



Summary

The landscape is extremely flat and low lying allowing long, open views. Large geometric field boundaries are defined by straight drainage channels and post and wire fences. The dominant land use is intensive crop production, which has developed at the expense of nature conservation which remains limited to a few remnants where agricultural activity is less intensive. Fragmented areas of remnant carr woodland, natural watercourses, semi-improved grassland and uncultivated peat mosslands provide nature conservation interest. Small, looseknit and linear settlements are clustered around low sand and gravel or boulder clay ridges on the fringes of the Mosslands.



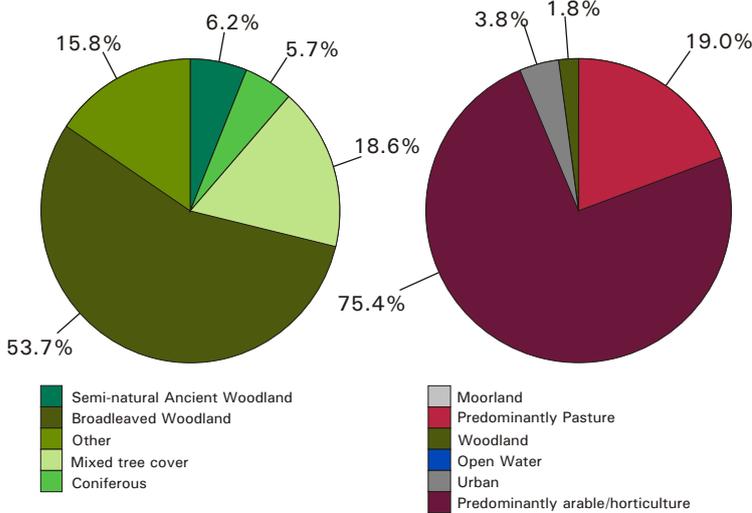
Character Areas

- 16a North Fylde Mosses
- 16b South Fylde Mosses
- 16c Martin Mere & South West Mosses
- 16d Skelmersdale Mosses
- 16e Tarleton Mosses
- 16f Heysham Moss
- 16g Hoole & Farington Mosses

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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 469.8 ha.

Character type area 26,501 ha.

Vision and Objectives



To maintain an open and tranquil landscape with large skies and small woodland copses, enhanced by small-scale natural regeneration adjacent to existing woodland and through the active management of existing woodlands.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Shelter planting to soften the hard edges of the built environment to reduce visual impact of development on the open landscape setting.
- ⇒ Riparian planting would contribute to flood control measures and provide a strengthened buffer against potential storm surges as a consequence of climate change.
- ⇒ Conserve and enhance the existing woodland resource by bringing all woodlands into active management.
- ⇒ Make local and long-distance ecological linkages by reversing the fragmentation of woodlands, using drainage channels as corridors for woodland creation.

Challenges

- ⇒ Avoid planting that could interrupt the long views and 'big skies' which are characteristic of the Mossland landscape.
- ⇒ Reduce intensive arable practices and farm expansion that could further erode the current woodland resource. Over application of pesticides is a particular concern to the vitality of woodlands.
- ⇒ Avoid loss of the characteristic open nature of the landscape to suburbanisation that could threaten existing woodland.
- ⇒ Reverse the neglect of the existing woodland resource.
- ⇒ Ensure that new woodland does not adversely affect other valuable habitats.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.
- ⇒ Strong competition for high quality agricultural land for arable and horticultural uses limits woodland potential.
- ⇒ Improve the accessibility of woodlands close to where people live.
- ⇒ Exclude woodland planting from the Sefton Coast Red Squirrel Buffer Zone.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Mosslands have medium capacity for woodland uplift. New woodland planting should be undertaken adjacent to existing woodlands. Key linkages should be made between isolated woodland stands to increase the robustness of the woodland landscape and improve the biodiversity of the mossland habitat mosaic. Visual assessment must be undertaken in conjunction with any new woodland proposal to establish that there would be no detrimental effects to the distinct open landscape character. This will ensure that all woodlands are in the correct location and at the appropriate scale and size to enhance rather than adversely affect landscape character.

Summary

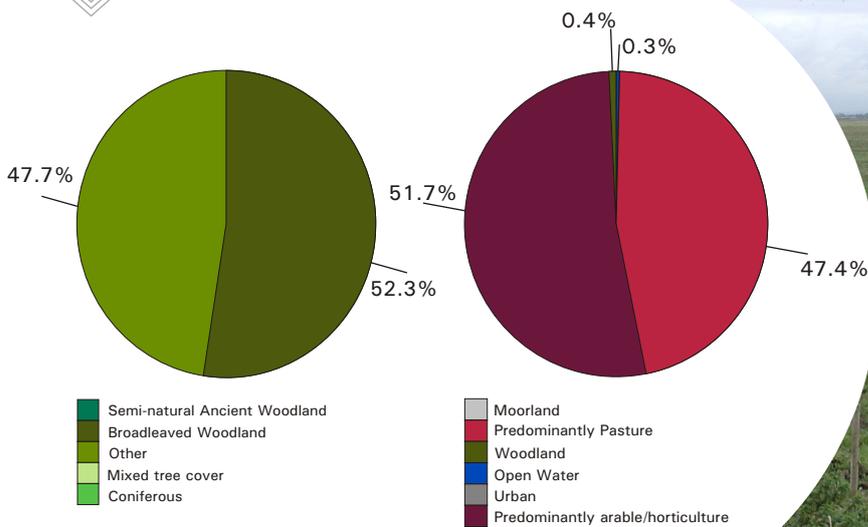
This flat landscape has been reclaimed relatively recently. Large square fields of improved pasture surrounded by ditches are utilised for cattle and sheep grazing, and arable crops in well drained areas. The Enclosed Coastal Marshlands are demarcated from the Open Coastal Marsh by sea dykes. Intensive agricultural practices have significantly reduced nature conservation interests, however, where agricultural practices are less intense wildlife prospers. The drainage ditches associated with modern farming practices provide important semi-natural wetland habitat. Sea dykes and remnant marshland also provide a refuge for wildlife. The absence of trees means long views are maintained. Major vertical structures including farm buildings, hills and distant factories form a landscape backdrop. Settlements remain restricted to intermittent dispersed farmsteads.



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Woodland Resource

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%.



Woodland area 13.3 ha.

Character type area 3,023 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To allow for small-scale woodland expansion predominantly adjacent to the existing woodland resource or in association with new built development. Visual and ecological assessments should be undertaken to ensure woodland expansion is not at the expense of landscape character and biodiversity.



Opportunities

- ⇒ Increase slightly woodland cover in association with new built development in the form of screen planting.
- ⇒ Limit grazing in selected areas based on full visual assessment to allow for small-scale woodland planting and natural regeneration.
- ⇒ Increase the number of native black poplar which is characteristic of the Lancashire valley and coastal landscapes.
- ⇒ Increase the nature conservation value of the Enclosed Marshland landscape through diversification.
- ⇒ Bring all existing woodlands into active management.
- ⇒ Contribute and add value to the Proposed Ribble Estuary Regional Park.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that woodland does not detrimentally affect the long views which are characteristic of the Coastal Marshes nor affect the nature conservation interest.
- ⇒ Balance agricultural and nature conservation interests.
- ⇒ Ensure that woodland does not affect detrimentally other valuable habitats.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.
- ⇒ Resist limits to woodland potential from strong competition for high quality agricultural land for arable and horticultural uses.

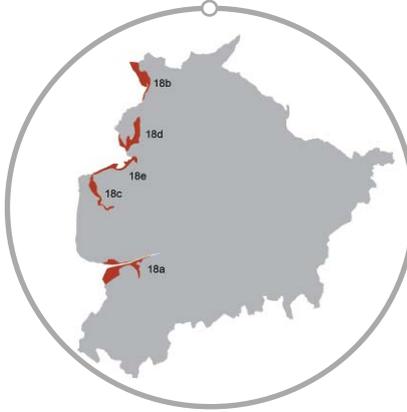
Target Areas for New Woodland

The Enclosed Coastal Marsh has extremely limited capacity for woodland uplift. Activity should be targeted at small-scale planting and natural regeneration in selected areas, based on the findings of robust visual and ecological assessment. Native black poplar and low scrub should be a priority species which should be sourced locally. Expanding woodland will increase the visual and ecological diversity of the Enclosed Coastal Marshland.



Summary

This flat, expansive landscape formed from marine alluvium is characterised by a maze of creeks and channels dissecting the landscape. The Coastal Marsh is a forever changing landscape, as a consequence of the migratory nature of the river channels and streams. The landscape is predominantly covered in a fine, closely-grazed sward which is an outcome of marsh grazing rights. Occasional patches of scrub are found beyond the high watermark. The Wyre Estuary is the only ungrazed coastal marsh in Lancashire and supports an increasingly diverse range of flora and fauna. As a consequence of this ecological diversity, the marshland habitat is recognised as internationally important for its vegetation and bird activity. The marshes of the Ribble are part of a major area of protected landscape and constitute one of the largest areas of salt marsh within Great Britain. There is a distinct absence of settlement within the remote estuarine environment, however, there is strong evidence of relict land uses.



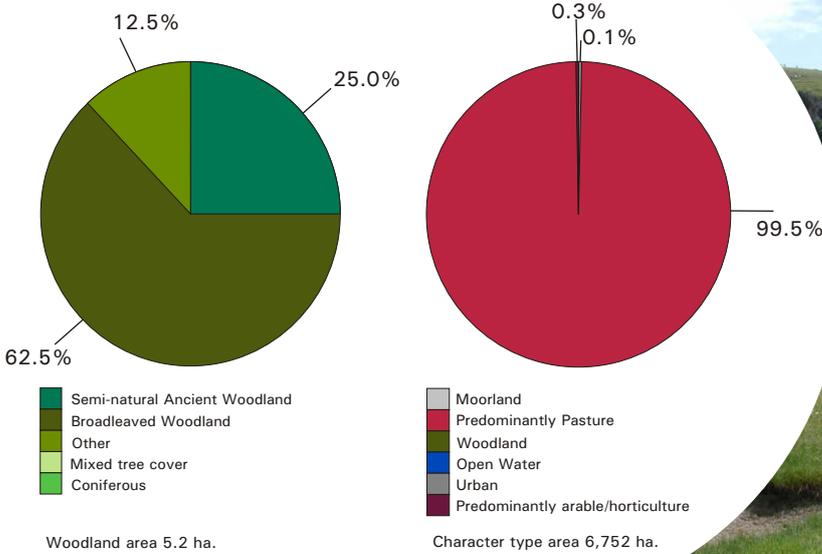
Character Areas

- 18a Ribble Marshes
- 18b Hest Bank-Silverdale Marshes
- 18c Wyre Marshes
- 18d Lune Marshes
- 18e Pilling & Cockerham Marshes

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Woodland Resource

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Vision and Objectives

To bring the existing scrub into active management.



Opportunities

- ⇒ Improve the structure and condition of the existing resource by bringing all scrub into active management.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that natural regeneration of scrub is restricted so as not to detrimentally affect ecology and landscape character.



Target Areas for New Woodland

The Open Coastal Marsh has no capacity for woodland uplift. However, active management of the existing scrub resource for the benefit of birds should be undertaken.

Summary

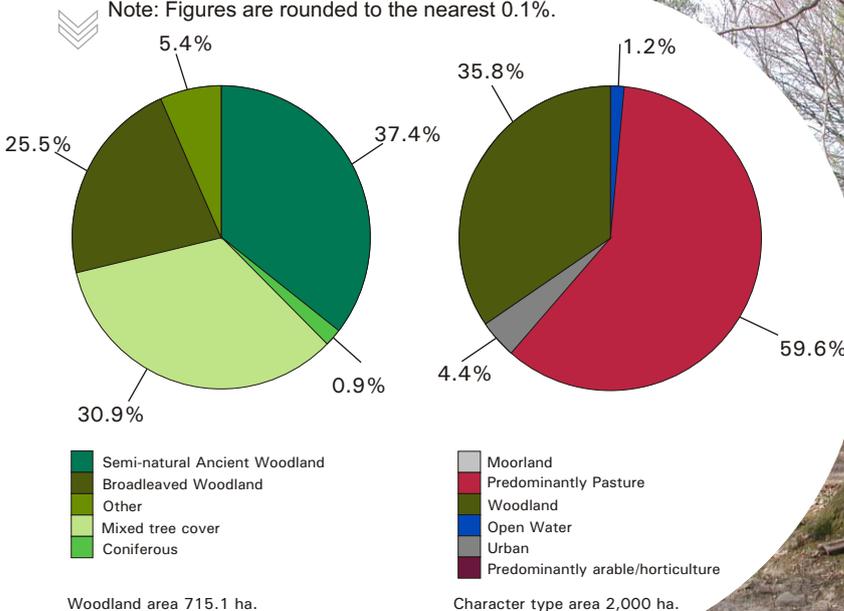
The landscape of the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is a small-scale landscape comprising of a mosaic of habitats characterised by species rich grassland, scrub, Ancient Woodland, rocky outcrops, limestone pavements, reed beds and pools. The area is rich in historic features with limestone quarries and evidence of medieval woodland management practices. The Yew woodlands found in the wooded limestone hills are highly valued for their cultural and conservation interest, with many of them designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The rocky outcrops, limestone scars and pavements provide a substrate for rare plants. This distinctive landscape has continuing pressure from recreation and needs to be carefully managed to ensure its long-term ecological security. Changes in agricultural patterns and farm management also threaten to upset the ecological balance.



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Woodland Resource

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Vision and Objectives

To maintain an historic landscape of outstanding quality with a diverse and culturally-rich woodland resource, with active management reflecting the heritage significance of the area.

Opportunities

- ⇒ Restrict grazing in areas in which woodland expansion is appropriate, to allow natural regeneration.
- ⇒ Re-establish traditional woodland management practices including coppicing and pollarding to maintain the distinctive structure and composition of the woodlands.
- ⇒ Utilise the woodlands as a historic tourism attraction and educational resource to promote the use of traditional woodland management techniques.
- ⇒ Bring all woodlands into active management, affording priority to Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and SSSI woodlands.
- ⇒ Restore quarries as an opportunity to increase woodland cover, whilst protecting geologically interesting areas which support rich calcareous grassland.

Challenges

- ⇒ Ensure that woodland does not adversely affect important geological formations of the limestone pavements and the botanically rich areas of calcareous grassland.
- ⇒ Ensure that woodlands do not encroach onto other existing valuable habitats, such as calcareous grassland
- ⇒ Create a balance of ecological interests to ensure the diverse landscape mosaic of the Limestone Hills and Pavements is maintained.
- ⇒ Reverse the trend of neglect of existing woodlands as a consequence of the decline in agricultural land specialist silvicultural workforces.
- ⇒ Balance recreation and ecological interests.
- ⇒ Manage the expansion of farm estates and intensity of agricultural practices to minimise adverse impacts on the existing woodland resource.
- ⇒ Ensure that all local land managers have the skills and support necessary to undertake effective woodland management activities.

Target Areas for New Woodland

The Wooded Limestone Hills have low capacity for woodland uplift. The delicate balance of the habitat mosaic must be maintained. Small-scale woodland expansion should be promoted in those areas where there will be no adverse effects on other valuable habitats including calcareous grassland. Monitoring of recreational usage should be established to ensure that recreational interests are not detrimentally affecting the nature conservation and heritage interest of this valuable woodland resource. Traditional woodland management techniques should be brought back to the area to enhance the quality of woodlands as visitor attractions and wildlife reserves.

- 22a Historic Core
- 22b Industrial Age
- 22c Suburban Age

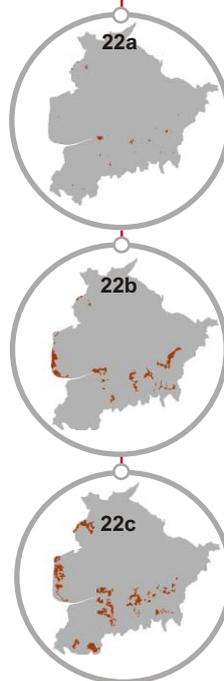
Summary

The urban landscape consists of three distinctive character types; the Historic Core, Industrial Age and Suburban. There are subtle differences between each urban character type although a unified approach to woodland development is appropriate across them.

The Historic Core is a relatively small area found at the centre of Lancashire's larger settlements. Dominant civic buildings are located on town squares and at the convergence of principal radial routes. Typically the oldest buildings date from the 18th and 19th Century and are constructed in stone or brick.

The Industrial Age character type is typically characterised by small red brick or stone terraces in working class areas and larger semi-detached villas in broad tree lined streets. Large public parks, promenades and urban squares are a feature, and act as recreational and social hubs.

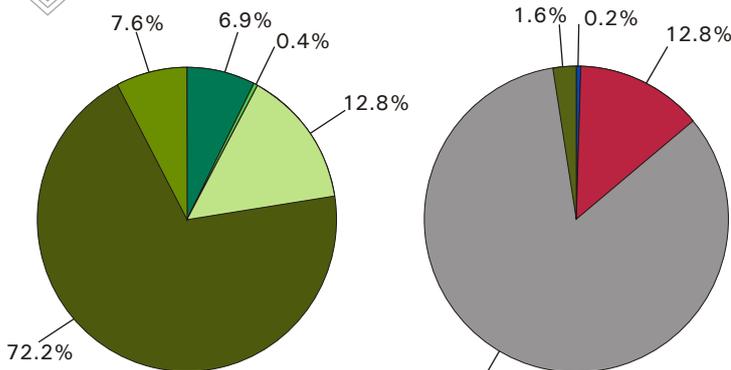
In contrast, the Suburban Area is represented by a wide variety of architectural styles and layouts arising from the fluid planning and architectural fashions of the 20th Century. Suburban developments typically include cul-de-sacs, private gardens and recreation grounds. They are rarely built with local materials and regional identity is consequently lacking in these areas.



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Woodland Resource

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- Semi-natural Ancient Woodland
- Broadleaved Woodland
- Other
- Mixed tree cover
- Coniferous

- Moorland
- Predominantly Pasture
- Woodland
- Open Water
- Urban
- Predominantly arable/horticulture

Woodland area 402.4 ha.

Character type area 25,307 ha.

Vision and Objectives

To ensure that all woodlands deliver maximum benefit to the quality of life of urban residents by shading and sheltering people and buildings, ameliorating the effects of transport and industrial emissions, providing wildlife habitat, especially for birds and invertebrates, complementing built form and providing an amenity resource.

Opportunities

- ⇒ To adapt to climate change by planting species tolerant to increases in temperature and storm events in order to protect human comfort, building integrity, and environmental quality.
- ⇒ Bring all trees and woodlands into active management.
- ⇒ Establish urban forests on derelict, underused and neglected land associated with industrial and urban fringe landscapes.
- ⇒ Use urban woodlands as a vehicle for increasing community engagement and social cohesion, enhancing lifelong learning and skills development, and fostering neighbourhood pride.
- ⇒ Improve outdoor recreation and amenity opportunities for local communities.
- ⇒ Improve the image of Lancashire's towns and cities, particularly along strategic transport corridors and at prominent gateway locations.
- ⇒ Increase biodiversity and ecological functionality by providing green wedges from the urban core to the open countryside.
- ⇒ Use the planning system effectively to integrate existing and new woodlands and trees into development, ensuring that new development contributes to the Lancashire Woodland Vision.
- ⇒ Introduce shelter planting to soften the hard edges of the built environment adjacent to open countryside.
- ⇒ Exploit the social benefit of woodlands adjacent to the top 20% most deprived areas within the country

Challenges

- ⇒ Compete for land with more economically competitive land uses.
- ⇒ Protect woodlands from settlement expansion, particularly within the suburban landscape.
- ⇒ Balance the introduction of trees into the urban framework with the requirements of utility infrastructure and highway standards.
- ⇒ Ensure that public perceptions and ownership of trees are enhanced so that vandalism is reduced.
- ⇒ Identify resources for the stewardship of new and established trees and woodlands

Target Areas for New Woodland

The urban landscape has medium capacity for woodland uplift. Activity should be targeted at increasing woodland planting within the urban environment with a primary focus being placed on derelict, underused and neglected land, along strategic transport corridors and at prominent gateway locations. Community involvement should be an integral part of any planting scheme to facilitate social cohesion, raise awareness of the value of trees and woodlands, and to ensure the long-term stewardship of urban woodlands. Opportunities should be maximised to work with school children, community groups and difficult-to-reach members of the community. All urban woodlands should be accessible, with an emphasis on reaching the targets set by Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust in 'Woods for People'. Woodland planting should be integrated into development as a means of increasing overall woodland cover, which rely on the effective integration of woodland development activities with the planning system.