Historic landscape character
North Yorkshire, York and the Lower Tees Valley
Technical user guide
The North Yorkshire & Lower Tees Valley
Historic Landscape Characterisation

Technical User Guide
December 2010

Steve Toase

Historic Environment Team
Countryside Service
Economic and Rural Services
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

© North Yorkshire County Council & English Heritage 2010

Front Cover: Thematic mapping of broad character types for HLC project area
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. North Yorkshire County Council. 100017 2010
The North Yorkshire & Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation

Technical User Guide

Contents

1. Introduction  
   1.1 Project overview  ................................................................. 1
   1.2 A note about the digitising process  .................................... 2
   1.3 Nature of the data  ............................................................... 2

2. Methodology  
   2.1 Access database fields ....................................................... 3
   2.2 Fields associated with the HLC Mapinfo polygon .................... 4
   2.3 MapInfo table fields ............................................................ 5
   2.4 Confidence ................................................................. 5

3. Terminology  
   3.1 Broad character types ....................................................... 7
   3.2 Historic landscape character (HLC) types  ............................ 10
   3.3 Previous types ............................................................. 10
   3.4 Legibility ................................................................. 11
   3.5 Attributes ................................................................. 11

4. Historic Landscape Character Type Definitions, by Broad Type  
   4.1 Enclosed land ............................................................... 12
   4.2 Unenclosed land ............................................................. 21
   4.3 Woodland ................................................................. 24
   4.4 Water ................................................................. 29
   4.5 Military ................................................................. 31
   4.6 Coastal ................................................................. 33
   4.7 Settlement ............................................................... 37
   4.8 Designed landscape ...................................................... 51
   4.9 Industrial ................................................................. 56
   4.10 Extractive ................................................................. 60
   4.11 Recreational .............................................................. 67
   4.12 Communications ......................................................... 72
   4.13 Commercial .............................................................. 78
   4.14 Institutional .............................................................. 80

5. References and Abbreviations  

6. Appendices  
   6.1 Appendix A: Table of attributes and values  
   6.2 Appendix B: List of HLC types used, with frequency of use  
   6.3 Appendix C: List of previous types, with frequency of use
1. Introduction

This document is intended as a guide to the data created by the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, to supplement the main project report (Toase 2010). It outlines the nature of the records, the terminology used, such as the types of attributes, the broad types and HLC types. The majority of the HLC types are also be illustrated (see Section 4).

1.1 Project overview

The North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project was carried out between April 2005 and March 2010 by staff from the Historic Environment Team, North Yorkshire County Council, with Tees Archaeology undertaking characterisation of urban areas within the Lower Tees Valley. The project was part of a national programme supported and developed by English Heritage and in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council, the North York Moors National Park Authority, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the City of York Council and Tees Archaeology.

HLC is a desk based programme of GIS Mapping and analysis of the current landscape. The process is one of systematic identification and description of historic components in the contemporary rural and urban landscape. This includes all aspects of the natural and built environment which have been shaped by human activity in the past: the distribution of woodland and other semi-natural habitats, the form of fields and their boundaries, the lines of roads, streets and pathways, the disposition of buildings in towns, villages and the countryside. The HLC process starts by describing the current land use, then using aerial photography, modern and historic maps and other data, an understanding is gained of how an area has changed over time. Remnants of past land uses can still exist within today’s landscape, giving it its own distinctive character and historic identity, created through centuries of change and development. By understanding how landscapes have evolved we can help to manage change and conserve landscape features that give places their unique character and identity.

Project Aims:

- To characterise the present landscape of North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley, in terms of the visible evidence of the human processes that formed it.
- To improve and promote the understanding and appreciation of the historic environment of North Yorkshire and the Lower Tees Valley, both locally and regionally, to a variety of users.
- To create a body of data and a tool to enable informed decisions to be undertaken on conservation and future development.
- To assist partnership with other agencies, particularly with regard to targeting of agri-environment schemes and schemes for rural diversification.
- To inform and generate research agendas for the historic environment

The GIS mapping and digital database are the main products of the project, this consists of a GIS map layer covering all of North Yorkshire including the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, the City of York and the Lower Tees Valley, made up of thousands of polygons defining areas of specific historic
character. Each polygon links to a record within the Historic Environment Record database which holds information on the current landscape of that area and on any previous landscape characters that have been identified.

The project has created a permanent database which will be used to promote understanding of the historic environment of the project area and to provide information for a variety of planning, conservation and management-led initiatives and strategies.

The digital data arising from the project has been disseminated to the relevant historic environment records within the project area. A report which summarises the project and gives overviews and discussions of historic landscape character types and areas accompanies the digital data.

1.2 A note about the digitising process

During the initial phases of the project, which involved the characterisation of the areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the lowest size limit for characterisation of areas was one hectare. However, for the remainder of the project area, following review of progress and timescales, the lower polygon size limit was raised to two hectares. The exceptions to this were the urban areas of the Lower Tees Valley, including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Billingham and Stockton on Tees. For these areas, more detailed characterisation was carried out to draw out the finer details of the urban historic character (see Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of Toase 2010).

1.3 Nature of the data

The project data was created using the HLC and MapLink modules of the HBSMR database, software developed by Exegesis SDM Ltd. The specific HLC module allows a structured approach to recording historic character, utilising a Microsoft Access database linked by a unique ID number to a Mapinfo Professional GIS .tab file. However, it is not necessary to have HBSMR software or MapInfo GIS to view the data, which can be exported in a variety of formats (see Section 3.2 of Toase 2010). At the time of writing, the digital data arising from the project is intended to be archived with the Archaeology Data Service at the University of York, from where the data may be downloaded, and the final report made available in pdf format via the North Yorkshire County Council website.

Each database record consists of a broad character type code, an HLC character type code and up to eight attributes. In addition, it defines a period of origin, a text summary, a text description and a series of confidence judgements.

A table of attributes used in the project database, including their related broad types, values and descriptions is included within Appendix A of this report.
2. Methodology

Details of the project methodology are outlined in Chapter 3 of the final report on the project (Toase 2010). What is included in this section of the user guide, is a description of the fields used in the project database and the GIS files.

2.1 Access database fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLCUID</td>
<td>This is a unique number which is associated with the record, auto-generated by the HBSMR software e.g. HNY12345. The first three letters are unique to North Yorkshire: 'HNY', the last two letters, 'NY' indicating that the record was generated within the North Yorkshire HBSMR system. The 'H' indicates that the record is an HLC module record. The numeric part of the code is unique to each record. This should allow the database to be integrated into other HBSMR systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad character type code</td>
<td>The broad type code consists of a numeric code which is linked to one of the 14 broad types defined as part of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLC character type code</td>
<td>The HLC type code is an alpha-numeric code which is unique to each HLC type. The start of the code, of up to 3 letters, indicates the broad type e.g. 'WL' indicates woodland. The numeric part of the code is unique to the HLC type code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLC confidence level</td>
<td>The HLC confidence level is chosen from one of three options (certain, probable and possible). This indicates the level of confidence of the researcher in their interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full type code</td>
<td>The full type code is a combination of the broad type code and the HLC type code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>This is not is always used but can be utilised in specific examples such as settlements and named woodlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The summary forms a limited free text field which can be used to sum up the attributes and interpretation of the landscape. Within HBSMR this field is linked to associated monument records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The description is a free text field which allows the information of the summary to be expanded on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year from</td>
<td>This defines the start of the period of origin for the HLC character unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year from confidence</td>
<td>This defines the level of confidence of the researcher in the start of the period of origin for the HLC character unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field name</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topology</td>
<td>This records the nature of the geographical entity being recorded, whether it’s extent is an area, line, point or dispersed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGR qualifier</td>
<td>This records the accuracy of the National Grid Reference, whether it is, for example, approximate, centred on, exact or estimated from sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output precision</td>
<td>This records the precision of the grid reference, i.e. whether it is recorded to 2-, 4-, 6-, 8- or 10-figures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>This records the height above Ordnance Datum of the character unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>This records the area of the character unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MinX</td>
<td>This records the minimum coordinate on the X axis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MinY</td>
<td>This records the minimum coordinate on the Y axis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MaxX</td>
<td>This records the maximum coordinate on the X axis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Mapinfo table fields

Each record within the HLC.tab file is tied to a Mapinfo polygon which defines the physical extent of the character unit.

The Mapinfo table shares some information with the access database, however there are differences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLCUID</td>
<td>This is the same as the Access database and allows the Mapinfo .tab file and the Access database to be linked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad character type code</td>
<td>The broad type code consists of a numeric code which is linked to one of the 14 broad types defined as part of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLC character type code</td>
<td>The HLC type code is an alpha-numeric code which is unique to each HLC type. The start of the code, of up to 3 letters, indicates the broad type e.g. ‘WL’ indicates woodland. The numeric part of the code is unique to the HLC type code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLC confidence level</td>
<td>The HLC confidence level is chosen from one of three options (certain, probable and possible). This indicates the level of confidence of the researcher in their interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad type</td>
<td>This is a text field which records the broad character type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLC type</td>
<td>This is a text field which records the HLC character type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>This is not often used, but can be utilised in specific examples such as settlements and named woodlands where a name is recorded in the source material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The summary forms a limited free text field which can be used to sum up the attributes and interpretation of the landscape. Within HBSMR this field is linked to associated monument records.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Confidence

The project was undertaken as a desk-based exercise using only the sources described in section 3.3 of the project report (Toase 2010). Due to the large extent of the project area and the time constraints, it was not possible to verify historic character interpretations on the ground. Over the five year duration of the project, inevitably, information recorded by the mapping and aerial photographic sources
used may have become out of date. Where discrepancies were identified between sources, these were noted in the database record and the latest dated source was used to inform the characterisation. The project results, therefore, represent an interpretation of historic character at the point in time at which each record was created.

The confidence of decisions made by the project officers about their interpretation of the historic character of an area is recorded in the database using the terms certain, probable or possible. This allows the interpretations to be assessed on their likelihood. Similarly, in the database fields recording the confidence of start and end dates of date ranges (Year from confidence; Year to confidence), uncertainty is recorded with a question mark.

The project records, therefore, provide a starting point; a framework for more detailed work to be undertaken thereafter, which may refine or amend the interpretations.
3. Terminology

An overview of the broad types and HLC types used throughout the project is given in Chapter 4 of the final report on the project (Toase 2010). What is included in this section of the user guide, is a description of the broad types used in the project database. Appendices A, B and C provide detailed listings of the attributes and values, and their associated broad types, as well as the HLC types, their frequency of use, and use as previous types and their associated broad types.

3.1 Broad character types

The broad character type is the highest, and most general, definition associated with the HLC record. Fourteen of these types were used by the project, and are broadly similar to those used by other HLC projects around the country. Their descriptions are shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unenclosed land</td>
<td>This term is used for land which is not defined by a series of internal and external boundaries. If there is evidence of other activity within an area of unenclosed land this will take precedent i.e. mineral extraction. Unenclosed land is land that is not divided into fields. There may be a boundary defining the external limit of the area, but not always, inside that the land is left open without any internal divisions. The majority of the unenclosed land is common land mainly represented by the moorland with some exceptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed Land</td>
<td>This term is used where there the historic character of the landscape is defined by a series of enclosing boundaries, internal and external. Enclosed land is land that has been divided up into fields, enclosed by boundaries, which can be hedges, dry stone walls, fences, drainage ditches or track ways. The term ‘enclosed land’ encompasses a variety of types of field pattern which can be recognised and assigned broad date ranges for their creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland</td>
<td>This term is used where the landscape is defined by woodland, where trees form the dominant land use. These are represented by a variety of different woodland types, such as plantations of coniferous, broad-leaved or mixed types of trees, ancient woodland or spring wood, amongst others. These woodland types can be identified and assigned broad date ranges for their creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>This term is used for bodies of water such as lakes and reservoirs. Where there is evidence that the body of water has previously been used for extraction, this will be recorded as extraction re-used. Water is used as a character type for bodies of water whether they are natural or man-made, for example, estuaries, natural lakes and reservoirs, are characterised as water. In each case the bodies of water have a dominant use such as fishing, recreation or water supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>This term is used for large-scale military features. These are sites known to have a military function such as barracks, areas of land associated with military training, centres for military communications and airfields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>This term is used to refer to areas which display a coastal characteristic, i.e. land which forms the coastal strip. Where it can be demonstrated that another broad type is more appropriate this will be utilised e.g. alum extraction. Coastal includes a variety of semi-natural and built environments, such as coastal cliffs and slopes, rocky foreshore, sands, mudflats and marshes as well as seafronts and harbours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td>This broad type is utilised for built settlements; all areas where people live together in communities. Settlements range from small farm complexes, hamlets and villages through to large towns and cities. The larger towns are usually made up of several different types of settlement such as areas of semi-detached housing or terraced housing, often with an historic town core, defined by burgage plots around a market place or along a high street. The broad phases of a town’s development and its origins are recorded where they have been identified. The smaller settlements are defined as village types according to their plan form, for example, green village for those with village greens and linear or nucleated villages for others depending on their plan form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designed landscape</td>
<td>This term is used to refer to designed landscapes of a variety of types including parkland, cemeteries, allotments, deer parks. A designed landscape is an area that has been deliberately changed to provide a landscaped park or garden. These have been planned and designed sometimes by individual land owners for their own private use and sometimes by municipal bodies for public use. They can often be assigned a broad date range for their creation, particularly for those designed by the private individual or family. The designed landscapes include country estates, deer parks, gardens and pleasure grounds, for example at houses such as Castle Howard and many others. They also include public parks and ornamental parkland within our towns, municipal cemeteries, private burial grounds and allotments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial</strong></td>
<td>This term is used to describe an area which is dominated by industry. This should not necessarily be seen as heavy industry and may include areas associated with small-scale tile and brick production. An industrial site is where manufacturing or industrial processes take place, in factories or mills. The industry represented is varied and includes mixed commercial industrial estates, food processing and fuel distribution, through to engineering, steel, iron and chemical works, docks and shipyards, amongst others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extractive</strong></td>
<td>This term is used for areas of the landscape which are characterised by high densities of extraction, normally mineral. This term will normally override the presence of enclosed land due to the impact of extraction features on the landscape. Extractive areas are those where extraction from the surface or from underground has been carried out. The products which have been extracted include, coal, lead, limestone, salt, stone including sandstone, ironstone, whinstone, chalk, clay, peat and alum. The various ways of extracting these materials is recorded such as deep-shaft mine, shallow-shaft mine, open-cast mine or quarries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational</strong></td>
<td>This term refers to areas which are dominated by features associated with recreation, primarily in the modern use of the term. For example, ornamental parkland and pleasure gardens would come under the designed landscape broad type. The recreational broad type refers to areas used for recreational purposes or activities associated with the leisure and tourism industry. This ranges from playing fields or sports fields, bowling greens, rugby or cricket grounds and football fields, to amusement parks, caravan parks, golf courses, greyhound or horse racing tracks and motor racing tracks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communications</strong></td>
<td>This term refers to areas which are defined by parts of the communications network, such as railway stations, motorway services, road junctions, airfields and bus stations. The linear network that joins these places together is not included in this character type. As a principle, narrow, linear communications features such as roads or canals have not been recorded as independent polygons, but have been incorporated into areas of adjacent character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial</strong></td>
<td>This term relates to commercial features, primarily those related to retail or large-scale business undertakings. Commercial sites are those areas that are used solely for the purposes of business and retail, including distribution depots and auction marts. These tend to be part of the expansion of towns in the 19(^\text{th}) and 20(^\text{th}) centuries, and sometimes reuse previous industrial land, or disused railway stations and train yards, or can be expansion into previously rural areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Institutional**

This term is used for institutions and includes land associated with them. This may be in contrast to the separation of designed landscape and settlement, however the grounds of institutions are an integral part of them and cannot be separated so easily. This is used mainly for building complexes, or areas used by institutions such as schools, colleges, hospitals and churches. Civil and municipal organisations, such as fire stations and prisons, are also included in this broad type. Where it has been possible to define these areas, it is recorded where they are active or inactive or if they have been reused for other purposes.

### 3.2 Historic landscape character (HLC) types

The HLC character types form the heart of the project, which is a strategic overview of historic landscape character for the project area. These HLC character types are the interpretations of the evidence available to the project officers at the time of characterisation to arrive at a conclusion of the historic character of the area to which each record is associated.

The HLC type for an area does not preclude other historic activity occurring within a given area, for example there may be areas of woodland or small dispersed settlements in areas characterised as enclosed land. The HLC type refers to the overall defining historic character, for example that which has had the major impact in shaping the landscape.

The following section 4 of this user guide includes an illustration and brief description of each of the HLC types most commonly used within the project database, arranged alphabetically in sections by broad type. Lists of character types used as HLC types and as previous types, quantifying their frequency of use in the project database are included in Appendices B and C.

### 3.3 Previous types

When defining areas of historic landscape character as polygons in the GIS, the modern mapping was compared with the historic Ordnance Survey mapping (generally this included the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) and second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1889-99)). Within an HLC type polygon, as well as the current HLC type, if different character types could be identified from earlier periods, these earlier character types were also recorded in the database as ‘previous types’.

For each HLC type polygon, there may be more than one previous type recorded for the area covered. For example, a large area of modern improved fields may have formerly been a combination of piecemeal enclosure in some areas, and planned large-scale parliamentary enclosure in others, before boundary loss, as evidenced by both the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) and the second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1889-99).

Alternatively, there could be further differences between these two editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping, which show progression from one historic landscape.
character type to another over time. For example, before becoming a combination of piecemeal enclosure and planned large-scale parliamentary enclosure (as evident on the second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1889-99)), the earlier previous type could have been open field (as evident on the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63)).

For each previous type, the date range is recorded for the period of time that that character is evidenced. Similar to the recording of HLC types, a confidence rating on the interpretation of historic character and the date range, to and from, is recorded.

3.4 Legibility

Legibility is one of the attributes that has been recorded in the project for every polygon characterised (see Appendix A), but is probably one of the hardest to define. This attribute is used in relation to all broad types and aims to classify, in a relatively subjective fashion, the degree to which the previous historic character visible on the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) remains visible in the current landscape.

Legibility is a subjective assessment of how dynamic a landscape is, that is how much change has occurred by comparing the modern Ordnance Survey vector mapping (2003-2010) with the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63). In the case of enclosed land, for example, legibility has been assessed by the amount of change in boundaries which has occurred since the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63). This may be indicated by boundary loss, or possibly an increase in boundaries subdividing existing fields. In relation to settlement, the legibility assessment may be based on the increase in dwellings (which in terms of modern estates can have a fairly dramatic impact on the historic character) or the amount of infilling in established settlements.

3.5 Attributes

Appendix A includes a table listing the attributes alphabetically. The associated broad types which use each attribute are identified, as are the values that have been recorded for each attribute. These are accompanied by a description, which includes the details included as scope notes within the project database.

Where the terminology “no discernable” is used, for example in the case of public space where “no discernable public space” is an attribute value, this refers to the fact that it has not been possible to identify with the evidence available to the project whether there is public space present or not. This contrasts with the value “no public space”, where it has been possible to determine that there is no public space.
4. Historic Landscape Character (HLC) Type Definitions, by Broad Type

The following illustrations use vertical aerial photographs held in the project GIS, all are High Resolution Aerial Imagery of the UK © ukperspectives.com 2003.

4.1 Enclosed land

a) Assart
A piece of forest land, or woodland, converted by the felling of trees to arable use, suitable for growing crops. Often with irregular boundaries.

b) Cow pasture
A well defined enclosed area for the pasturing of cattle. This is land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals, especially cattle. The term has only been used where there is evidence that the use is traditionally as cow pasture, for example, from place name evidence.
c) **Crofts associated with settlement**
This term is used for crofts which are directly associated with property boundaries. Crofts are small enclosed fields or areas of pasture near houses, and are typical of the medieval period.

d) **Demense**
This term is used where the area can be demonstrated to be demense land, which is a piece of land attached to a manor and retained by the owner for their own use, or the lands of an estate.
e) Early field system
This term is used for field systems which pre-date the medieval period, i.e. before AD 1066.

f) Intake
This term is used where it can be demonstrated that an area of enclosed fields includes intake land. Intake is land reclaimed from either an area of moorland, or common.
g) **Large-scale private enclosure**

This term is used for enclosure of land which can be shown to have been carried out on a large scale by a private landowner without an act of Parliament. Enclosure was common in the AD 18th and 19th centuries and resulted in rectangular fields, with straight boundaries, usually formed by hedges, which were created by consolidating strips in the former open fields, or by enclosing areas of former common or waste.

h) **Lowland intakes**

This is used for lowland, possibly irregular, intakes of enclosed land from common land and previously unenclosed areas. Intake is often identified as such on the first edition six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63).
i) **Lowland meadows**  
This is an area of meadow land, normally found in valley bottoms. Meadow is cut for hay and grazed seasonally.

j) **Lynchets**  
This term is used where the broad type of enclosed land is determined by the presence of lynchets which have not been superseded by later enclosure. A lynchet is a ridge or ledge formed along the downhill side of a slope by ploughing.
k) Modern improved fields
This term is used for areas which have seen considerable consolidation or removal of the field boundaries to create much larger, prairie-like fields. These fields have seen a high degree of boundary loss and are over ten hectares in size.

l) Open field
As part of the traditional medieval system of farming, each village had several large, open fields which were divided into strips which were farmed by individuals or families. After harvest, or while fallow, the open field was available to the community for grazing animals. These fields are usually without internal divisions (such as hedges, walls or fences).
m) Pasture
This term is used where the area can be demonstrated to be pasture, that is land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals, especially sheep or cattle.

n) Piecemeal enclosure
Areas of enclosure which pre-date the parliamentary enclosure of the AD 18th and 19th centuries and do not conform to the open field pattern. These were usually achieved at a local level by agreement among landlords and tenants.
o) Planned large-scale parliamentary enclosure
This defines areas of land which have been enclosed through the implementation of a parliamentary act in the AD 18th and 19th century. These are characterised by areas of regular fields defined by straight boundaries, usually hedges, normally occurring in areas which have previously been open field, common land or moor (a term used in a lowland context to define unenclosed land rather than true moorland).

p) Smallholding
This term is used where an area of enclosed land is referred to on the Ordnance Survey mapping as smallholdings. This term was only used in the pilot phase of the project, as it was found that anything which could be classed as smallholdings was either under the two hectare limit, or was part of a much more extensive landscape character type.
q) **Strip fields**
An area of agricultural land, which is divided into small, elongated, rectangular fields running parallel to each other. These are characterised by reverse ‘S’-shaped, curved boundaries which follow the pattern of strips of the former open field system and represent private enclosure.

r) **Unknown planned enclosure**
This term is used for enclosure where the project could not identify from the sources used whether it is enclosed through parliamentary act or private agreement.
4.2 Unenclosed land

a) Commonland (Lowland)
This term is used for common land which is in a lowland position below 240m Ordnance Datum. Common land is taken to be land in private ownership, where other people have certain traditional rights to use it in specified ways, such as being allowed to graze their livestock or gather firewood.

b) Commonland (Upland)
This term is used for common land which is in a upland position above 240m Ordnance Datum.
c) **Freehold moorland**
This term is used where it can be demonstrated that the moorland was freehold. Freehold is when there is a right to enjoy the possession and use of a parcel of land for an indefinite period (as opposed to leasehold, which is for a fixed, definite period).

d) **Greens**
This term is used to refer to greens, such as but not exclusively, in villages. It is more likely, however, that the green will form an integral part of the character of the village if it is less than two hectares in extent (see section 4.7 j): Green village). Traditionally, a village green was often common grassland at the centre of an agricultural or other rural settlement, and was used for grazing. Some also have a pond, often originally for watering stock such as cattle.
e) **Moorland**
   This term is used where the unenclosed land can be demonstrated to be moorland. Moorland is open, uncultivated land, with many uses. It is often covered with heather and bracken, but can also be covered with other vegetation, such as grass.

f) **Reverted moorland**
   This term is used where enclosed land has reverted to moorland.
4.3 Woodland

a) **Ancient and semi-natural woodland (ASNW)**
   This consists of woodland which has been present since before AD 1600.

b) **Ancient and semi-natural woodland (restocked)**
   This is an area of woodland which can be demonstrated to have dated before AD 1600 but the actual trees have been replanted in the period after AD 1600.
c) **Broad-leaved plantation**
This is an area of plantation, which post-dates the AD 1600 cut off date for ancient semi-natural woodland, which consists of broad-leaved woodland defined as planted woodland (including arboreta) with 10% or less conifer in the canopy.

d) **Coniferous plantation**
This is an area of plantation, which post-dates the AD 1600 cut off date for ancient semi-natural woodland, which consists of coniferous woodland defined as planted woodland (including arboreta) with 10% or less broad-leaved trees in the canopy.
e) **Covert**
This is a post-medieval feature which is connected with hunting, as a shelter or thicket for game. This term is only used where the covert is over two hectares in extent and not part of the wider historic landscape character.

f) **Mixed plantation**
This is an area of plantation, which post-dates the AD 1600 cut off date for ancient semi-natural woodland, and consists of a mixed woodland defined as planted woodland (including arboreta) with 10% to 90% of both broad-leaved and coniferous trees in the canopy.
g) Ornamental plantation
This defines a plantation which is not contained as part of a wider designed landscape. This term was only used in the pilot phase due to its size in other parts of the landscape being smaller than the two hectare threshold.

h) Spring wood
This is wood which has been used for coppicing (where young tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level to promote the growth of thin shoots) and can be demonstrated to be spring woodland from documentary evidence, such as Ordnance Survey mapping.
i) **Wet wood**
Woodland on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils. Alder, birches and willows usually dominate. Wet woods frequently occur in a mosaic with other woodland key habitat types (e.g. with upland mixed ash or oak woods) and with open wetland habitats such as fens. Can occur in both upland and lowland situations.

j) **Wood pasture**
Wood pasture typically consists of an area of trees grown as a crop, and thus usually pollarded, with grazing below for a variety of livestock. It may comprise trees at widespread density and regular arrangement, in a matrix of grazed grassland, heathland and/or woodland ground flora vegetation.