LCT 5: Limestone Hills Landscape Character Type

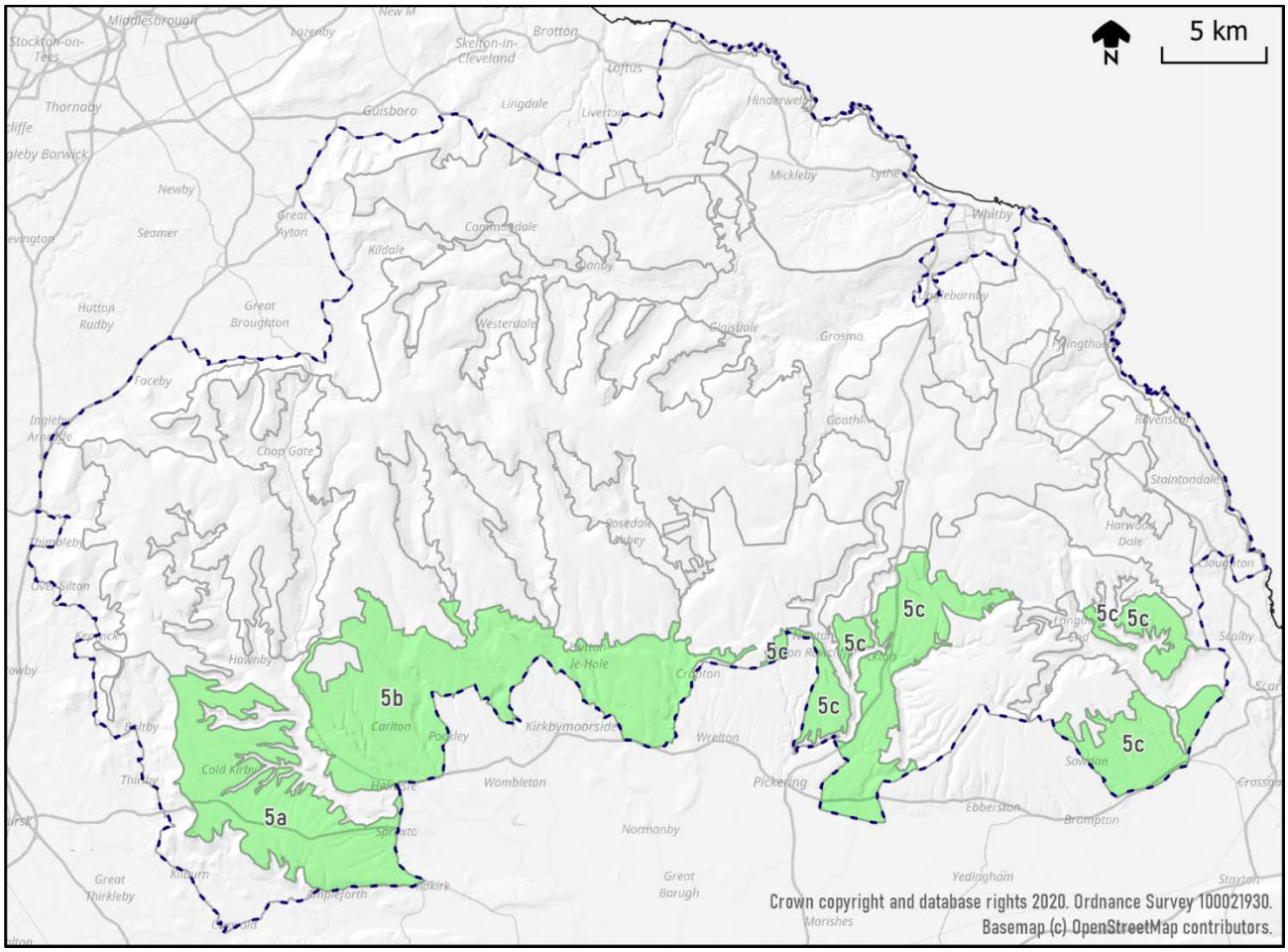
Fig.84 A typical scene within the Limestone Hills Landscape Character Type, near Old Byland

Location, Context and Setting

This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located in the south of the North York Moors National Park. It is relatively well-settled, and contains the settlements of Helmsley, Hutton-Le-Hole, Thornton-le-Dale, and West and East Ayton, as well as smaller villages, hamlets and farms. The Limestone Hills LCT forms the transition between the elevated parts of the National Park and the Vale of Pickering to the south. Its character is therefore influenced by surrounding National Park LCTs: Moorland; Moorland Dale; Forest; Limestone Dale and Western Escarpment. It is also influenced by (and visible from) the surrounding lowlands which form the National Park's southern setting.

Summary Description

This LCT is characterised by its underlying limestone geology, which creates its distinctive landforms and attractive settlements. It is an elevated, open landscape with magnificent views across the plateaux and over the surrounding dales, escarpments and lowlands. These include the famous viewpoints at Sutton Bank and Kilburn White Horse. Much of the LCT comprises a gently-sloping plateau, and the resulting flat-topped horizons have led to its nickname of 'The Tabular Hills'. However the landform is more complex than this: the northern edge of the plateau is marked by the short, steep Corallian escarpment, and the plateau is also dissected by a number of winding dales which cut steeply into it, and have a much smaller scale and more enclosed feel. Tree cover emphasises the landform, with wooded steep slopes. There are numerous attractive settlements, including Helmsley, the largest town in the National Park. The settlements are generally constructed of local limestone, with pantile roofs. Although the area is relatively well-settled, it still has a strongly rural and tranquil feel. The valleys contain lush woodland and meadows, and there are many historic buildings, reflecting the long history of settlement and agriculture.



Location map for Limestone Hills Landscape Character Type (LCT)
5a = Western Limestone Hills; 5b = Central Limestone Hills; 5c = Eastern Limestone Hills

Key Characteristics

- Underlying geology of Corallian limestones from the Jurassic period.
- Topography of elevated flat-topped plateaux, sloping down towards the south, incised by steep dales. The distinctive Corallian limestone escarpment marks the northern edge of the LCT.
- Little surface water on plateau, but most dales contain winding streams (although some are dry). Numerous springs at junctions with underlying impervious clay.
- Land use is predominantly agricultural (mixed arable and livestock) with patches of tree cover.
- Semi-natural habitats include patches of woodland, meadows, moorland and verges.
- Trees primarily found in forestry blocks and valley-side woodlands.
- Field pattern on plateau comprises medium-large scale regular shaped fields. Fields are generally smaller and less regular in valleys and around villages. Boundaries may be hedges, fences or dry stone walls. Shelterbelts and field boundary trees are local features.
- Numerous historic settlements, mostly linear or nucleated in form, constructed of local stone.
- A network of lanes, generally winding in valleys but straighter on plateaux. Some dales only accessible by footpaths.
- A long history of settlement, with a concentration of prehistoric and medieval features.
- Panoramic views from high land, including exceptional views over surrounding lowlands.
- Contrasts between the open, elevated plateaux, and more enclosed, wooded valleys.
- Strong sense of tranquillity away from roads and ‘honeypot’ villages.

Natural landscape features

The Limestone Hills LCT is underlain by Corallian limestones from the Upper Jurassic period, making them some of the youngest rocks in the National Park. They were laid down in warm, shallow, tropical seas, and contain some marine fossils. The sloping flat tops of the tabular hills are due to underlying beds of limestone dipping towards the south. The highest point of the plateau occurs in the far west of the National Park, where it reaches 320m above sea level. It slopes gradually southwards towards the Vale of Pickering, and drops abruptly to the west into LCT9 (Western Escarpment).

Fig.85 Flat, open, limestone topography, Hutton Buscel

The plateau is cut through by occasional deep north-south gorges eroded by rivers or glacial meltwater. The steepest parts of these valley sides contain limestone crags.

In the north of the LCT, the distinctive north-facing Corallian escarpment divides the limestone from the central moorland and runs from Bilsdale to the coast. This escarpment marks the boundary between the upper and middle Jurassic rocks and is the result of stream erosion and weathering of uplifted rocks. Immediately to the north of the Corallian escarpment is a strip of land underlain by clay geology, supporting more trees and with a smaller, less regular field pattern. Bridestones SSSI and Nature Reserve contains upstanding pillars of limestone eroded into unusual formations.

Fig.86 Corallian limestone escarpment, Saltergate Brow

Surface water is almost entirely absent from the plateau, but there are numerous springs at the junctions with impervious rocks. Streams occur in many of the north-south valleys, but others are dry.

Some deciduous woodland occurs in dales (often on steep valley sides), including areas of ancient woodland. There are also extensive areas of plantation on ancient woodland sites. In parts of the LCT lanes and hedges are lined with mature trees, and veteran trees can also be found. Pockets of moorland occur in higher areas, and meadows and road verges provide grassland habitats. A range of rare orchids thrive in the limestone meadows.

Designation	Sites
SAC	Part of Ellers wood and Sand Dale
SSSI	Numerous, including woodland, moorland quarries, becks, meadows and parkland
LNR	Bridestones (National Trust) Farndale – southern end (NYMNPA)

Key designated nature conservation sites

Cultural landscape features

This is a landscape with a long history of settlement. Prehistoric remains include field systems, Iron Age hillforts (one of the largest in the North of England is at Roulston Scar), and linear earthworks such as the Cleve Dyke. There are early religious sites such as the church at Lastingham, monastic complexes

(e.g. Ampleforth Abbey) and various wells and springs.

Many landscape features, including lanes, drovers' tracks, farms, churches, paths, walls and villages date from the medieval period, creating a strong sense of continuity and time-depth to the landscape. There are many fine examples of linear villages, which are likely to have been planned in medieval times and where the original pattern of crofts (houses) and tofts (gardens/ smallholdings) are still visible. Rows of crofts and tofts face each other across a wide main street. Sometimes strip fields survive, extending back from the tofts. Other settlements are nucleated around a village green or square, whilst some are more dispersed in form.

Fig.87 Levisham is a good example of a linear village, located on the limestone plateau

Structures such as limekilns and dewponds dot the landscape, reflecting the limestone geology. There is a rich history of settlement comprising isolated farms, hamlets, villages and the larger town of Helmsley. Most traditional buildings are built of local limestone, usually with pantile roofs. Farms and villages are often surrounded by sheltering trees. Some of the settlements are located alongside rivers (for example the famously attractive villages of Hutton-le-Hole and Thornton-le-Dale, where bridges are part of the streetscape) whilst others are on springlines (e.g. Ampleforth) or on the plateau itself (e.g. Cold Kirby, Silpho and Levisham).

Fig.88 Hutton-le-Hole, with distinctive footbridges crossing the Hutton Beck

Villages are connected by a network of winding lanes, which can have steep banks where they are cut into valley sides. Roads on the plateau tops are generally straighter and often have wide verges separating the road from parallel walls or hedges. Many were used as drove roads for livestock.

Field patterns are variable. Generally fields on the plateau are larger and more regular in shape, and are likely to date from 18th or 19th Century parliamentary enclosure. Older field patterns, including some strip fields, survive in valleys and around villages such as Levisham and Lockton. A distinctive mix of arable and livestock farming occurs in this LCT, contributing to its settled and managed feel.

Designation	Sites
Scheduled Monuments	Numerous, including prehistoric dykes, forts, field systems, cairns and barrows; medieval manors, granges and churches
Conservation Areas	Numerous, including Cold Kirby, Ampleforth, Oswaldkirk, Old Byland, Helmsley, Hutton Buscel, West and East Ayton, Levisham, Lockton, Thornton-Le-Dale, Appleton-le-Moors, Gillamoor, Hutton-le-Hole, Lastingham and Sinnington.
Listed Buildings	Numerous, including houses, farms, churches, mills and bridges. Concentrated in Conservation Areas

Key designated heritage conservation sites

Perceptual qualities and views

This is a landscape of contrasts. Plateau tops are open and elevated, with a patchwork of geometric fields, and long views. Dales are enclosed and intimate, with streams winding through wooded valleys edged by rough crags.

There are pockets of activity, around main roads and 'honeypot' villages which are bustling with people in summer. However, beyond these areas, the LCT is peaceful and quiet, with some of the less accessible dales offering a deep sense of tranquillity. Small parts of the LCT (particularly in the west) are defined Remote Areas in planning policy ENV3, either because of their woodland land cover, or their distance from roads and settlement.

The eastern part of the LCT is within the Dark Sky Core Area and its buffer. Sutton Bank National Park Centre has a dark skies observatory.

This LCT is renowned for its spectacular views. The view from Sutton Bank was described by James Herriot as 'the finest view in England' and many people visit the viewpoint at Sutton Bank National Park Centre to enjoy it. There are also dramatic views west and south from other locations on the edge of the plateau, including above Kilburn White Horse. These look out over the Vale of Pickering, the Howardian Hills, the Vale of York, and the Vale of Mowbray which form the southern setting of the National Park. The Ordnance Survey Map shows numerous viewpoints within this LCT, often overlooking valleys, although several viewpoints are currently overgrown. The many picturesque villages within this LCT are also popular viewpoints, and therefore recreation in this LCT is often linked to appreciation of views. The Cleveland Way follows the western edge of the LCT, along the top of the Western Escarpment, with magnificent views. The Tabular Hills Walk runs east-west through the LCT and provides opportunities to enjoy the limestone scenery.

Fig.89 View of Roulston Scar and the Vale of York from Sutton Bank Viewpoint

Views are experienced in both directions, and so this LCT is extremely important in views towards the National Park from surrounding lowlands.

Fig.90 Elevated view from south of Sherburn (on the northern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds) looking north towards the National Park. The Limestone Hills LCT and Forest LCT form the backdrop to the Vale of Pickering

Ecosystem Services provided by the Limestone Hills LCT

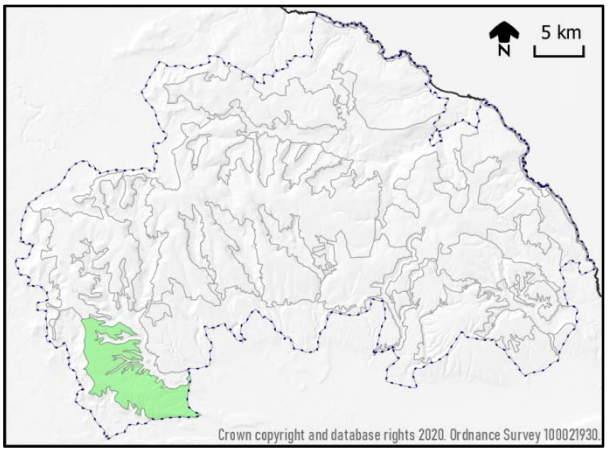
Type of Ecosystem Service	Existing Contributions	Opportunities
Cultural Services	Historic buildings create attractive settlements, many of which are popular with tourists. The sense of place is particularly strong in settlements such as Hutton-le-Hole and Thornton-le-Dale where streams and bridges are part of village character and add to the aesthetic experience. Footpaths and public rights of way provide opportunities for quiet recreation and exercise, and appreciation of tranquillity and dark skies. Road-free valleys such as Beck Dale and Riccal Dale enable quiet walks close to Helmsley, promoting well-being. Visitor infrastructure and dark skies viewpoint at Sutton Bank enables people to easily experience stunning views and starry skies.	There are further opportunities to develop off-road walking routes from local centres which could be used by local people and visitors. There are also opportunities to enhance viewpoints and remove vegetation which is currently blocking views.
Provisioning Services	Fertile soils support arable and pastoral agriculture, directly contributing to food supplies. Trees provide timber, wood fibre and biomass, and springs and streams provide fresh water. Quarries provide stone for building.	Opportunities to manage farmland and woodland to enhance biodiversity and reduce pollution. Changing climatic conditions provide opportunities to experiment with growing new crops, which could also benefit biodiversity.
Regulating Services	Woodland helps with carbon sequestration and improves air quality by absorbing pollutants. Soils and vegetation absorb rainwater and slow water flow, helping to regulate downstream flooding. Grassland and woodland provide habitats for pollinators.	Tree planting/ colonisation schemes have potential to increase carbon storage and reduce pollution. Trees and hedgerows can also contribute to Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes. Changes to agricultural practices could reduce pollution and runoff.
Supporting Services	The LCT provides habitats and habitat links for a range of species, particularly along river valleys, and through hedgerow networks. It also contributes to soil formation and photosynthesis	Carefully-designed tree and hedgerow planting, and good management of field edges, can enhance habitat links

Landscape Character Area Descriptions

There are three distinctive Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the Limestone Hills LCT. These are described on the following pages.

Landscape Character Area 5a: Western Limestone Hills

Fig.91 A typical scene in LCA 5a, near Sproxton, showing farmland and blocks of forestry. The land is sloping gently down towards the Vale of Pickering



Map showing the location of LCA 5a within the National Park

This LCA is located in the south-west of the National Park. It forms the southern part of the Hambleton Hills and is the highest part of LCT5. It comprises a high, flat, plateau (occasionally incised by the steep tributary valleys of Ryedale (LCA 2a) which drops sharply down at the southern edge into the Vale of Pickering, and to the western edge into LCA 9b and the Vale of York.

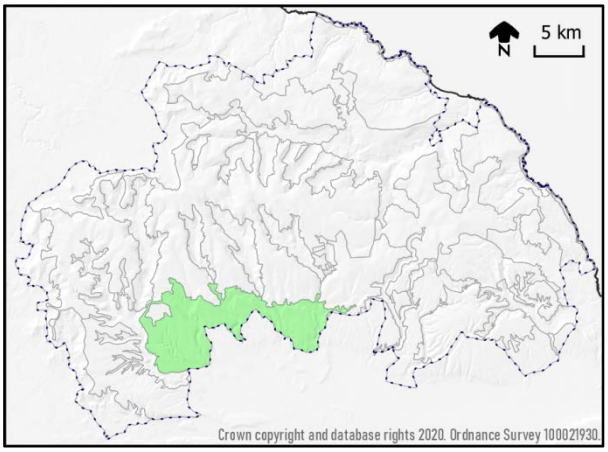
Its flat topography and height create an open, elevated feel. The relatively large size and regular shape of the fields also contribute to the large scale of the landscape. There are exceptional views from this LCA, particularly to the south and west. These include the view from Sutton Bank over LCA 9b and the Vale of York to the Yorkshire Dales (famously described by James Herriot as 'the finest view in England'), and the view south from above Kilburn White Horse. There are also views north and east towards the moors, often with glimpses into the intervening dales and tributaries.

Settlement is limited, but villages within this LCA include Cold Kirby and Old Byland (located on the plateau) and Ampleforth (a linear village located on the springline between the limestone and the clay of the Vale of Pickering).

LCA 5a is distinguished by its extensive blocks of forestry, particularly in the south. Recreational land uses include the Yorkshire Gliding Club, and the popular Sutton Bank National Park Centre. It has a close physical, cultural and visual relationship with the estate landscapes of Duncombe Park and Rievaulx Abbey located in LCA 2a.

Landscape Character Area 5b: Central Limestone Hills

Fig.92 A typical scene in LCA 5b, at the northern end of Riccal Dale, showing a secluded, vegetated valley surrounded by open, flat-topped hills.



Map showing the location of LCA 5b within the National Park

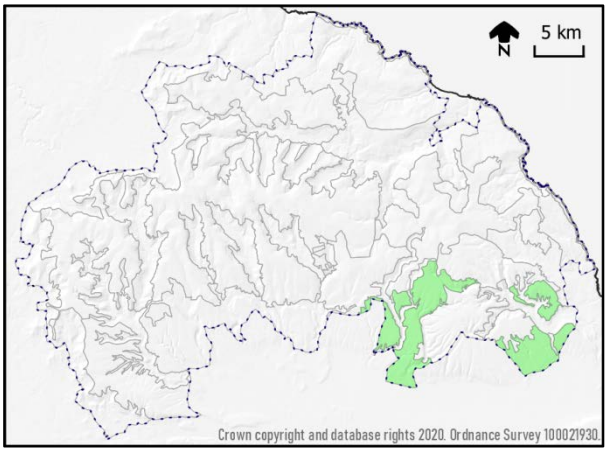
This LCA comprises the central part of the Limestone Hills between Ryedale in the west and Cropton Forest in the east. It includes the land between the open moorland of LCA 1b and the southern boundary of the National Park. There are a number of attractive historic settlements located alongside streams or springs within the LCA, including Helmsley, Hutton-le-Hole and Lastingham.

LCA 5b has particularly distinctive topography. The flat limestone plateau slopes gently southwards towards the Vale of Pickering, but the southern slope is much less pronounced than in LCA 5a. The plateau is incised by a series of valleys which run north-south. Some contain streams (e.g. the River Riccal, Hodge Beck, River Dove, Hutton Beck and River Seven) whilst others are dry. The valleys are narrow and twisting, often with meandering rivers, steep slopes and cliffs. Some are inaccessible except on foot. In the north of the LCA is the prominent Corallian escarpment, which slopes steeply down towards the north. Much of the escarpment is forested, but elsewhere the geology is visible as crags. To the north of the Corallian escarpment is an underlying band of clay geology which lies between the limestone and the moorland. This creates a small-scale, low lying and well-treed landscape which feels intimate and secluded and has few views out.

In the vicinity of main roads and settlements the LCA has a busy, settled feel, but elsewhere it is quiet and tranquil, particularly in the valleys which are not accessible by road. The long history of settlement is reflected in the number of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. It also contains a range of semi-natural habitats including woodland, meadows, becks and parklands. Several of these are designated SSSIs.

Landscape Character Area 5c: Eastern Limestone Hills

Fig.93 A typical scene looking towards LCT 5a Cropton Forest, showing flat plateau farmland, with forest on the horizon.



Map showing the location of LCA 5c within the National Park

This LCA comprises the higher areas of unforested land in the south-east of the National Park, between Cropton Forest and the National Park boundary near Scarborough. Outliers of LCA 5c also occur on high land surrounding the limestone dale of Hackness (LCA 7a). It is a limestone plateau incised by numerous deep valleys, including the dramatic glacial meltwater channels of Newtondale (LCA 6a) and Forge Valley (LCA 6b). Limestone features such as Blakely Hill, and the limestone outcrops known as the Bridestones, are distinctive features within the landscape. The presence of the nearby forests (LCT 3) is a further strong influence, creating wooded horizons and a sense of enclosure, particularly in valleys such as Crosscliff, where forests are present to the north and south.

The plateau slopes gently down towards the Vale of Pickering to the south. There are long views over the Vale of Pickering, particularly from the south of the LCA, and this LCA also forms the backdrop to views towards the National Park from the Vale of Pickering and the Yorkshire Wolds.

The two largest settlements in LCA 5c (Thornton-le-Dale and West and East Ayton) are found on relatively low-lying ground near rivers at the southern edge of the National Park. Settlement is sparser in the higher parts of the LCA, and generally comprises scattered farms and small historic villages such as Lockton, Levisham and Silpho.

Forces for Change acting on the Limestone Hills LCT

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
Infrastructure and communications	The flat horizons created by the Tabular Hills mean that vertical features such as electricity pylons, poles, turbines and mobile phone masts are particularly prominent. Isolated structures on a skyline can be highly visible over a wide area.	All
Settlement expansion	Several of the larger settlements within the National Park are located within this LCT. There is therefore likely to be pressure for settlement expansion which may not fit with the traditional settlement form (for example, there may be pressure for valley floor settlements to expand up valley sides). Property boundaries may be suburban in character.	All
Abandonment of traditional agricultural buildings, and demand for new buildings	Changing farming practices require larger and more modern farm buildings. Old buildings no longer serving their original purpose may become derelict unless an alternative use can be found (e.g. conversion to holiday accommodation). This may result in loss of historic integrity and fittings associated with its original use. New larger agricultural buildings are likely to be much more prominent in the landscape and may also contribute to light pollution unless carefully designed. Stone walls may fall into disrepair or hedgerows become gappy if they are no longer required to fence stock, or they may be replaced with post and wire fencing. There has been some loss of field boundaries, particularly in more intensively farmed areas.	All
Biodiversity and soil loss	Past decades have seen a loss of biodiversity in this LCT. This is particularly related to loss of limestone grassland habitats through conversion to arable or replacement of hay with silage. This has impacted on the variety and abundance of herbs and grasses, and the insects (including pollinators), birds and other wildlife which they support. In addition, significant areas of ancient woodland were replaced with plantation, and much of the surviving ancient woodland is not actively managed, resulting in a loss of age and species diversity, and of woodland habitats such as glades. Ploughing of light soils can lead to erosion of soil by wind, or run-off into rivers. Water quality is a further concern within this LCT. As well as agricultural pollution, streams are particularly affected by low water flows and rises in water temperature.	
Additional tree cover	Within this LCT there are opportunities to increase tree cover, including new/ extended woodland, wood pasture, and hedgerow, roadside and infield trees. When thinking about increasing tree cover, it is important to consider any potential impacts on habitats already important for biodiversity (for example wet meadows and limestone grasslands). Not all these habitats will be designated or recorded. It could also affect buried archaeology and mask the distinctive field patterns which are found in parts of the LCT.	
Tree disease and invasive	Ash dieback is becoming apparent throughout the LCT, affecting ash trees in woodlands and alongside roads and streams. Some ash trees	All

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
species	currently remain unaffected. Ash dieback will result in a significant loss of trees, affecting the appearance of the landscape, as well as woodland ecosystems. Other tree diseases and invasive species threaten woodland and river ecosystems.	
Climate change	Free-draining land on limestone is particularly susceptible to drought, and small limestone watercourses will be under intense pressure due to lower flows, increased water temperatures and the concentration of pollutants. Rising temperatures will affect the species of trees which can thrive, with beech particularly susceptible to rising temperatures. Increased rainfall and intensity of storms will lead to greater risks of flooding and damage to trees and buildings. Warmer temperatures and longer growing season may affect farmers' crop choices.	All
Loss of rural character	Increased signage and 'clutter' on roads can lead to a loss of rural character. It is often a particular issue on the approaches to towns and villages. Traditional signposts are sometimes in poor condition. Suburban-style highways works and property boundaries (e.g. concrete kerbs, ornamental gates and close-board fencing) can contribute to loss of rural character.	All
Recreation on and visitor pressure	Concentrations of visitors at key destinations can lead to issues with parking, erosion of paths, littering, trampling of sensitive habitats and wildlife disturbance.	5a, 5b
Farming and land management	The consequences of past changes in farming practices are described in 'biodiversity loss' above. Additionally, artificial fertilisation of fields, and the production of livestock, may result in nitrate enrichment and the pollution of water supplies unless carefully managed. Intensive pheasant-rearing impacts on landscape character and biodiversity in some parts of the LCT, with large enclosures, blue plastic feed bins, growing of feed/ cover crops such as maize and millet, and loss of woodland ground flora. Forthcoming changes to agricultural grant schemes are likely to result in changes to how land is managed, with payments for 'public goods' such as climate change mitigation measures and supporting nature recovery. This is a change in emphasis to the subsidy system which will hopefully be a positive force for change in the landscape.	
Overgrowing of viewpoints	Several marked viewpoints within the LCT are no longer managed, and are overgrown with vegetation.	5a, 5b
Loss of tranquillity and dark skies	Dark skies are threatened by new development, traffic, street lighting, and lightspill from agricultural buildings. Only a relatively small proportion of the LCT is within the Dark Skies core or buffer areas. Tranquillity is affected by development, traffic, noise and people.	All
Changes in adjacent LCTs and outside the National Park	Views out over surrounding lowland landscapes (which form the setting to the National Park) are a key feature of this LCT. Developments within the setting are likely to affect these views, particularly if there is a cumulative impact. Visible developments may	All

Issue/ Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts	LCAs affected
	include infrastructure, energy and development schemes. The Limestone Hills is also affected visually and ecologically by changes in adjacent LCTs, e.g. LCT 1 (Moorland) and LCT 3 (Forest)	

Landscape Guidelines for the Limestone Hills LCT

Protect

- Protect the distinctive skylines of flat-topped hills and the north-facing Corallian escarpment, avoiding siting vertical structures in prominent locations.
- Protect dark night skies, particularly in the Dark Sky Core and Buffer Areas.
- Protect historic buildings and the distinctive built forms of this LCT. Ensure that conversion of redundant farm buildings is sensitive to their former use and location.
- Protect the relationship between farms/settlements and the surrounding landscape. Where new buildings are required, maintain this relationship through careful siting, design and mitigation (see National Park Design Guide).
- Protect the settings to settlements, for example historic field patterns and mature trees.
- Protect the backdrop to surrounding lowlands and settlements formed by this LCT.
- Protect the sense of tranquillity found in the more remote parts of this LCT.
- Protect the setting of the National Park, particularly from highly intrusive or cumulative development. This includes potential impacts on dark skies.

Manage

- Manage woodlands, seeking opportunities to extend and link deciduous woodland, and to soften the appearance of conifer plantations with deciduous planting. Continue to revert plantations on ancient woodland sites back to native woodland. Encourage active management of deciduous woodland where it will provide clear landscape and biodiversity benefits alongside production of wood products where appropriate.
- Manage grassland and moorland habitats, seeking opportunities to create connections with similar habitats in this LCT and adjacent LCTs. Use road verges and arable buffer strips to extend grassland habitats and seek opportunities to reinstate flower-rich grasslands.
- Manage hedgerows and dry stone walls using traditional methods where possible. Use hedgerows to improve habitat connectivity between woodlands, using species present in existing local hedgerows. Consult historic maps (see National Library of Scotland 'side by side' map viewer) to identify the lines of lost hedgerows. Reinstating these will also enhance the landscape pattern.
- Encourage good practice with regard to pheasant-rearing, to minimise landscape and biodiversity impacts.
- Manage water through restored/ new ponds and dewponds.
- Manage soil, minimising loss by avoiding ploughing steep slopes, and using minimal tillage.
- Manage viewpoints, ensuring that they are kept open and free from vegetation growth.
- Manage roadside and hedgerow trees, allowing new trees to grow out as standards.

- Manage SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments in accordance with Management Plans.
- Consider opportunities for dynamic boundaries between farmland, scrub and moorland where this LCT adjoins LCT 1.

Plan

- Consider opportunities for increasing tree cover, including new native woodland planting and natural colonisation. This should follow the landform (for example parallel to the slopes on valley sides, or along watercourses) and should avoid obliterating strong field patterns. In some locations there may be opportunities to plant/ recolonise valley floor wet woodland. There are also opportunities to promote woodpasture, and infield, hedgerow and roadside trees. Before commencing any tree planting, professional advice should be sought to ensure that there will be no negative effects on the historic environment, ecology or access. Note that in some areas, greater biodiversity gains may be achieved by promoting limestone grassland and scrub, rather than woodland.
- Promote Natural Flood Management techniques where appropriate.
- Ensure development proposals within the National Park's setting are appropriately assessed, particularly where there may be cumulative impacts, and that adequate mitigation is in place.
- Use existing or new hedgerows or woodlands to screen new development on the peripheries of settlements and help it to integrate into the landscape.
- Ensure that change to heritage assets is informed by an understanding of their importance, and can retain and where possible enhance their significance. Provision should be made for management plans, and research into materials, where appropriate.
- Where communications masts or other vertical features are unavoidable, site them close to existing trees or buildings, and consider non-standard designs to minimise visual impact.
- Seek opportunities to underground overhead wires and poles where possible.
- Retain the rural character of settlements, avoiding unnecessary signage and urbanising features such as concrete kerbs, tarmac pavements/ driveways and close-boarded fencing.