## Landscape Classification

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### Notes

a. National Character Areas in this study use the 2013 and 2015 profiles (Natural England) as a basis but have been refined based on local interpretation. The names of the NCAs remain the same.

b. Regional Landscape Character Types in this study use the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part A Landscape Classification*, 2010 (Northumberland County Council) as a basis but have been refined based on local interpretation. The names of the LCTs remain the same.

c. Local Landscape Character Areas in this study use the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part A Landscape Classification*, 2010 (Northumberland County Council), and the *Alnwick and Castle Morpeth Landscape Character Assessment*, 2006 (Alnwick District Council and Castle Morpeth Borough Council) as a basis but have been refined based on local interpretation. The LCAs have been named to reflect their location within the Parish of Ponteland.

nb: colour coding in the table cross-refers to the LCAs shown on the plan at the back of this report.
NATIONAL CHARACTER AREAS

National Character Area (NCA) 12: Mid Northumberland

Description
Mid Northumberland NCA is an intermediate upland fringe plateau of gently undulating farmland which forms a transitional area between the Northumberland Sandstone Hills to the west, the Tyne Valley to the south and the low-lying coastal plain to the east. A series of ridges and river valleys in the northern part of the area open out into a broader, flatter landscape in the south.

The dominant west-to-east orientation of the landform dipping gently to the North Sea can create particularly striking views from east to west, looking outwards from this NCA to the sandstone hills, Cheviots and Northumberland National Park, and southwards across the Tyne Gap and Tyne & Wear lowlands to the North Pennines. There are also occasional glimpses of the sea and coast to the east. The area is underlain by Carboniferous sedimentary rocks, consisting mainly of sandstones, siltstone, shales and mudstone of the Yoredale Group, with some mostly thin bands of limestone. Glacial till deposits resting on the bedrock cover much of the area, creating gentle undulations and supporting relatively fertile soils (mostly Grade 3 ALC ‘good to moderate’ soils).

The area is dissected by several small rivers which flow eastwards to the sea, including the rivers Pont and Blyth and their tributaries which meander down from the sandstone hills and upland pastures through wooded valleys and lowland arable areas. Small tributaries of the North Tyne flow south to eventually join the Tyne.

Within this predominantly farmed landscape woodland cover is variable; there are small woodlands and shelterbelts, for example around exposed farm buildings, mixed woodlands and parklands within country estates, and small coniferous blocks and belts of trees on the more open farmland to the south. Large, regular rectilinear fields are characteristic of 18th and 19th century enclosure, enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees on lower-lying land. Mixed arable farming and managed grassland is characteristic, with some cattle and sheep grazing on mainly improved pasture and grasslands. The landscape of the River Pont Valley is relatively open and broad in scale, with intensive arable cropping and some diversification into horse grazing and livery.

This is essentially a quiet, rural area of generally high tranquillity, with few major transport corridors and a network of minor roads linking scattered farmsteads and small, dispersed nucleated villages, the latter frequently occupying strategic locations at bridging points (for example Netherwitton on the River Font and Ponteland on the River Pont) and surrounded by medieval ridge and furrow. There is a high proportion of ‘undisturbed’ land especially away from the major roads and larger villages, and an extensive rights of way network. There is a great diversity of heritage assets, from the earthworks of prehistoric and small medieval settlements to tower houses, farmsteads and designed parklands with tree-lined drives and ornamental woodlands on historic country estates, including Dissington Hall and Milbourne Hall, providing local distinctiveness and sense of place in the landscape.

Lines of large scale electricity pylons are features in the landscape.

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1 National Character Area 12 profile: Mid Northumberland, Natural England, 2015
Key Characteristics of NCA 12: Mid Northumberland

- This intermediate upland fringe plateau comprises a series of ridges and river valleys in the north, opening out into a broader, flatter landform in the south and east
- Underlain by Carboniferous sedimentary rocks, glacial till covers much of the land, creating gentle undulations
- Woodland cover is variable, with mixed woodlands and parklands within the country estates, and small coniferous blocks and belts of trees on the more open farmland to the south
- Dissected by several small rivers which flow eastwards to the sea
- Large rectilinear fields are characteristic, enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees on lower-lying land
- Arable and cattle farming are predominant on the lower land; at higher altitude sheep rearing and fodder crops are characteristic
- Frequent country houses, typically set in landscaped parklands
- Main village settlements are linked by a network of minor roads, and many scattered farmsteads, are frequently surrounded by extensive medieval ridge and furrow
- Traditional buildings are generally of sandstone
- A quiet, rural area, with few settlements and few major roads, characterised by a high proportion of ‘undisturbed’ land. Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site is a major tourism attraction but low levels of recreational use and provision are more characteristic of the area.
National Character Area (NCA) 13: South East Northumberland Coastal Plain

Description
A flat, low-lying landscape, rarely rising above 70m AOD, which encompasses the Northumberland coast and the low-lying plain of the Northumberland coalfield, broadening out to the south where there are more urban influences.

The underlying geology has had a significant effect on the character of the area including large fields restored from previous open cast coal mines. The area coincides closely with the limits of the Northumberland Coalfield and is underlain by bedrock geology of Coal Measures (mudstones, sandstones and coal seams), with superficial layers of glacial boulder clay and till on the flat, relatively featureless plain landscape.

The wealth derived from the coal industry in the 18th and 19th centuries enabled the creation of a number of large country houses and designed parklands where trees and plantation woodland are a feature in the otherwise open, windswept landscape. Blocks of mixed woodland are scattered within farmland. Rural areas support mixed farming with arable and grass fields divided by low, often gappy hedgerows and few trees.

Semi-natural habitats include fragments of lowland heath, grassland bog and fen, including the significant area of raised mire and associated habitats at Prestwick Carr.

Rivers including the Blyth and Pont drain through the coastal plain from the uplands and through the Mid Northumberland NCA to the west, into the North Sea to the east. To the south is the urban edge of Newcastle and the Tyne and Wear Lowlands NCA.

In the south the landscape is dominated by industry and urban settlement which spread along major roads and railways. Large scale structures including pylons and wind turbines (for example at Blyth) are features of the landscape.

Key characteristics of NCA 13: South East Northumberland Coastal Plain
- A wide, low-lying coastal plain with widespread urban and industrial development, extending north from the urban edge of Newcastle across the coastal plain, with mining towns and villages merging into rural landscape towards the north
- Large-scale open cast coal mining sites and restored mine sites which include deep mine spoil heaps. Restoration has created large tracts of simple, relatively featureless agricultural land with strips of plantation
- Limited woodland cover, confined to prominent blocks of mixed and coniferous woodland on reclaimed colliery sites, with broadleaved woods on steeper valley sides and within estate parkland
- Large, open arable fields, served by large-scale farmsteads, are interspersed with pastures on the poorer reclaimed soils. Fields are bounded by post-and-wire fences or by low and gappy hedges
- Major rivers (Blyth, Coquet and Wansbeck) meandering across the landscape from west to east, often flowing through steeply incised wooded river valleys
- Scattered large country houses with distinctive parkland settings, institutions (a hospital, prisons and colleges), and an extensive urban fringe effect near settlements where pit villages have often merged.

2 National Character Area 13 profile: South East Northumberland Coastal Plain, Natural England, 2013
Lowland Rolling Farmland LCT

Description
This landscape occurs on Millstone Grit and limestones, which are overlaid with thick drift deposits. The landscape undulates smoothly, with few prominent landforms. Much of the area is relatively elevated, generally between 100m and 150m, though up to almost 200m in places. The land generally slopes gradually down towards the east, forming part of the wider transition between the upland areas to the west, and the coastal plain to the east. Drainage is via burns and small rivers, including the upper reaches of the Rivers Pont and Blyth.

For the most part, this is an arable landscape of regular fields, medium to large in scale. Pasture becomes more common as the ground rises to the west. The field pattern is strong in places, and in some areas medieval patterns can be discerned. Field boundaries are generally hedges, well-maintained in several areas, although gappy in others, and increasingly replaced by post and wire on higher ground. Stone walls occur on higher ground, and in association with estates. There is generally little tree cover, and the main woodlands are coniferous plantations, although there are occasional hedge trees and pockets of broadleaf woodland. Exceptions occur at estates.

Settlement is scattered, although more or less continuous across this landscape. There are several larger villages in the north, with areas of modern housing. Further south, smaller hamlets are common, including estate villages at Belsay and Matfen, and often with a central green. Road infrastructure is often prominent within this landscape, with several main roads including the A1 passing through.

The rolling topography occasionally provides expansive views towards the uplands to the west, or towards the coast to the east. The coastal views are especially important from the north-east of the area, close to the coastal plain. Elsewhere the rolling topography also serves to obscure views. The intensiveness of agricultural use leads to apparent neglect of more traditional features such as hedgerows in some areas. Other areas appear better maintained, and there are traditional villages and estate influences with associated woodlands and buildings.

Key Characteristics of Lowland Rolling Farmland LCT
- Undulating agricultural landscape with rich soils under predominantly arable cultivation;
- Generally little tree cover, with occasional small-scale woodlands and plantations;
- Medium-scale parliamentary enclosure landscape;
- Field enclosure by hedgerows, with frequent hedgerow trees, has become fragmented in many places;
- Trunk roads and prominent road alignments exert a strong influence;
- Locally important estate influences, with woodland, and estate villages.

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3 Based on the description within the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part A Landscape Classification*, 2010 (Northumberland County Council)
**Coalfield Farmland LCT**

**Description**

This landscape is underlain by the Lower and Middle Coal Measures, including layers of sandstone, mudstone, and coal. The exploitation of coal, which here occurs in shallow seams close to the surface, has had a major impact on the development of this landscape. The surface landscape is generally quite flat, with gently rolling areas, and rises no higher than 89m at Berwick Hill, near Ponteland. The only substantial rivers are the Blyth, which flows through the incised Stannington Vale, and the Wansbeck, flowing in an incised valley from Morpeth. The smaller River Lyne and Seaton Burn are less significant landscape features.

Land use is generally mixed farmland, comprising large or very large fields with weak boundaries. Hedgerows are often gappy and hedgerow trees are limited. Woodland cover in general is infrequent and consists principally of coniferous plantations. Deciduous tree cover is restricted to occasional mature hedgerow trees and small copses. Exceptions are the wooded valleys of the Blyth and Wansbeck rivers, and the wooded Blagdon estate. Elsewhere only scattered fragments of ancient woodland remain. There are several areas of reclaimed land, representing former mineral workings. Restoration has generally resulted in oversimplified geometric landscapes of pasture and conifer blocks, which lack distinctive features. Wetlands and pools, the result of subsidence or restoration, are relatively frequent and in places have developed into valuable habitat, for example the SSSI at Holywell Pond. Although mineral extraction has affected large parts of this area, there are also pockets of rural character which have been relatively unaffected. There are further SSSIs at Hawthorn Cottage Pasture, New Hartley Ponds, Willow Burn Pasture, Arcot Hall, Darras Hall and Prestwick Carr.

Older villages retain a core of buildings in honey-coloured sandstone, although more modern buildings are generally of brick. Some settlements are related to the mining and quarrying industries, and often have large post-war extensions. Transport corridors are prominent linear features in some areas, and several lines of pylons cross the landscape.

There are few prominent viewpoints within this landscape, although both seaward and landward views are available. Coastal views are occasionally available on the eastward-sloping coastal plain. Frequently, the most prominent features in views are pylons, and wind turbines at Cramlington. There are also a number of westward views, including long views to the Simonside and Cheviot Hills. The extent of modification, and the simplistic approach taken to restoration, is such that the majority of this landscape is degraded in character and has lost much of the subtle variation in its natural characteristics. However, significant pockets of undisturbed land remain across the area.

Mining activity has been ongoing in this area since the 15th century, both by surface and deep mining methods, although the majority of the mines are now long gone. Despite the heavy modifications of the landscape, medieval ridge and furrow remains in places. There is a limited network of public rights of way.

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4 Based on the description within the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment: Part A Landscape Classification*, 2010 (Northumberland County Council)
Key Characteristics of Coalfield Farmland LCT

- Low-lying coastal farmland, medium to large in scale, and generally open and expansive;
- Heavily modified rural area, with extensive industrial and urban fringe influences;
- Well settled, with mining towns and villages;
- Large-scale opencast mine sites;
- Distinctive, simple landscapes on restored former opencast sites;
- Pylons, chimneys, and transport and industrial infrastructure are prominent;
- Occasional wooded estate landscapes.
LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS
LCA 1: Milbourne and Kirkley

This is a medium to large-scale, gently rolling landscape of mixed arable and pastoral fields, with scattered farms and only one village, Milbourne, set within it. A number of narrow country lanes radiate out from the village. The area gradually falls eastwards from around 135m AOD west of Milbourne to approximately 65m AOD at West Cotes near the A696.

The country estates at Milbourne and Kirkley, the latter now part of Northumberland College, stand out as well-wooded fragments of historic landscape, with large imposing halls, 18th century parkland, estate buildings and other historic details. Areas of less regular, smaller-scale field patterns, for example to the north of Milbourne, hint at continuity from an earlier date, possibly medieval. Ridge and furrow survives within some of the pastureland, grazed by cattle and sheep, and occasionally horses.

The A696 passes through the landscape in a northwest to southeast direction towards Ponteland. Other urban influences are few, including two lines of pylons passing along the southern and western boundaries of this landscape that are conspicuous features in most views.

Linear plantations of mixed broadleaves and conifers are aligned north-south along the predominant grain of the landscape which falls gently from west to east, and are a particular feature of the landscape to the west of the A696. Other woodland belts of mostly broadleaf trees along the banks of a number of minor burns are aligned in a west-east direction and combine with the plantations and other field corned copses and coverts to create a relatively well-wooded landscape. These foreshorten many views but allow longer distance views when glimpsed between the trees. The area to the east of the A696 is much less wooded.
LCA 2: Smallburn

This is a relatively small landscape area lying to the south of Small Burn and between the A696 and North Road. It is perceived as essentially a flat landscape, although it gently falls from west to east from around 65m AOD to 55m AOD. The landscape is open, comprising a patchwork of small, regular, rectilinear arable fields and pasture for sheep grazing, with trees limited to two small copses and low clipped hedgerow field boundaries. The Small Burn, however, is relatively well treed and defines the northern extent of the landscape character area.

There is an area of mixed land uses south of Small Burn, including the Northumberland Police Headquarters and Collage, and other institutional buildings built around the row of listed Cottage Homes. Boundary vegetation ensures this area is relatively well assimilated into the countryside, although less so in the winter.

The northern edge of Ponteland exerts an urban fringe influence on the landscape where there are views through gaps in settlement edge vegetation. Other influences are the A696 road corridor, views of tall masts at the police HQ and pylons to the north.
LCA 3: Middle Pont Valley

This landscape represents the relatively wide middle course of the River Pont as it meanders in a shallow valley gently down from the Northumberland Sandstone Hills to the west towards the low-lying coastal plain to the east. Ground levels fall gradually from around 120m AOD north of Dalton to 65m AOD at the A696 where it enters Ponteland.

The river is relatively inconspicuous through this open middle section which is characterised by relatively flat or gently sloping medium to large-scale arable fields, gappy hedgerows and few hedgerow trees. There are mixed coniferous and broadleaved plantations; for example Benacres Plantation delineates the course of the river through the centre of the character area and is a prominent feature in the landscape. Hedgerow trees are much more of a feature along the western edge the LCA.

There are a number of farmsteads dotted around the perimeter of the valley; there is no vehicular access through the landscape except an open track, with no hedgerows or hedgerow trees, leading to Donkins House Farm. This also serves as a bridleway, with other rights of way radiating out from the western edge of Ponteland including a bridleway along the route of a former railway line through the Darras Hall estate. These provide valuable recreational routes and in part landscape and wildlife corridors linking the settlement to the wider countryside. Another public footpath passes east-west through the area with footbridges across the river.

A line of pylons passes through the west of the area, where even telegraph poles are relatively conspicuous vertical features within a largely flat horizontal landscape. The A696 defines the eastern boundary of the LCA, with an urbanising influence on the landscape. Despite abutting the northern and western sides of Ponteland the settlement does not exert a strong influence upon the character of the river valley due to the well vegetated boundaries which assimilate it well into the landscape. The settlement edge vegetation limits views out, but where there are views through gaps these are foreshortened by minor ridges close to the settlement edge.
LCA 4: Dissington

This character area extends from Dissington Hall in the north to Dissington Old Hall in the south, and westwards from Medburn to beyond Eachwick and Dalton outside the Parish boundary. Here the River Pont and its tributaries the Swarden Burn and Med Burn cut relatively deep meandering, wooded courses through underlying glacifluvial deposits of sand and gravel to produce a steeply rolling, small-scale and more intimate valley. Height above ordnance datum (AOD) varies from around 90m to 110m in a relatively short distance.

Fields are small and irregular, laid down mostly to pasture on which sheep graze on the steeper valley sides and horses on the flatter ground where there is also some arable cultivation. Riverside trees, roadside hedgerows and hedgerows trees, and extensive parkland trees and woodland blocks within the designed landscape at Dissington Park add to the enclosed character of the landscape.

The road between Medburn and Dissington and the minor side road to Eachwick wind their way along sinuous routes through the countryside, with narrow hump back bridges over the river.

The rolling topography and relatively dense vegetation limit views out of this LCA, although there are glimpses to pylons to the south and west. There are important views across parkland to Dissington Hall.
LCA 5: Medburn

This character area provides the landscape setting to Medburn located only 500 metres to the west of Ponteland. The small hamlet was previously divided into a number of smallholdings that have over time been sold for housing creating a distinctive layout of long narrow plots perpendicular to The Avenue. It sits relatively low in the landscape at around 100m AOD alongside the Med Burn; Farriek Hill rises to the north whilst to the south the character area extends to the ridgeline that rises to a high point at around 142m AOD at Mount Hope Farm / Breckney Hill beyond the Parish boundary. This ridge of high ground continues eastwards to Birney Hill Farm and westwards as the northern boundary of the North Tyne Ridge LCA (see also the description of LCA 9: North Tyne Ridge) that overlooks the Tyne Valley to the south. Blocks of woodland provide a dense backdrop to Medburn in views from the north, further assimilating it into the landscape and helping to retain its separate identity despite its location close to Ponteland.

This is a generally small to medium-scale landscape with regular, rectilinear fields that increase in size away from the settlement and which are predominantly in arable use. There are smaller grass fields near the village, for sheep and cattle grazing. Other fields are used for horse livery. Fields are bounded by low hedgerows and a high proportion of hedgerow trees which are a feature of the landscape.

Views out from the village are mostly foreshortened by topography, trees and hedgerows, but there are extensive views out from high ground to the south of the village to the distant hills to the north and west, for example from the Medburn road as it leaves Stamfordham Road. There are views of pylons to the west, whilst the treed knoll at Breckney Hill (including a mobile phone mast disguised as a coniferous tree) provides a topographical feature on the ridgeline to the south beyond the Parish boundary.
LCA 6: Birney Hill

This LCA abuts the southern edge of Ponteland, bounded by Callerton Lane to the east, Birney Hill / Stamfordham Road to the south, and Western Way to the west. This is a small to medium-scale landscape of regular, rectilinear, predominantly arable fields with some pasture, gently falling northwards from a maximum height of around 143m AOD where Birney Hill meets Stamfordham Road, to between 110m – 125m AOD along the settlement edge. Fields are bounded by low clipped hedgerows and hedgerow trees which combine to reduce the scale of the landscape despite its relatively elevated position. The tree-lined drive and mature parkland-like trees associated with Birney Hall and its associated buildings, which are the only buildings within the landscape, further enclose and provide a formality to the area. Stone boundary walls and gated access to the hall are of aesthetic and historic interest.

Despite abutting the southern edge of Ponteland, the settlement does not exert an urbanising influence on the character of the landscape due to the falling topography and intervening trees and hedgerows. The settlement edge is well assimilated into the gently falling landscape where hedgerows, trees and garden vegetation combine to provide a strong green edge to Ponteland.

Views out from the settlement are limited to the designed parkland around Birney Hall and to Birney Hill / Stamfordham Road along the ridge of high ground on the southern boundary of this landscape character area. In contrast, views from the high ground are extensive and panoramic towards the distant hills to the north and west, and eastwards across the coastal plain.
LCA 7: Callerton

This is a predominantly medium to large-scale, gently rolling landscape character area but with a smaller scale, steeply rolling central part that adds interest and character to the LCA. The area is defined by the ridge of high ground that extends beyond the southern boundary of the Parish to the west and east. It runs into the North Tyne Ridge (see also the description of LCA 9: North Tyne Ridge) that overlooks the Tyne Valley to the south and provides extensive distant views northwards beyond Ponteland.

The western end of this LCA at Callerton Common is the highest part of the Parish at 145m AOD. Here cattle and horse graze unimproved pasture on the thin sandy soils which are of poorer quality than elsewhere on the lowland rolling farmland, indicating the transitional nature of the landscape with the Tyne and Wear Lowlands to the south and the underlying coal measures of the coastal plain to the east. There are also larger, rectilinear arable fields around Callerton Grange which is uncharacteristically surrounded by relatively dense hedgerows and belts of trees; elsewhere in this part of the LCA hedgerows are poor and gappy and lacking trees. A public footpath crosses this western end of the LCA past Callerton Grange and past a mound housing a disused Royal Observer Corps (ROC) nuclear monitoring post.

The busy B6323 Callerton Lane rolls north-south through the area over the ridge. From here the ground falls gradually eastwards beyond the Parish boundary towards Black Callerton where hedgerow trees are much more characteristic.

The hamlet of High Callerton, comprising Callerton Hall and other historic sandstone buildings within the Conservation Area, lies on a second ridge of high ground close to the south-eastern edge of Ponteland but separated from it both physically and visually by dense roadside tree belts. The area to the east of High Callerton is drained by a number of small burns that fall southwards (rather than eastwards as occurs elsewhere within the Parish) cutting relatively steep valleys between areas of wooded (in part) higher ground at Brough Hill, Braid Hill and Black Callerton Hill, producing a steeply rolling topography and a much smaller-scale landscape. The steeper valley sides are grazed by cattle, sheep and horses. Trees are generally absent from the landscape apart from a few small broadleaved and mixed copses. Hedges are generally poor and gappy apart from alongside the track that leads to Hold House Farm which are dense and well maintained, and include gorse (*Ulex* sp.) indicating the poorer sandy acidic soils.

This track is also a public footpath that continues eastwards to the A696 and provides extensive panoramic views northwards across gently rolling arable and pastures fields down towards Ponteland and beyond. This is a medium to large-scale landscape with regular rectilinear fields bounded by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and occasional well-wooded tree belts and copses. A public footpath runs north-south through this part of the character area providing access from Ponteland to the surrounding countryside.

The character of the eastern end of this landscape area is partly influenced by nearby urban and industrial land uses indicating its transitional nature with the coalfield farmland on the coastal plain to the east. Opencast workings of Prestwick Pit have been restored to arable land use although some workings and spoil heap remain. A disused railway line, now a bridleway, passes through the area from the A696 into Ponteland providing recreational opportunity and an important green landscape and wildlife corridor linking the settlement to the wider countryside, of benefit to people and wildlife. The Callerton Lane Link Road / Rotary Way defines the boundary between this landscape character area and LCA 8: Fairney Burn to the north; its straight alignment, road markings, boundary
post and rail fencing and lit roundabout junctions at either end provide an urbanising, engineered appearance through the landscape.
LCA 8: Fairney Burn

The Fairney Burn meanders gently from south to north through this character area, with a more densely treed tributary stream running into it from the west. The landscape falls gently from 70m AOD in the south-western corner northwards to approximately 60m AOD at Clickemin. A well vegetated disused railway line, now a bridleway, passes through the area from Ponteland providing recreational opportunity and an important green landscape and wildlife corridor linking the settlement to the wider countryside, of benefit to people and wildlife.

This is a medium scale, triangular area bounded by the Callerton Lane Link Road / Rotary Way to the south, the B6323 Callerton Lane to the west and the A696 to the east. Its character is influenced by the urban and industrial land uses to the west and east, although the area to the east and south of the Fairney Burn and its tributary is less affected and retains an essentially rural character.

Land uses to the north and west of the watercourses include the Middle and High Schools, Fire Station and Leisure Centre. Associated playing fields and sports pitches ensure the landscape retains a relatively open appearance and feel. The areas to the east and south of the watercourses are more rural in character with medium sized arable fields and smaller parcels of pastureland. Views southwards from the northern edge of Ponteland extend to the High Callerton ridge. Northwards there are views of the school buildings and leisure centre from the link road filtered through the riparian vegetation. Views of properties along the A696 at Cheviot View are clearer where they appear elevated above the watercourses. The rural setting to the settlement and its well vegetated boundary to the rear of properties on Fairney Edge is evident in views from the A696 when approaching the built up area past the properties at Cheviot View.
LCA 9: North Tyne Ridge

The extreme southern edge of the Parish falls steeply southwards from a ridge of high ground around Callerton Grange, overlooking the Tyne Gap and the Tyne Valley. There are long distance panoramic views to the North Pennines. In the view the arable landscape includes hedgerows but few hedgerow trees and is occasionally punctuated by clusters of largely broadleaf woodland and pockets of improved pasture, with some coniferous blocks and strips.

Within LCA 9 there are large, rectilinear arable fields around Callerton Grange which is uncharacteristically surrounded by relatively dense hedgerows and belts of trees; elsewhere in this part of the LCA hedgerows are poor and gappy and lacking trees.
LCA 10: Lower Pont Valley

The River Pont continues along a meandering course north of Ponteland through the relatively flat coalfield farmland within the South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. A number of minor tributaries run into the River Pont in this area from the higher ground and the more rolling farmland to the west. The ‘valley’ is extremely shallow; the river leaves the Ponteland at an elevation of approximately 55m AOD and joins the River Blyth just north of the Parish boundary at around 44m AOD. Throughout this character area the topography generally does not rise above 60m AOD except at Berwick Hill / Kirk Hill where the ground gradually rises to 81m AOD.

The river and its tributaries are relatively inconspicuous in the landscape except where riparian broadleaf tree belts mark out their courses. Mixed plantations at Pont Ends and Ponthollows are features in the flat landscape, as are tree belts around the isolated farmsteads dotted throughout this LCA, generally at crossing points or close to the river. Elsewhere hedgerows and hedgerow trees combine to reduce the apparent scale of the landscape although hedges are predominantly low allowing views across the farmland, especially in the winter. In some areas hedgerows have been lost as is evidenced by lines of remaining hedgerow trees, whilst in other locations hedgerows are replaced by post and wire fencing. A line of pylons are particularly conspicuous features crossing the medium to large-scale landscape.

Fields are generally larger than in the neighbouring lowland rolling farmland to the west, with a mix of arable and grassland where cattle and sheep grazing occur. Rights of way are limited to an area in the north-eastern part of the LCA.

Access through the area is limited to a minor country lane that winds through the countryside between Kirkley and Berwick Hill, and Berwick Hill Road which is a main route into Ponteland from the north and east, crossing the river at Berwickhill Bridge. From here southwards the northern built edge of the settlement become apparent but the juxtaposition of and planting associated with Eland Green and Eland Hall ensures the settlement edge is relatively well assimilated into the countryside.
LCA 11: Prestwick

The character of this landscape is significantly modified and influenced by the range of land uses, adjoining urban and industrial areas and associated infrastructure. Scattered development east of the A696 gives an urban fringe perception where built development is the most dominant element. Newcastle International Airport and associated buildings, parking areas and infrastructure dominate the landscape adjoining the Parish boundary to the east. Within the Parish, Dobbies Garden World, Prestwick Business Park, residential development at Ridgely Drive/Ridgely Close, the Golf Club and mixed uses at Eland Hall significantly influence the character of the landscape. Other urbanising land uses include the extensive Defence Estates Rifle Range and Prestwick Carr - an open, heavily modified, artificially drained landscape resulting in straight-sided fields and long straight, narrow tracks. One of these is part of the national cycle network and provides an off-road route and recreational access into the countryside from Ponteland via Eland Lane. There are views out to the east from gaps in-between built development along the A696, where mature planting within the golf course provides a significant backdrop. It also assists in significantly softening the northern built up edge of Ponteland in views from the Prestwick Carr area and from Berwick Hill Road when entering the settlement from the north.