbed at times of shooting.
- An extensive patchwork of habitats supporting rare species and recognised by its designation as a SAC or SSSI.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

C1: Claughton Moor and Whit Moor

C2: Crutchenber

C3: Easington

C4: Beacon Fell

C5: Longridge Fell

C6: Twiston Moor

C7: Craggs Dole to Saddlers Height

C8: Birk Bank

C9: Newton to Birkett

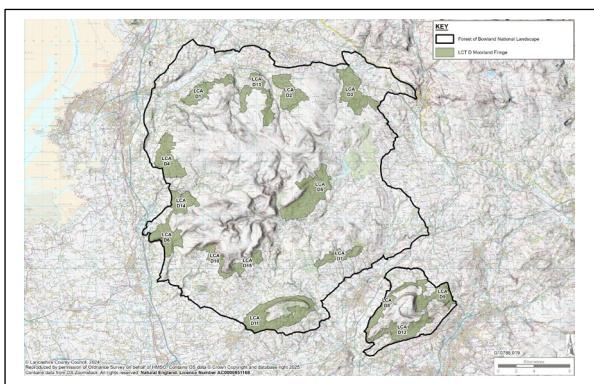
C10: Downham Moor

LCT D: Moorland Fringe

Description and Location

The Moorland Fringe LCT comprises the transitional rolling enclosed moorland and farmed landscape at the edges of the Moorland Hills, usually at an elevation of more than 200m linking the upland and lowland landscape. There is increasing evidence of human activity with more dry stone walls, improved pastures, scattered farmsteads and stone barns.

The Moorland Fringe LCT occurs in several locations throughout the Forest of Bowland including on Pendle Hill.



LCT D Moorland Fringe

Key Characteristics

- Sheep grazing is the predominant land use with a patchwork of traditionally managed meadows, wet rushy pasture and acid grassland.
- Traditional field barns are recognisable landscape features.
- Dry stone walls of roughhewn stone create strong patterns within the landscape which reflect the underlying geology.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Valuable ecological habitats within the wider improved pasture including traditionally managed meadows and acid grassland which support a diverse range of bird species.
- Numerous scattered, isolated, traditional historic farmsteads.
- The presence of packhorse ways and parish boundary markers are still present in the landscape.
- Strong intervisibility with surrounding LCTs.
- The distinctive pattern of stone walls which exhibit traditional construction styles.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

D1: Caton Moor

D2: Tatham

D3: Kettlesbeck

D4: Hare Appletree

D5: Dunsop Bridge to Gisburn Forest

D6: Nicky Nook

D7: Moorcock

D8: Pendleton

D9: Wheathead

D10: Bleasdale to Oakenclough

D11: Longridge Slopes

D12: Upper Sabden Valley

D13: Park House

D14: Catshaw Fringe

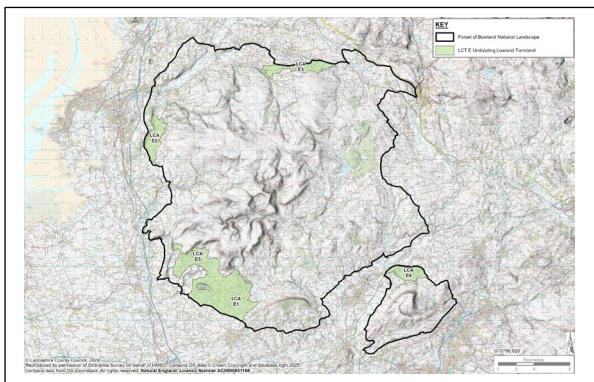
D15: Wolfen and Stanley Common

LCT E: Undulating Lowland Farmland

Description and Location

The Undulating Lowland Farmland LCT occurs in several areas at the edge of the Forest of Bowland and Pendle Hill. It comprises gently undulating land generally below 150m AOD forming a transition between the lower lying plains and the higher central Bowland Fells.

It is a rural, predominantly pastoral, agricultural landscape, although it does not have the distinct features associated with the other Undulating Lowland Farmland LCTs which are associated with parkland (LCT G) or wooded brooks (LCT F).



LCT E Undulating Lowland Farmland

Key Characteristics

- Undulating rural lowland.
- Intricate tapestry of grazed fields bounded by intact stone walls and hedgerows.
- Small woodlands, copses and hedgerow trees.
- A patchwork of wood and pasture when viewed from the fells.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- The intricate combination of hedges, hedgerow trees and small stream corridors.
- The intact network of stone walls, stone bridges and historic villages.
- A mature structure of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Strong intervisibility with the higher moorland (Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills and Moorland Plateaux LCTs).

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

E1: Whitechapel

E2: Quernmore

E3: Forest of Mewith

E4: Twiston

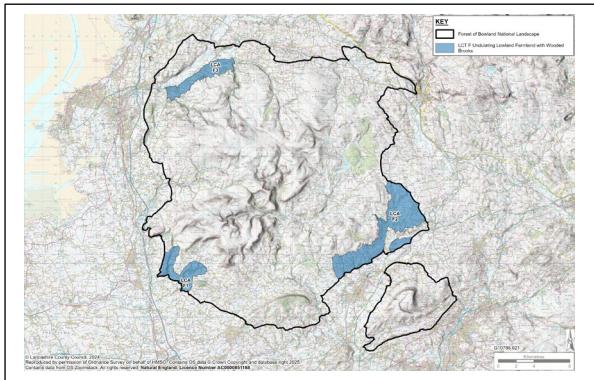
E5: Bleasdale

LCT F: Undulating Lowland Farmland with Wooded Brooks

Description and Location

The Undulating Lowland Farmland with Wooded Brooks LCT is a lowland landscape generally below 150m and comprises a patchwork of pastoral fields incised by wooded brooks and river gorges which are tributaries of larger water courses.

The Undulating Lowland Farmland with Wooded Brooks LCT is found at the edge of the Forest of Bowland forming a transition between the low-lying plains and the higher Bowland Fells.



LCT F Undulating Lowland Farmland with Wooded Brooks

Key Characteristics

- A patchwork of pastoral fields incised by wooded brooks.
- Field boundaries delineated with hedgerows and stone walls.
- Clustered historic villages and scattered cottages.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Diverse mix of mature woodland lining water courses, hedges and hedgerow trees provide landscape and ecological value.
- The rich industrial archaeological record associated with millstone and cotton production and an intact network of stone walls, stone bridges and historic villages.
- Strong intervisibility with the Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills and Moorland Plateaux LCTs.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

F1: Calder Vale and Brock Valley

F2: Waddington to Bolton-by-Bowland

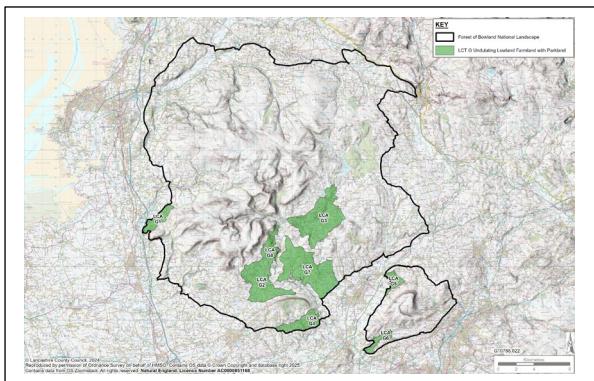
F3: Caton

LCT G: Undulating Lowland Farmland with Parkland

Description and Location

The Undulating Lowland Farmland with Parkland LCT is mainly in the southern half of the Forest of Bowland near Dunsop Bridge, Slaidburn, Hurst Green and east of Chipping and near Sabden and Downham on the lower slopes of Pendle Hill.

This LCT comprises undulating lowland farmland, and its historic management and parkland features differentiate it from other areas of undulating lowland farmland character, including LCT E: Undulating Lowland Farmland and LCT F: Undulating Lowland Farmland with Wooded Brooks.



G4: Hurst Green

G5: Downham

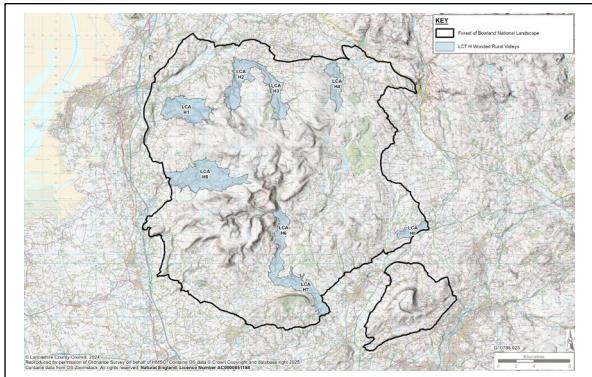
G6: Sabden

LCT H: Wooded Rural Valleys

Description and Location

The Wooded Rural Valleys LCT comprises deeply incised wooded valleys which radiate from the central upland core.

The valleys or cloughs were formed by fast flowing water which has eroded the underlying geology. The valleys are wooded, predominantly Ancient Woodland, and they form a linear pattern in the landscape providing a strong link between the higher central upland core and the surrounding lowland.



LCT H Wooded Rural Valleys

Key Characteristics

- Deeply incised, wooded cloughs create a strong pattern.
- Undulating lanes dip into and out of the valleys.
- Some localised areas of landslip on the steep valley sides create a distinctive hummocky local topography in places.
- Strong sense of enclosure.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- A diverse patchwork of woodland and river corridor habitats.
- Generally well maintained hedgerows and dry stone walls, stone bridges and remnants of historic mills contribute to cultural and landscape character.
- A variable sense of enclosure across the landscape, with some views limited by woodland cover and topography with more open views to the uplands in places.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

H1: Littledale

H2: Roeburndale

H3: Hindburndale

H4: Keasden

H5: Abbeystead and Over Wyresdale

H6: Upper Hodder

H7: Lower Hodder

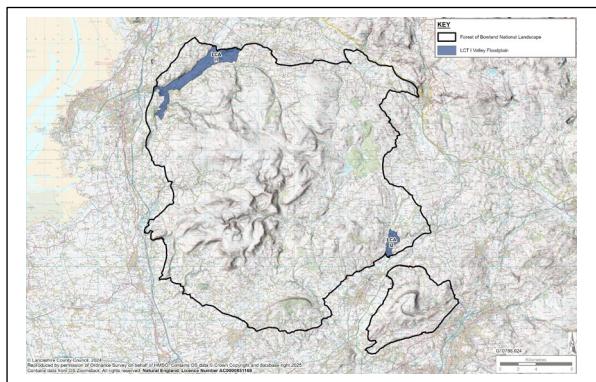
H8: River Ribble

LCT I: Valley Floodplain

Description and Location

The Valley Floodplain LCT is associated with the River Ribble and the River Lune which are the two main rivers in the Forest of Bowland. These main rivers originate high in the Pennines of Yorkshire. They are already of substantial size by the time they reach Bowland becoming wide, slow rivers meandering across open, broad and flat floodplains. Other Bowland brooks and rivers drain into these larger rivers.

The Valley Floodplain LCT occurs twice within the Forest of Bowland: River Lune runs to the north of Caton on the north-western edge of the National Landscape, and the River Ribble runs to the south of Bolton-by-Bowland on the south-eastern edge of the National Landscape.



LCT I Valley Floodplain

Key Characteristics

- Open, broad, flat floodplains, subject to periodic flooding which provides fertile grazing land.
- Steep, wooded bluffs and terraces enclose the floodplain.
- Mature spreading floodplain trees are distinctive elements.
- Large fields, divided by post and wire fencing, hedgerows or stone walls.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- The generally strong intervisibility with the surrounding higher landscape.
- There is a strong sense of openness of views along the valleys.
- A diverse patchwork of linear freshwater and wetland habitats including grassland, wet meadows, domed mosses, areas of standing water, marshland and woodland which contribute to landscape character and biodiversity.
- There is a historic pattern of hedgerows and stone walls which delineate field boundaries.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

I1: Lune Valley

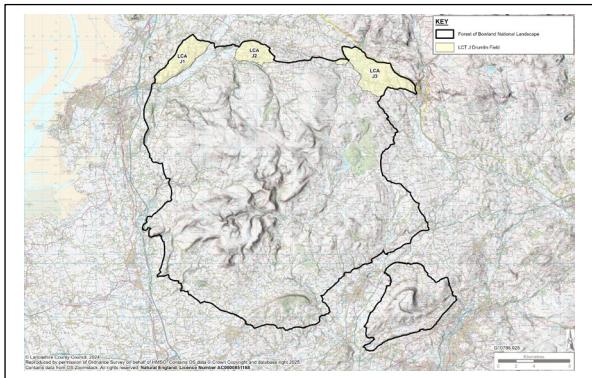
I2: Ribble Valley

LCT J: Drumlin Field

Description and Location

The Drumlin Field LCT is characterised by 'fields' of rolling drumlins. Drumlins are distinctive rounded hills, usually 100-200m high, with steep sides and rounded tops, which occur in 'fields' or clusters, and are usually aligned in one direction.

The Drumlin Field LCT occurs along the northern edge of the Forest of Bowland. There are three occurrences of this LCT within the Forest of Bowland: to the north of Caton, east of Hornby and to north-west of Settle.



LCT J Drumlin Field

Key Characteristics

- Rounded drumlins create a distinctive rolling topography.
- Strong field pattern with distinctive limestone walls and low hedgerows enhance landform.
- Small copses of mixed woodlands punctuate the landscape and provide visual focal points.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Distinctive drumlin topography.
- The pattern of landscape features, including stone walls, hedgerows and pockets of woodland.
- The pockets of species-rich grassland and remnant mires.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

J1: Gressingham

J2: Lower Tatham

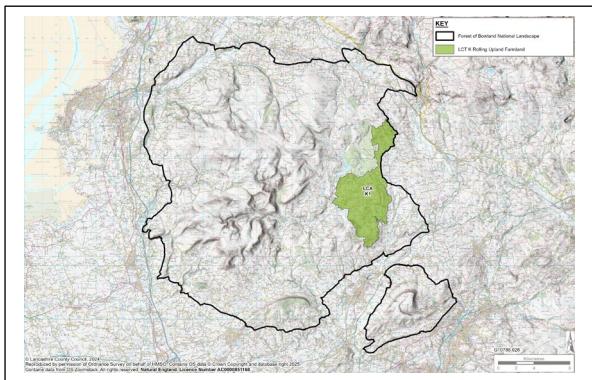
J3: Lawkland and Eldroth

LCT K: Rolling Upland Farmland

Description and Location

The Rolling Upland Farmland LCT is an open landscape characterised by undulating pastoral land on soft rolling hills. It only occurs in a single location in the eastern part of the Forest of Bowland, to the east of Slaidburn and Gisburn Forest.

It is generally of a higher elevation than the undulating lowland farmland LCTs which are also found at the periphery of the Forest of Bowland, forming a transition to the higher Bowland Fells.



LCT K Rolling Upland Farmland

Key Characteristics

- A rolling, pastoral landscape with an intact network of dry stone walls, hedgerows and stock proof fencing along field boundaries.
- Moorland rush pasture and stunted, wind-blown hawthorns and gorse on boundaries on more exposed higher ground.
- Lush pasture and meadows and with hedgerow boundaries with hedgerow trees on lower ground.
- Isolated farmsteads and stone barns.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- The intact network of limestone dry stone walls contributes to a coherent pattern.
- Pockets of species diverse grasslands and hay meadows.
- Trees, pockets of ancient woodland and wind-blown trees and gorse provide landscape features and local habitat and wildlife corridors.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

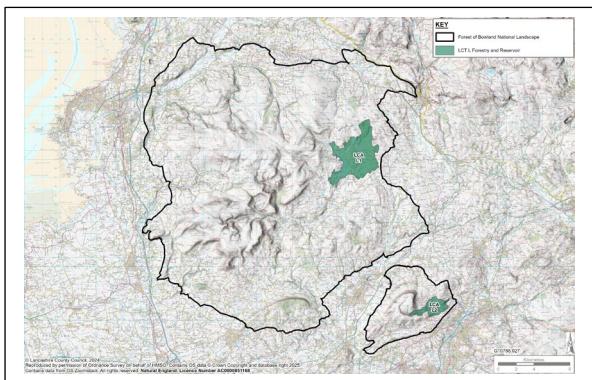
K1: Harrop Fold and Stephen Moor

LCT L: Forestry and Reservoir

Description and Location

The Forestry and Reservoir LCT is located to the east of the Forest of Bowland, to the north-east of Slaidburn encompassing Gisburn Forest, and to the south-east of Pendle Hill near Barley.

The LCT is characterised by open water and coniferous forestry, where these man-made or 'engineered' features strongly influence the character of the landscape. Reservoirs and forestry also exist elsewhere within the National Landscape, but not with the same level of dominance as seen in this landscape. Reservoir infrastructure such as dams, stone walls, roads and slipways and buildings add to the engineered character.



LCT L Forestry and Reservoir

Key Characteristics

- Expanses of open water reservoirs and extensive woodland.
- A textured landscape, set against the smoother, muted backdrop of the Moorland Hills.
- An 'engineered character' in places from the influence of the man-made reservoir features and the commercial coniferous forestry.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Variable sense of enclosure where views are limited by woodland cover in places and more open in others.
- There is a moderate intervisibility with adjacent LCTs where open views can be gained across the landscape in places.
- A diverse patchwork of woodland in places contributes to ecological character.
- Well maintained dry stone walls and stone bridges contribute to cultural and landscape character.
- Recreational value.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

L1: Gisburn Forest and Stocks

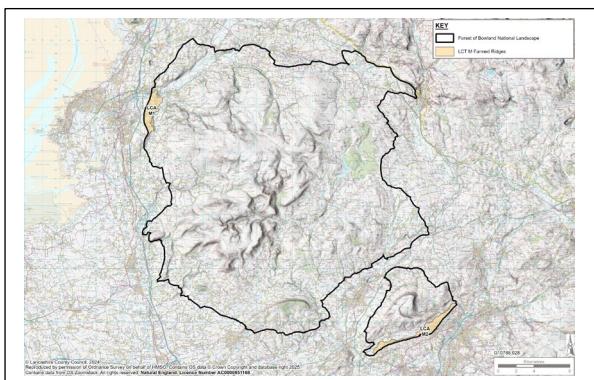
L2: Barley

LCT M: Farmed Ridges

Description and Location

The Farmed Ridges LCT is characterised by gritstone outcrops which form ridges providing a textural backdrop to the surrounding lowlands. The ridges rise quite dramatically from the surrounding landscape and have distinctive rounded profiles and are predominantly covered with a mosaic of mixed pastoral farmland and broadleaved woodlands. The ridge tops afford long, open views across surrounding lowlands.

There are two occurrences of the Farmed Ridges LCT within the Forest of Bowland, one to the west of Quernmore and the other to the south of Pendle Hill. In both instances this LCT continues outside the National Landscape boundary.



LCT M Farmed Ridges

Key Characteristics

- Distinct rounded ridge profile in contrast to lower lying farmland.
- Mosaic of mixed farmland and woodland forming a textural backdrop to the surrounding lowlands.
- Low stone walls often delineate field boundaries.
- Settlement pattern of isolated stone farmsteads.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong intervisibility with adjacent lowland farmland and higher moorland.
- Mosaic of land use including areas of pastoral land and woodland.
- Intermittent sense of enclosure provided by areas of dense woodland.
- Stone walls, hedgerows and woodlands are generally in good condition.

Landscape Character Areas within this LCT include:

M1: Quernmore Ridge

M2: The Heights

(Ref: Forest of Bowland Landscape Character Assessment, The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd, 2025)