Figure 97 The historic landscape character of the Yorkshire Dales National Park mapped by broad type
Within the Yorkshire Dales, unenclosed land accounts for 39,170 hectares, which is 25% of the area characterised. Whilst in some cases the moorlands form somewhat isolated landscapes, these are managed, whether as landscapes for shooting or for rough grazing.

Planned enclosure is evident throughout the Yorkshire Dales, see Figures 98 and 100. Such enclosure is central to the study of land ownership and tenure in the late post-medieval period. There were several mechanisms by which land was divided into regular parcels; agreement, private enclosure or act of parliament. These enclosure awards have a wide range of dates; the earliest identified originates in AD 1768 with evidence of enclosure up until the end of the 19th century. Figure 98 shows the distribution of parliamentary enclosure within the Yorkshire Dales.

Within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, 96 areas have been identified which can be linked to an enclosure award. These cover a total of 37,860 hectares. In terms of extent, and with the exception of the Forest of Knaresborough award, the individual awards in the National Park seem to be larger than enclosure awards in other parts of the project area. It is also evident that the size of fields seems to be related to perceptions of land quality, for example fields lower down in valleys tend to be smaller, whilst those on semi-improved land are much larger. The parliamentary enclosure found in the area of Worton Pasture, for example, see Figure 99, consists of fields with a wide variety of sizes, from 33 hectares on the pasture itself (centred at SD 944888), to 5 hectares at grid ref SD 949863.

The HLC type of unknown planned enclosure has been used where the form of post-medieval planned enclosure could be recognised, but there was no evidence of a related, specific award in the sources being used for the project. Such enclosure takes the form of straight boundaries representing a formal parcelling of the landscape, often not reflecting the topography of the landscape, see Figure 100.

Figure 98 The distribution of parliamentary enclosure in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. North Yorkshire County Council. 100017946 2010

Within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, 96 areas have been identified which can be linked to an enclosure award. These cover a total of 37,860 hectares. In terms of extent, and with the exception of the Forest of Knaresborough award, the individual awards in the National Park seem to be larger than enclosure awards in other parts of the project area. It is also evident that the size of fields seems to be related to perceptions of land quality, for example fields lower down in valleys tend to be smaller, whilst those on semi-improved land are much larger. The parliamentary enclosure found in the area of Worton Pasture, for example, see Figure 99, consists of fields with a wide variety of sizes, from 33 hectares on the pasture itself (centred at SD 944888), to 5 hectares at grid ref SD 949863.

The HLC type of unknown planned enclosure has been used where the form of post-medieval planned enclosure could be recognised, but there was no evidence of a related, specific award in the sources being used for the project. Such enclosure takes the form of straight boundaries representing a formal parcelling of the landscape, often not reflecting the topography of the landscape, see Figure 100.

147 Tate and Turner 1978, and English 1985
Figure 99  Parliamentary Enclosure around Worton Pasture (SD 945 888)

Figure 100  The distribution of unknown planned enclosure in the Yorkshire Dales National Park
No areas of private enclosure have been identified. It may be that the distribution of unknown planned enclosure reflects areas of fields created by private undertaking. This may be why the extent of these enclosure groups tends to be smaller as they may relate to individual land holdings.

During the earlier part of the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1750), a different type of enclosure occurs within the Yorkshire Dales. This is located more on the valley floors, and tends to occur as a process of accretion, small groups of fields being enclosed as individual events over time. The field boundaries tend to be less regular, representing a piecemeal approach to enclosure. This represents a significant break from the strip fields of the open fields of the medieval period and the planned enclosure that followed. This piecemeal enclosure has the feeling of being created ‘within’ the landscape rather than being imposed on it.

Intake seems to be broadly contemporary with the piecemeal enclosure that we see in the early post-medieval period, but has seen very specific distinctions in how it is perceived, both at the time of its creation and in the contemporary landscape. Whereas piecemeal enclosure is found in the valley bottoms, intake is found on the valley sides encroaching upon and ‘improving’ the moorland. This sits within a complicated framework of perception of ownership and tenure, especially where the encroachment occurred onto common land. Intake could be sanctioned, Muir\textsuperscript{148} talks of lords of the manor allowing miners to build cottages on the edge of the moor and enclose areas to supplement their income. Later, small intakes were allowed if the intention was announced and not challenged. Figure 102 shows intake in Swaledale, where the character of the accretion of such fields and the ‘improvement’ of moorland can be seen.

\textsuperscript{148} Muir 2004, 136-137
There are 205 areas in the Yorkshire Dales National Park which have been characterised as intake. Due to their accretive nature, each occurrence of this character type may represent a number of events within the landscape, which has created a complex pattern of fields.

The management and creation of enclosure within the medieval landscape was heavily tied to the structure and social fabric of the medieval townships. The most common areas of enclosure with a medieval origin are enclosed strip fields.
There is a clear distribution of enclosed strip fields evident in Figure 105, with a bias towards the southern and eastern areas of the National Park. Where these enclosed strip fields survive, the legibility is excellent; 69% of these areas have seen no boundary loss since the mid 19th century. This not only gives us an insight into the medieval management of this landscape, but a better understanding of the impact of management strategies since AD 1850, particularly since the creation of the National Park in AD 1954.

One of the most distinctive elements of land management within the Yorkshire Dales National Park is the use of stinted pasture, see Figure 106. Stinted pasture was a method of controlling access of livestock to upland areas through the purchase of gates, with one gate equalling a sheep, and multiples of this used to calculate the cost for large livestock. As this is more of a conceptual understanding of the landscape, rather than one with a physical expression in terms of distinctive boundaries, it is very hard to characterise from the physical form of the landscape alone. Therefore, place-name evidence has been used to determine the extent of land managed in this way. There is potential for further research outwith this HLC project, to determine the full extent of land which is managed as stinted pasture within the National Park. Cow pasture appears to have been managed in a similar way, at a similar time, and seems to have been used for milk cattle.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁹ Muir 2004, 51
Figure 105  
*The distribution of strip fields in the Yorkshire Dales National Park*

Figure 106  
*The distribution of stunted pasture and cow pasture in the Yorkshire Dales National Park*
5.3 The North York Moors National Park

The North York Moors National Park was designated in AD 1952\(^{137}\) and encompasses an area of mainly upland which covers 143,600 hectares. It is an upland plateau underlain by Middle Jurassic sandstones and mudstones, while to the south the geology consists of calcareous sandstone and limestone of the Upper Jurassic series. There are also areas of land which are undulating in form due to the underlying glacial till, sands and gravels. This landscape is bisected by deep dales which can be wide and steep river valleys.

There is no denying the role that the moorland plays in the character of the North York Moors. The moor is a complex landscape with much detail that can be drawn out. Even the moorland is much more involved than first appears, sitting within various management regimes, and being maintained as a result of different historic processes.

Unenclosed land accounts for 44,750 hectares, however this is just over a third of the total area of the National Park. While this is a far higher percentage than most of the rest of the county it is clear that the landscape is a lot more varied than first appears. Within those 44,750 hectares there is also a fairly high degree of variation.

\(^{137}\) http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/key-facts-and-figures/
Figure 108  Extensive area of moorland (SE 471968, HNY 6763)

Figure 109  Extensive area characterised as shallow-shaft coal mining along Blakey Ridge (SE 682992), Farndale Head and Rosedale Head
This can be seen in the record for HNY 6763, see Figure 108. “This is an extensive area of heather moorland lying to the far west of the National Park which has significant legibility with little change since AD 1850. The current management regime is that of grouse moor. The upland area is mostly unchanged and around the edges the area is characterised by some steep banks often planted with trees or areas of rough grassland, bracken and gorse on the edges of the unenclosed land. There are some disused small scale sandstone and limestone quarries identified dispersed across the area, and some jet mining around the very edges of the moor. There is also an area of disused coal pits used for coal mining and small areas of plantation less than 2ha in area included in this record. The moors are used extensively for sheep grazing and contribute significantly to the character of the area and provide a vast open space which has retained its natural beauty. The Bilsdale television transmitter mast is a dominant landmark, and a small gliding club is situated in the north of the area at Carlton Bank. There are numerous prehistoric round barrows mainly situated on the highest points and in a mainly featureless landscape. Other prehistoric remains are not so obvious. This gives it a further dimension to its historic character going back at least to the Bronze Age”.

As we can see this has a highly detailed and varied development with leisure use, some intake and evidence of very small scale extraction. By contrast, if we look in more detail at this area we can see areas around the moor which are smaller and have been recorded as reverted moorland, for example to the north of Hawnby we have a series of reverted moorlands. Bumper Hagg (HNY 7838) forms one of these and was previously post-medieval intake which was intake prior to the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63).

It is not clear whether the land within this area has been improved, but it is evident that it has now reverted to moorland. In contrast to the extensive moorland recorded as part of record reference HNY 6763 (SE 471968), there is no evidence of modern management or extraction.

There are some areas within the National Park where the density of extraction is such that this has come to define the historic character. The character of this extraction is extremely varied and includes jet and ironstone working, alum extraction, shallow-shaft coal mining and quarrying for sandstone, limestone and aggregates.

The North York Moors has one of the highest concentrations of shallow-shaft coal mining in the project area, covering 1,536 hectares. Some of the most dense concentrations are around Farndale Moor (NZ 662001) and Danby Head (NZ 673009). Covering over a thousand hectares, these areas are extensive and fairly dispersed, although there are very specific concentrations along Blakey Ridge, for example at SE 682992, NZ 672006 and NZ 679005. The extraction has a linear nature, following the location of the mineral. Whilst there is evidence of mining in this area throughout the post-medieval period before AD 1850, there appears to have been an increase in activity between AD 1850 and 1900. There are areas of coal mining in this area as well, lying mainly to the south.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the landscape history of the North York Moors National Park is the extraction of jet. Sharing its texture with amber and colour with coal, jet is fossilised timber from the *araucaria* genus. This material doesn't follow

---

138 Cook 2003;189
a regular seam in the geological material, meaning that the character of extraction is not continuous, and occurs randomly throughout the Upper Lias shales (ibid). As these shales lie above ironstone deposits, there are close relationships in some areas (see below). Jet as a material is particularly synonymous with this part of the country, and particularly with jewellery from Whitby.

The HLC project has characterised twenty nine areas where jet working defines the historic landscape character, see Figure 110. These areas show a distribution which is relatively limited along the coast, with a higher concentration of extraction inland, further west. This distribution of surviving historic character contrasts with the historical and geological evidence for the industry. The distribution map accompanying Cook’s article, for example, shows a very high concentration of jet mining running along the coast. The HLC project only identified a 3km stretch of jet mining to the north of Whitby, and a second, 1.5 km stretch of jet mining to the south.

One of the issues with characterising areas as jet working is the discontinuous character of the activity, which means that in some cases it does form an aspect of other historic landscapes. This is particular noticeable when it occurs with other forms of extraction. For example, the length of coast that runs from the north of Whitby to the border of the North York Moors National Park does show evidence of jet extraction; however the dominant historic character within this area is alum extraction, represented by Kettleness alum works. This area shows evidence of jet mining on the western side, as well as ironstone working.

Figure 110   Jet working areas (in red) within the North York Moors National Park
This can also be seen in the 4km stretch of coastline near Port Mulgrave (NZ 811161 to NZ 783187). Here, again, there is evidence of jet mining, however this is interspersed in a landscape which is dominated by ironstone mining, so the coastline here is characterised as such. We can also see similar occurrences inland where areas of jet mining has occurred in a wooded area, for example Smithy Bank Wood (NZ 83020507) which dates before AD 1850 and has some evidence of jet mining within it.

Another issue has to be the dynamic character of the coastline, which has led to some areas becoming unstable and collapsing. In some areas, this may have been exacerbated by the amount of extraction. An example of coastal movement occurred in AD 1829 with the villagers rescued by the alum ships.

This may partly explain why the pattern of the historic landscape character types does not reflect the known pattern of jet extraction. However, it does show areas of concentration. The previously mentioned area between Whitby and grid ref. NZ 836159 is described by the project as “an area of large scale jet working with partial legibility having an almost continuous line of holes and small caves along the base of the cliffs and coastal slopes mined for the extraction of jet direct from the vein where it is exposed in the cliff edge. The holes run along approximately 3km of the coast from Kettleness to Deepgrove Wyke, there are no buildings or other remains. The previous HLC is recorded as cliffs, coastal slopes and rocky foreshore because along this stretch the coastline varies between these types, and remains partially in its natural form which has been altered by the jet mining along this length, and is very visible.”

Contrary to the known pattern of extraction, the HLC shows the greatest concentration away from the coast. These workings seem to occur on the slopes of the valleys that cut through the moorland. For example, on the eastern side of Bilsdale there are two areas characterised by jet working (NZ 570010 and SE 575998). Both of these seem to be associated with the extraction of jet by following the 800ft contour line on this side of the dale.

A similar pattern can be seen on Dromond Bank (NZ 53850347), where the north-facing slope has been quarried between the first and second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63)-(1889-99), which would date the highest concentration of activity broadly between AD 1850 and 1900. Here we seem to have the opposite issue from the one mentioned above. On Dromond Bank, the dominant extraction, as identified from the mapping, is jet; whereas alum quarrying has occurred, but on a much smaller scale.

Along with moorland, some of the most familiar features of the North York Moors National Park are the extensive areas of woodland. Woodland, of all types, covers over 30,000 hectares of the National Park’s landscape. This accounts for 21% of the area. Whilst the common perception is that the woodland consists of plantation woodland, the picture is much more complex.

There are several large modern plantation woodlands, for example Langdale Forest, which have seen an increase of over 90% since the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63). Covering over 2,500 hectares, this plantation is managed by the Forestry Commission. Prior to this area becoming

---

140 Buglass Pers. Comm
141 Lee and Pethick 2003; 18
forested, it was characterised as intake, probably dating to the early part of the post-medieval period. Before this, the area was moorland.

The woodland character within the National Park is much more complex. Within its boundaries there are 183 areas of ancient woodland which date before AD 1600. These are normally found in the valleys, and are fairly evenly spread across the area. There is a particularly high concentration in the north east of the National Park, around Grosmont, shown in crosshatch in Figure 111 below.

One of the largest areas of ancient semi-natural woodland lies just to the north of this area, running inland from Sandsend. This consists of two large blocks of woodland, totalling 254 hectares, both sitting within a larger wooded area and both have seen very little change since the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63).

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. North Yorkshire County Council. 100017946 2010

Figure 111  Ancient woodland around Grosmont, defined by the green hatched areas

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. North Yorkshire County Council. 100017946 2010

Figure 112  Extensive area of ancient woodland near Sandsend, defined by the green hatched areas
In terms of frequency, rather than area, the most common type of woodland identified within the project is broad-leaved plantation. These areas have a very different character to the large scale plantations such as Langdale Forest, tending to be smaller in size and more dispersed throughout the landscape and date between AD 1600 and 2009. For example, in Bilsdale, there are several small plantations which are less than ten hectares in size, and can generally be found between blocks of fields.

The enclosure patterns within the National Park are influenced heavily by the physical form of the landscape. There are 183 areas which have been identified with a parliamentary enclosure award. The highest concentration of these lies in the north east of the National Park around Mulgrave, Hinderwell, Mickleby, Barnby and Goldsborough. These blocks of fields, characterised by straight hedgerow boundaries, tend to cover areas from 40 to 400 hectares. Most of this seems to be part of the same award which dates between AD 1776 and 1782.

The modern improved fields within the National Park seem to be limited to the surrounding low lying areas, rarely located in the valleys. There is a particular concentration to the north of East and West Ayton. These tend to occur in smaller blocks than the large-scale modern improved fields more common in the Vale of Pickering to the south.

One of the very distinctive aspects of enclosure within the National Park is the relationship between enclosure and the moorland. In common with the Yorkshire Dales National Park, in the west of the county, the project has identified a large degree of intake where land is enclosed from moorland. These have generally been dated to the period AD 1540 to 1750, reflecting the form which suggests that they are occurring after the medieval period, but prior to the adoption of large-scale planned enclosure. Found generally around the edge of the moorland, these field systems vary in size from a four hectares up to 90 hectares in the case of the intake at SE 950965. As mentioned in section 5.1.5, some of these intakes have reverted to moorland.

Enclosed strip fields, fields enclosed from open fields and defined by reverse ‘S’-shaped curved boundaries, are found in the National Park but are less common. There are two particular concentrations which are apparent from the HLC. The first lies to the south of Castleton and Ainthorpe, see Figure 113. These have significant legibility with little boundary loss since the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63). A second concentration of enclosed strip fields lie between Appleton le Moors and Spaunton. Defined by hedgerows, this is a particularly high density of medieval activity. Some of these fields have seen little boundary loss, but others have only partial legibility due to boundary removal since AD 1850, for example at SE 753876.

The settlement pattern within the North York Moors has a very distinct, dispersed form. The only historic core identified is the town of Helmsley. The majority of the other settlements identified are villages, 82 in total. While the current character is post medieval, many have a previous character which is medieval. There is a definite trend within the character of the villages, with 39 having a linear form. These usually have two rows of dwellings on either side of a main street with a back lane. There does seem to be a marked distribution of the linear villages with twelve in the south west area of the North York Moors, and a second group to the north of Whitby.
Figure 113  Distribution of enclosed strip fields near Castleton
5.4 The Lower Tees Valley

The area referred to as the Lower Tees Valley, (see Figure 114 above) comprises of four unitary authorities; Stockton-on-Tees, Redcar and Cleveland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, and covers a total area of 61490 hectares. This area was the non-metropolitan county of Cleveland between AD 1974 and 1996 when it became the four unitary authorities.

As previously mentioned in the methodology, section 3.4, the project employed a different approach in the urban areas of the Lower Tees Valley area. This was to enable the drawing out of much more historic information relating to the more extensive settlement and industrial character of this area. To put this in perspective, settlement accounts for 17% of the total area of the Lower Tees Valley, whereas it accounts for 3% of the rest of the HLC project area. The aim of this section of the report is to summarise the results for the Lower Tees Valley and draw out the specific trends that can be recognised.

An examination of the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) shows the degree of expansion which has occurred in the late 19th and 20th century. At the time of this mapping, the core settlement of Middlesbrough covered an area of approximately 88 hectares. 2,781 hectares is now covered by Middlesbrough's settlement. This is an expansion of 3,180%, not including the industrial, recreational and institutional elements of Middlesbrough. Hartlepool and Stockton have also seen major 20th-century expansion, see section 4.7.

The character of enclosed land within the Lower Tees Valley area is also distinctive from the rest of the county. This section will draw out the broad trends and patterns which make the area distinctive and significant, see Figure 115.
Figure 115 The historic landscape character of the Lower Tees Valley mapped by broad type

Figure 116 shows the legibility of the Tees area, giving an initial overview of how dynamic the landscape has been. As can be seen this is a landscape which has seen a lot of change since the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63), particularly centred on the settlements. There has also been a fair degree of change within the field systems. These will be discussed in more detail below.

Figure 117 shows the broad distribution of the records within the Tees area by period. This has been mapped based on very broad dates. Some areas are blank on this figure due to the method used for querying the information, which relies on records falling exclusively between two dates. The figure highlights general trends within the origin of the historic character of the Lower Tees Valley. It uses dates based on MIDAS which defines the standard information to be recorded about heritage assets. HBSMR, the software used to create this historic landscape characterisation uses MIDAS as the basis for how information is recorded.

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. North Yorkshire County Council. 100017946 2010

www.midas-heritage.info