

Landscape Character Type 3: Valley slopes

LCT 3B LOWER ROLLING FARMED AND SETTLED SLOPES

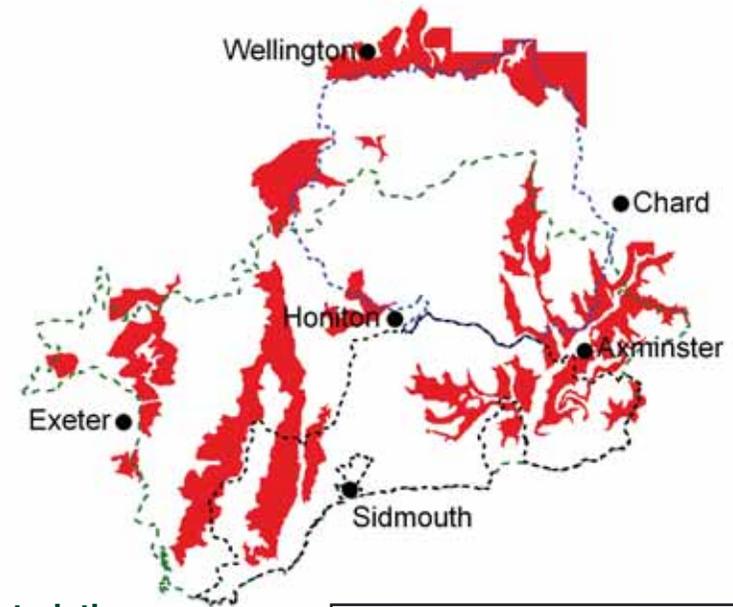
Constituent Land Description Units 105, 106, 112, 113, 121, 138, 147, 148, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 72, 91, 92, 93, 94

Location

This Landscape Character Type occupies a sloping transitional zone above the flat river valleys and tributaries but below the steeper, generally more wooded slopes.

Description

Gently rolling slopes above the valley floor, less steep than the upper slopes and with less woodland and more settlement. Mainly loamy brown soils with damp patches, predominantly dairy with some fodder crops, with orchards on the drier slopes near farmsteads and tree rows along the many streams and ditches which give this type a bushy, damp character and contribute to its wooded appearance, due also to the many hedgerow oaks and small copses. This is a small to medium scale landscape, with variable size fields in an irregular pattern, delineated by wide low hedges and distinctive tall earth banks. Mainly a clustered settlement pattern with small farm, occasionally densely settled, with a variety of building ages and styles, unified by the widespread use of stone. The road network is of winding, sometimes sunken lanes with deep cuttings locally through sandstone banks, particularly distinctive at the entrance to a settlement.



Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling landform, sloping up from valley floor
- Variable size fields with wide, low boundaries and irregular pattern
- Pastoral land use, often with wooded appearance
- Many hedgerow trees, copses and streamside tree rows
- Settled, with varied building ages, styles and settlement size
- Much use of stone as building material
- Winding, often sunken lanes
- Streams and ditches
- Tranquil and intimate



Management Guidelines

Boundaries: conserve by

1. Encouraging appropriate management of low wide hedges at a height of 1-1.5m/ 3-5 feet, to maintain bushy, mixed species character.

Farming and land use: conserve and restore by

1. Maintaining the open character of the lower slopes of tributary valleys, where hedges are uncharacteristic and relatively recent introductions into open meadow landscapes.
2. Promoting the maintenance and restoration of orchards.
3. Promoting appropriate design and management of equine activities, fishing lakes and game bird shoots to ensure their contribution to local landscape character.

Woodland management: conserve by

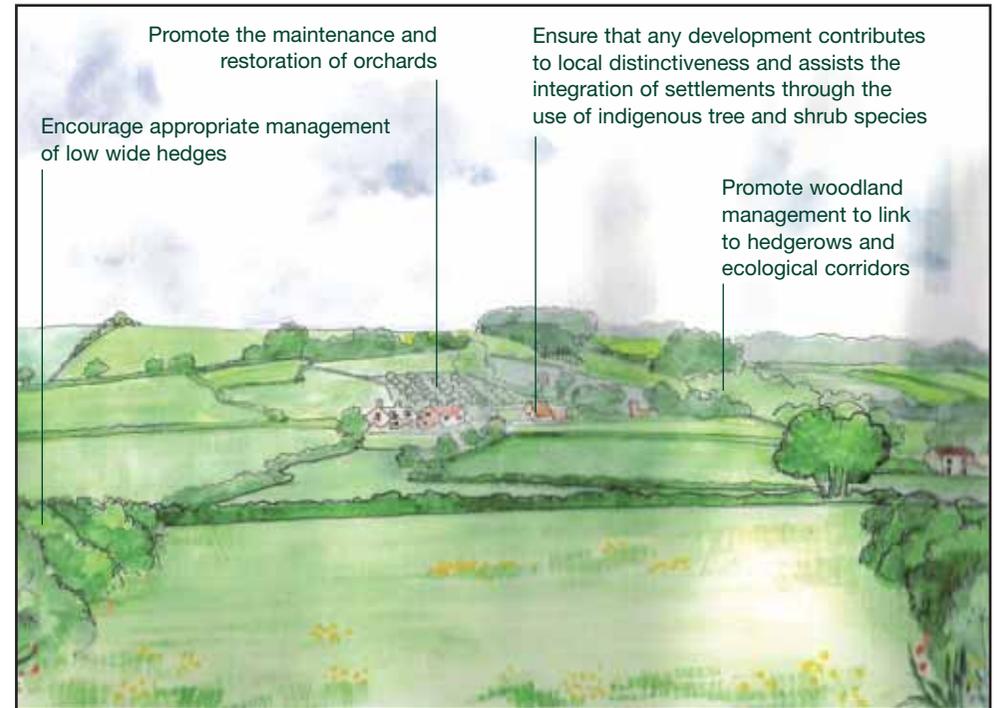
1. Promoting management to favour (a) the development of a varied age structure, (b) long-lived locally indigenous species, and (c) linkage to the hedgerow and stream-side network to provide strong ecological corridors.

Settlement and development: conserve and enhance by

1. Ensuring that any development contributes to local distinctiveness and assists integration of settlements within the landscape by the use of indigenous species.
2. Resisting development that would contribute to the coalescence of settlements, including ribbon development.

Transport network: conserve and enhance by

1. Encouraging appropriate maintenance of the tall earth banks and sandstone road cuttings.



Management Guidelines Illustration

Recommendations for further action

Transport network: Resist pressures to widen or straighten the characteristic winding lanes, especially (a) within settlements, where junction improvements can dilute the organic street pattern; (b) where it would result in the destruction of ditches and verges; (c) where it would result in the destruction of sandstone cuttings, especially at the entrance to villages.