

Landscape Character Type 1: Plateaux

LCT 1E WOODED RIDGES AND HILLTOPS

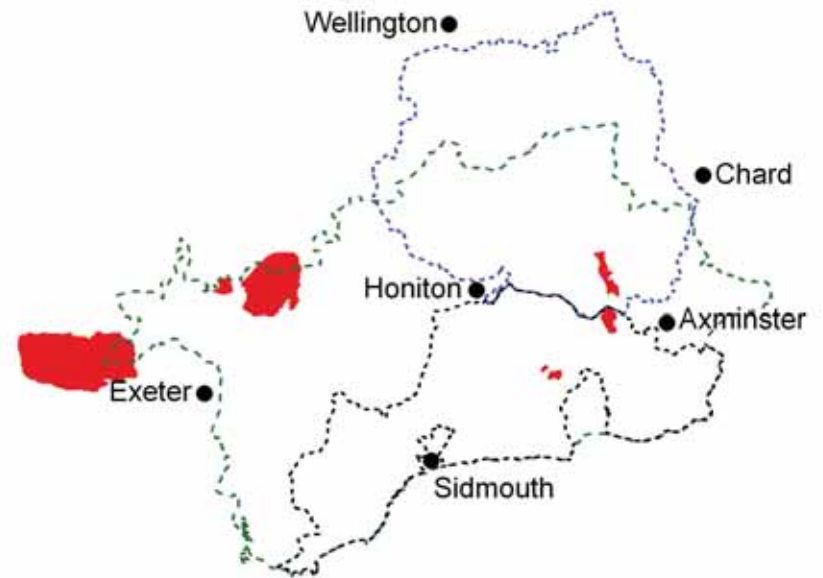
Constituent Land Description Units 01, 12, 13, 14, 15

Location

Outliers at the end of 'fingers' of plateaux Landscape Character Type, mostly in the central southern area, as at Shute Hill.

Description

Small, visually distinct hills and ridges separate from but sharing many characteristics of the plateaux. They rise out of the surrounding lowlands as a mix of woodland and irregular fields, occasionally with large open fields on the summit which may be arable, contrasting with the pastoral use elsewhere. The field pattern is small to medium scale, delineated by earth banks and hedges, and tree rows, with frequent hedgerow trees. There are significant areas of ancient woodland, spring-line mires, unimproved pasture and great species diversity, especially in hedges. This is an almost entirely unsettled area, with narrow winding lanes enclosed by medium-height (2-3m) hedges on earth banks; this lack of development and the presence of areas with neither roads nor rights of way underpin the remote, unspoilt character of this type.



Key Characteristics

- Small hills and associated small ridges, outliers of the plateaux
- Small to medium irregular fields with spring-line mires
- Species-rich hedgerows and tree rows, ancient woodland and great species diversity
- Mixed woodland and some pasture; hilltop fields may be arable
- Unsettled
- Narrow enclosed winding lanes
- Limited views out
- High and remote



Management Guidelines

Boundaries: conserve and enhance by

1. Encouraging the conservation of small hedgerow oaks and other tree species by planting or tagging selected saplings.
2. Encouraging management that maintains the pattern of wide, medium height hedges.

Farming and land use: enhance and restore by

1. Encouraging retention of the pattern of wooded slopes with small pasture fields.
Semi-natural habitats: conserve and enhance by
1. Managing gorse, willow and silver birch to prevent scrubbing up of unimproved pasture
2. Encouraging the creation and planting of new earth banks and hedges to provide strong ecological links between the areas of woodland and pasture fields.
3. Encouraging current practices which are favouring the presence of bluebells in ancient woodland and open areas.
4. Encouraging management of spring line mires.

Woodland: enhance by

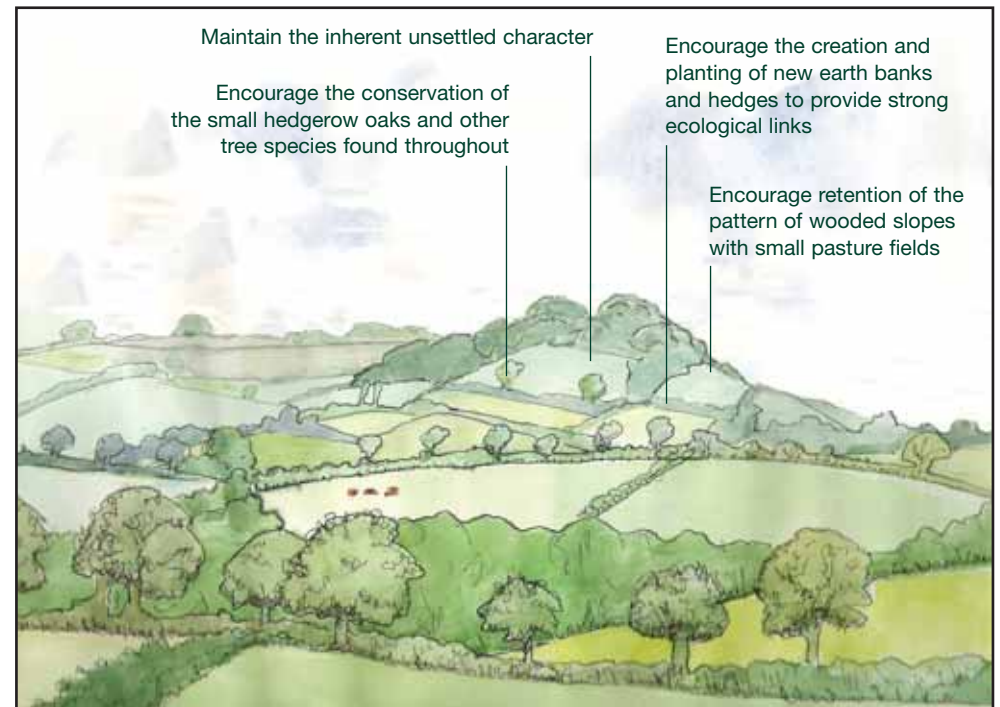
1. Encouraging the use of broadleaves to build on the wealth of locally indigenous species.
2. Encouraging natural regeneration when conifer coupes are felled, with appropriate publicity/information to counter suggestions of neglect.

Settlement and development: conserve by

1. Maintaining the inherent unsettled character.

Transport network: conserve by

1. Maintaining the network of very narrow winding lanes.



Management Guidelines Illustration

Recommendations for further action

Woodland: Commission surveys to confirm species richness in woodland edge/hedges, as in Land Description Unit 12, where traces of older woodland are evident. Encourage survey of the historic/archaeological significance of internal woodland boundaries and evidence of coppicing and pollarding.