Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study

PART C

Landscape Sensitivity to Key Land Uses

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This section presents an assessment of the sensitivity of the Northumberland landscape to a range of key land uses. This assessment examines each of the landscape character areas identified in the Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment (NLCA), and evaluates their sensitivity to mineral extraction, waste landfill, and renewable energy development (including onshore wind farms and biomass plantations).

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

Landscape sensitivity

1.2. Landscape sensitivity is a measure of the resilience of a landscape to change, and is broadly defined as:

The extent to which a particular landscape can accommodate change, without detrimental effects on its character.[1]

1.3. *Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Sensitivity and Capacity*, part of the Countryside Agency/SNH suite of LCA guidance, sets out definitions of landscape sensitivity and capacity. The term capacity is not used in this study, as no attempt has been made to define the amount of development possible or desirable.

1.4. *Topic Paper 6* adopts two separate definitions of landscape sensitivity, as follows:

Overall landscape sensitivity refers to the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, *irrespective of the type of change that may be under consideration*, embracing a combination of:

- the sensitivity of the landscape resource (in terms of both its character as a whole and the individual elements contributing to character);
- the visual sensitivity of the landscape, assessed in terms of a combination of factors such as views, visibility, the number and nature of people perceiving the landscape and the scope to mitigate visual impact.

Landscape sensitivity to a specific type of change refers to the sensitivity of the landscape *to a particular type of change or development.* It should be defined in terms of the interactions between the landscape itself, the way that it is perceived and the particular nature of the type of change or development in question.[2]

[1] Based on Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (2002) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, Section 7.16

[2] Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) *Landscape Character Assessment Topic Paper 6*, pp.3-4

1.5. In the present study, landscape sensitivity is based on the second of these approaches. The study makes a series of judgements about the sensitivity of each landscape character area to a range of specific development types. This judgement should be taken as indicative, and is not intended to be a substitute for detailed consideration of the effects of individual developments upon local landscapes. These should be addressed on a case-by-case basis as part of defined planning procedures, including environmental impact assessment and landscape and visual impact assessment. Additionally, the judgements cannot be directly related to overall sensitivity, or sensitivity to other development types not considered in this study.

1.6. Sensitivity has been assessed based on a series of criteria, which were developed to highlight specific landscape and visual characteristics which are most likely to be affected by the development types under examination. The criteria are based on current good practice as described in *Topic Paper 6*, and relate to the physical landscape, visual amenity, cultural features, and perceptual characteristics.

1.7. Sensitivity has been assessed based on landscape character areas; discrete areas defined in the NLCA, and represented by boundaries drawn on a map. It is important to note that such boundaries are to some extent notional, as character tends to change gradually across the landscape. Character area boundaries should therefore be considered to represent zones of transition from one landscape, and one level of sensitivity, to another.

Policy and guidance

1.8. A brief review was carried out of relevant national and regional policy and guidance, as well as emerging local policy, relating to minerals, waste, wind power and biomass production. This led to a refinement of the study area for each development type. The review is included in Section 2.

Development types and sensitivity indicators

1.9. The brief for the study required the examination of sensitivity to '*opencast coal mining, other strategic mineral sites, waste landfill, and renewable energy development, particularly onshore wind power*'.

1.10. In order to assess landscape sensitivity, the key land uses were explored further, and a series of development types were defined as follows:

- opencast coal extraction;
- hard rock extraction;
- waste landfill;
- sand and gravel extraction;
- small-scale wind power development (up to 5 turbines);
- large-scale wind power development (upwards of 5 turbines); and
- biomass plantations.

1.11. The key features, or attributes, of each of these development types were established, in terms of their potential effects on the landscape. Based on these attributes, a number of landscape characteristics were identified, which act as corresponding indicators of potentially reduced landscape sensitivity. For example:

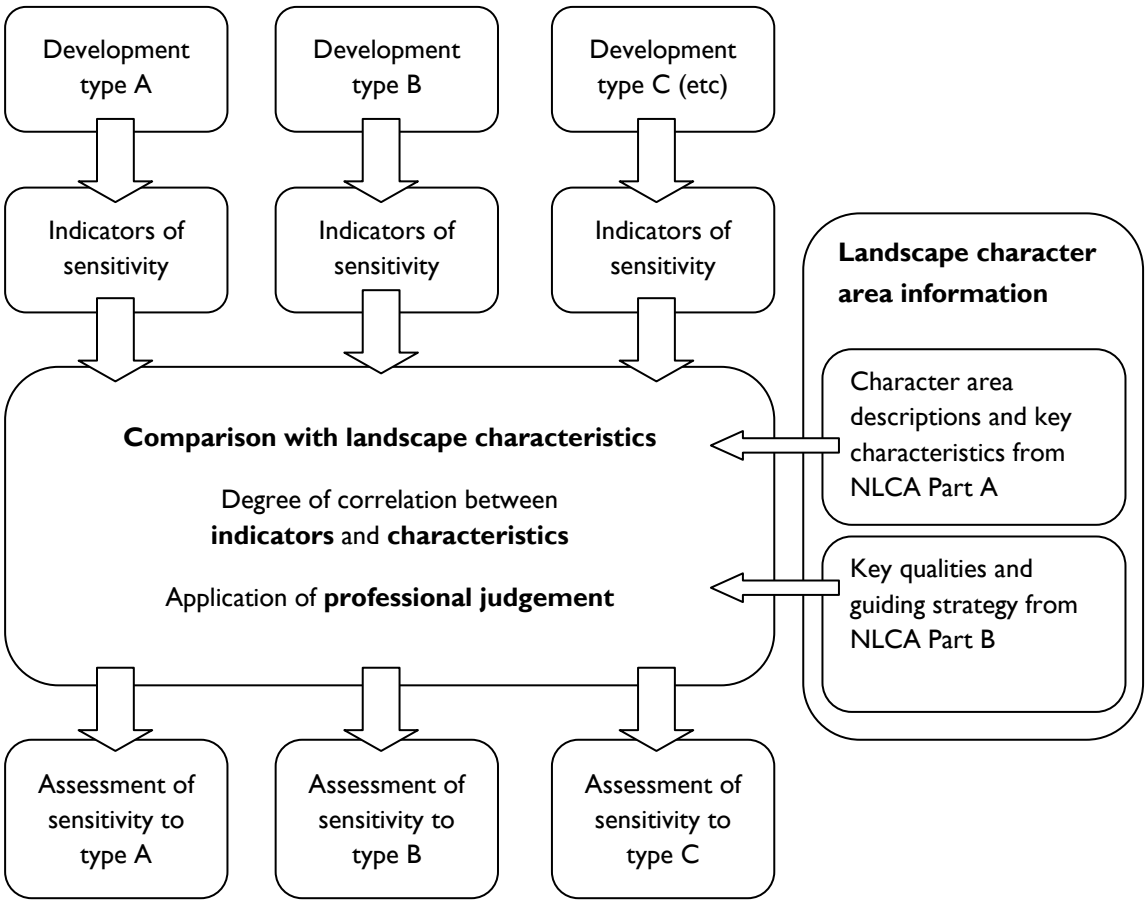
- a key feature of wind power development is movement, and movement in the landscape therefore becomes an indicator of reduced sensitivity to this land use;
- a key feature of biomass production is large plantations, therefore variety of landcover, particularly as relates to woodland cover, is an indicator of reduced sensitivity to this land use.

1.12. These indicators are represented by a range of variables within each of the criteria, and are illustrated in the shaded cells of Tables C2.3 to C2.7.

Sensitivity assessment process

1.13. The assessment process was based around the comparison between the indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity, with the attributes of each landscape character area. The process in shown in outline in Diagram C1.1, and is described in greater detail overleaf.

Diagram C1.1 Sensitivity assessment process

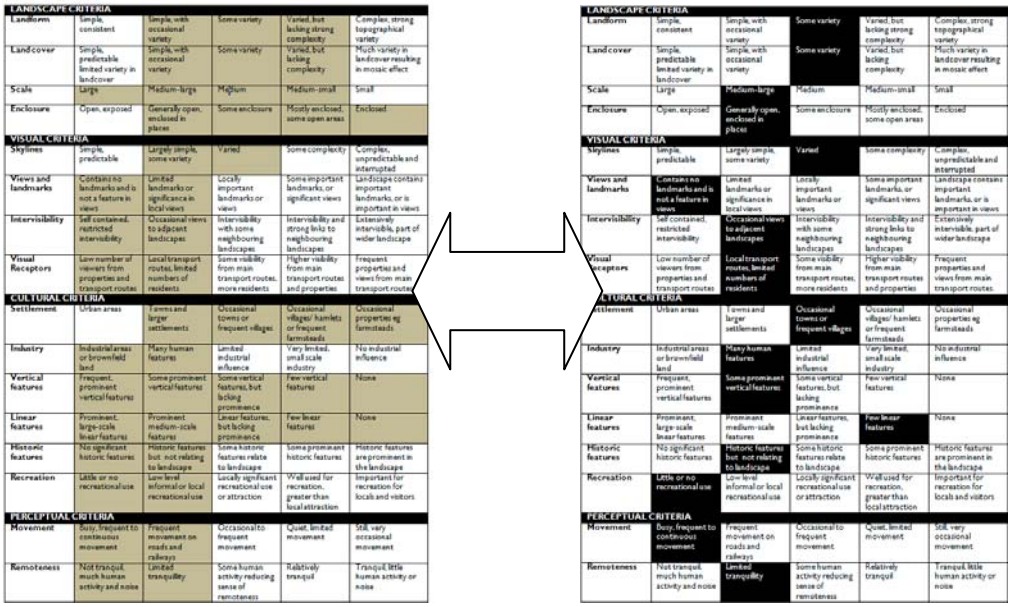


1.14. For each criterion, the attributes of the landscape character area (recorded in Annexe A of the NLCA) were compared against the indicators of potentially reduced sensitivity for each development type, and the degree of coincidence between the two was examined. Generally, the greater the degree of coincidence, the lower the likely sensitivity. Where there is less coincidence, the sensitivity is likely to be higher. This is illustrated in Diagram C1.2.

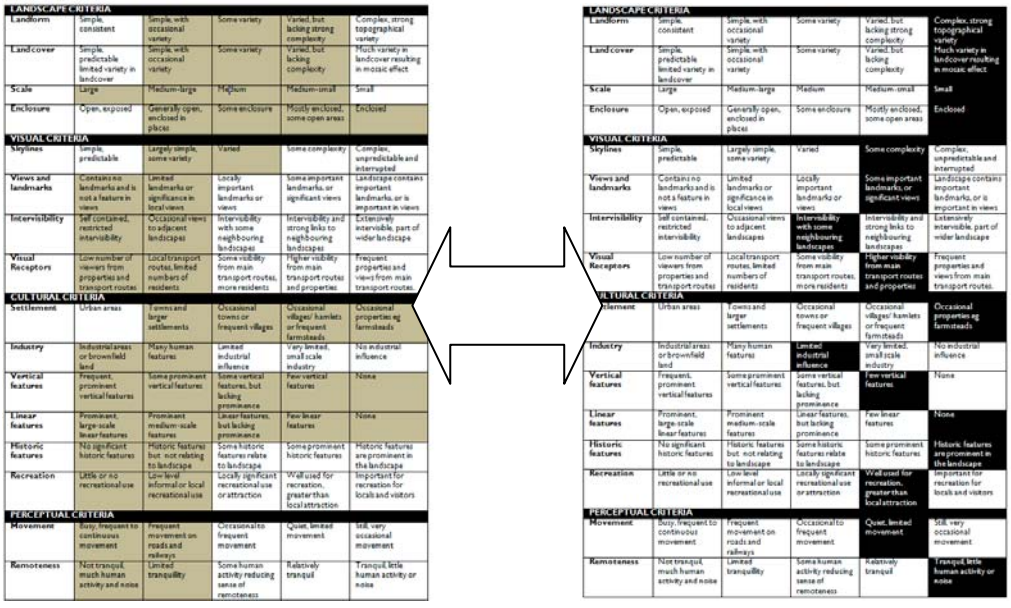
Diagram C1.2 Comparison of criteria

Indicators of reduced sensitivity to the development type

Attributes of the character area



Good correlation, likely lower sensitivity



Poor correlation, likely higher sensitivity

1.15. However, the relative importance of the criteria varies, and sensitivity has been assessed through professional judgement, rather than through the adoption of a rigid scoring system. As the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* notes, there are "*complex relationships between the different components of the landscape*".[3]

1.16. For different landscape character areas, different criteria are considered more or less important. Those criteria which relate to 'key qualities' identified in Part B of the NLCA are therefore afforded greater weight.

1.17. Where character areas lie close to protected landscapes (ie Northumberland National Park and the two AONBs), this is taken into account. In areas where intervisibility is with a protected landscape, the intervisibility criterion is afforded greater weight in the balance of judgement.

1.18. For each landscape character area, therefore, sensitivity depends on a range of factors which have been carefully balanced through the making of professional judgements.

1.19. For each landscape character area, an assessment table summarises the results of this process. The assessment tables are included in Appendix C2 to this document. Each table includes a brief statement on sensitive landscape elements, drawing on the key qualities and guiding principles set out in Part B of the NLCA. For each land use, there is a brief discussion of the most important factors which have led to the judgement of sensitivity. Sensitivity to each development type is recorded as either *high*, *moderate*, or *low*. These categories are defined in Table C1.1.

Table C1.1 Sensitivity categories

High	This landscape has limited ability to absorb this particular development type without significant detriment to its key characteristics. There may be some scope for development, although it would need to be sensitively sited and designed, and mitigation measures implemented. Scope for effective mitigation is likely to be more limited.
Moderate	This landscape has some ability to absorb this particular development type without significant detriment to its key characteristics. There is scope for sensitively sited development to be accommodated within this landscape. A greater range of mitigation measures are likely to be effective.
Low	This landscape can readily absorb this particular development type without significant detriment to its key characteristics. Development is likely to relate well to this landscape, although consideration must still be given to the key characteristics in the detailed siting and design of proposals. There is likely to be greater scope for effective mitigation measures.

[3] Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment, *op. cit.* Section 7.45

1.20. The assessed landscape sensitivity is relative to the landscapes of the study area. Areas are identified as of high, medium or low sensitivity to a particular development type, as compared to the other landscapes within the study area. These assessments are not, therefore, directly comparable to other sensitivity studies.

1.21. The identification of areas of high sensitivity is not intended to establish 'no-go' areas, in which any development would be unacceptable. Rather, the high sensitivity landscapes are those in which extra care must be taken in siting, designing and mitigating the impacts of development. Similarly, low sensitivity landscapes will not necessarily be able to accommodate any and all development. Consideration must still be given to location and site design, as well as mitigation.

2. KEY LAND USES

2.1. This section discusses the key land uses which are the focus of the landscape sensitivity study. It includes a brief overview of relevant policy issues, which has led to the refinement of the study area for some land uses. The key features of each development type and the indicators of sensitivity are then set out.

POLICY REVIEW

Minerals

2.2. National minerals policy and guidance, as set out in the Government's Minerals Policy Statements and Minerals Planning Guidance, establishes the framework to ensure that minerals development contributes to the aims of sustainable development, meets the needs of industry and the wider economy and society, and balances the potential for adverse environmental effects. The policy statements and guidance notes recognise the unique challenges of minerals development – namely that it relies on finite, geographically constrained resources and methods of extraction that are intrinsically damaging to the environment – while imposing strict standards on all aspects of the process.

2.3. National policy imposes a presumption against opencast coal extraction unless the environmental impacts of proposals can be effectively mitigated, or are clearly outweighed by the public interest. This is a significant issue for Northumberland – and across the Region – as a result of the long history of coal extraction and ongoing issues with environmental impacts.

2.4. Given the importance of aggregates to the construction sector, and to the economy of the North East, the former North East Regional Spatial Strategy[4] (RSS) set broad landbank guidelines for each sub-region to 2021. However, these had become out of date, and new apportionment work down to sub-regions has been undertaken by the Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP), who have provided their figures in technical advice to Government. It is understood that the RAWP advice will become a material planning consideration.

2.5. The 'saved' policies of the Northumberland Minerals Local Plan 2000 broadly reflect the provisions of national policy. The 'preferred areas' for minerals development established by this plan continue to apply until superseded by the forthcoming county-wide local development framework.

Waste

2.6. PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management[5] provides the framework around which regional and local authorities must base their planning policies relating to waste management and disposal. It establishes the need for strategic identification of waste management issues at the regional level and the necessary attendant pattern of facilities required to deal with projected arisings. Similarly, it sets out criteria for

[4] Government Office for the North East (2008) The North East of England Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021. Revoked 6 July 2010.
[5] ODPM (2005) Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management.

local planning authorities to apply in allocating sites to meet strategic and locally identified needs.

2.7. The RSS set testing targets for waste recovery to restrict the amount of waste going to landfill – traditionally the favoured means of disposal in the region, given the relative availability of voids resulting from mineral extraction – in line with the National Waste Strategy[6] and the European Union Landfill Directive (99/31/ED). For Northumberland, the former RSS predicted that municipal solid waste arisings would continue to grow in the sub-region until 2013, at which point they were predicted to stabilise at 288,000 tonnes per annum. It also predicted that commercial and industrial waste would continue to increase, reaching around 660,000 tonnes per annum by 2021.

2.8. The policies 'saved' from the Northumberland Waste Local Plan 2001 are reflected in the Northumberland Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2003), which covers the period up to 2020 and sets out the major changes needed to implement national policy, achieve the necessary reductions in waste arisings and create the required capacity for waste recovery, recycling and disposal of processed residues. The 2001 saved policies will continue to stand until superseded by the forthcoming local development framework. The availability of former minerals sites and brownfield land relating to past industries provides significant potential for the development of suitable waste management infrastructure across the County.

Renewable energy

2.9. PPS 22: Renewable Energy[7] states that increased development of renewable energy resources is vital to facilitating the delivery of the Government's commitments on both climate change and renewable energy. One of the key principles set out within PPS 22 is that regional spatial strategies and local development documents should contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources.

2.10. A Regional Renewable Energy Strategy (RRES) was produced for the North East[8] which explores the issues associated with different forms of renewable energy. In addition to energy crops, this highlights the role of additional biomass sources such as wood too small for traditional uses, forest residues and clean waste wood from wood processing and industry.

2.11. New national targets for renewable energy generation have been issued, and the North East Region is currently undertaking a regional renewable energy study which will provide evidence to inform targets for inclusion within the new Northumberland Core Strategy. The revocation of the RSS leaves Northumberland without a minimum sub-regional target for renewable energy generation, and it is understood that the Council is considering whether to endorse the continued use of the sub-regional target set out in Policy 39 of the RSS. This policy included the following aims:

[6] Defra (2007) Waste Strategy for England 2007.
[7] ODPM (2004) Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy.
[8] North East Assembly (2005) North East Regional Renewable Energy Strategy.

- "*facilitate the generation of at least 10% of the Region's consumption of electricity from renewable sources within the Region by 2010 (454 MW minimum installed capacity);*

- *aspire to further increase renewable electricity generation to achieve 20% of regional consumption by 2020.*"

2.12. In addition, a minimum sub-regional target of 212MW installed capacity was set for Northumberland. This target has not been met.

2.13. The present study examines the sensitivity of Northumberland's landscapes to two forms of renewable energy: commercial wind power; and commercial biomass plantations.

Wind power

2.14. The former RSS identified a number of 'wind resource areas', based on ' broad areas of least constraint', and these areas have so far been the focus of wind farm proposals, although the RSS did not exclude the possibility of other sites being suitable. Some of these areas appear in the Alnwick Core Strategy, but the revocation of the RSS leaves a policy gap elsewhere. It is understood that the Council is considering whether to endorse the continued use of the broad areas of least constraint, or whether to operate a criteria-based approach utilising policies in LDFs and saved Local Plans, in conjunction with up to date national planning policy guidance.

2.15. Policy 41 of the RSS identified 11 wind resource areas, which were derived from a regional-scale study of landscape sensitivity to wind farms.[9] The following wind resource areas are within Northumberland:

- South and West Berwick upon Tweed;
- North/ South Charlton;
- Knowesgate area;
- Harwood Forest;
- Northern Coalfield south of Druridge Bay; and
- Kiln Pit Hill area.

2.16. In addition, Kielder Forest was identified as a Strategic Renewables Resource Area, with potential for large-scale wind power development.

2.17. As of 1 September 2010, there were 3 operational wind farms in the County, with a total installed capacity of 8.5 MW. These are listed in Table C2.1. A further 10

[9] J. Benson et al, Landscape Research Group, University of Newcastle (2003) *Landscape Appraisal for Onshore Wind Development*. Government Office for the North East.

schemes, representing a potential 291 MW, have been consented to date (Table C2.2). A number of other schemes are in the planning or pre-application stages.[10]

Table C2.1 Operational wind farms in Northumberland

Wind farm	Capacity (MW)	No. turbines
Blyth Harbour	2.7	9
Blyth Offshore	4	2
Kirkheaton	1.8	3

Table C2.2 Consented wind farms in Northumberland

Wind farm	Capacity (MW)	No. turbines
Barmoor South Moor	13.8	6
Bewick Drift Wind Farm	9	3
Blyth Harbour Repowering	20	7
Green Rigg	36	18
Kiln Pit Hill	12	6
Lynemouth	30	13
Middlemoor	75	18
MSD Cramlington	5	2
Ray Estate	60	20
Wandylaw Moor	30	10

2.18. A key contributor to renewable energy targets was to be a Strategic Renewables Resource Area centred on Kielder Reservoir. An indicative 350 MW wind farm was proposed for this area, but any development is on hold due to objections from the Ministry of Defence.

Biomass

2.19. Biomass is defined in PPS22 as:

"*Biomass is the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from agriculture (including plant and animal substances), forestry and related industries, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste.*"

2.20. The North East RRES recognises biomass as the Region's second most significant renewable energy resource, with key projects including the use of wood-derived fuel

[10] Data from Northumberland County Council and British Wind Energy Association: http://www.bwea.com/ukwed/index.asp

in a co-firing trial at the ALCAN power station, and Teesside Sembcorp project which envisages the development of a wood burning power station at Wilton. Other important projects are using biomass to heat schools and homes, particularly in areas not linked to the gas network and in properties using electricity for space and water heating. The expansion of the biomass sector therefore has a key role in supporting rural recovery and developing sustainable communities.

2.21. PPS 22 notes that biomass projects have the potential to lead to increased traffic through the transportation of crops to the energy production plant. It identifies that local planning authorities should make sure that generation plants are located in as close a proximity as possible to the sources of fuel that have been identified.

2.22. Northumberland County Council identified that the landscape impacts of energy crops should be considered through the study, and that this includes short rotation coppice and miscanthus. Short rotation coppice (SRC) takes the form of woodland plantations, grown for use as woodchips. Typical species include willow and poplar on a 3-5 year rotation, and ash, alder, hazel, silver birch, sycamore, sweet chestnut and lime on a 8-15 year rotation. Miscanthus (*Miscanthus giganteus*), a large grass growing up to four metres in height, is the main alternative biomass crop in the UK.

2.23. Defra has produced maps which illustrate potential energy crop yields for SRC[11] and miscanthus[12] for all England's regions. For Northumberland, potential yield from SRC is medium along the coastal edge and high for the intermediate farmland between the coastal edge and the upland of the National Park. All areas of Northumberland, except the upland areas to the west, are identified as having potential for medium yield of miscanthus.

2.24. Defra has also prepared guidance notes on the opportunities for, and optimum siting of energy crops, for each National Character Area within the North East Region.[13]

DEVELOPMENT LOCATIONS

2.25. Some of the development types were considered likely to occur only in certain areas within the study area. This applies particularly to mineral extraction (coal and aggregates), as these can be extracted only where the resource exists. In addition, the Defra work on capability for biomass crops has enabled the study to focus on areas where yields are likely to be reasonable. Waste landfill is limited by the availability of suitable sites.

2.26. Although wind power is theoretically limited by a range of constraints, including wind speed, technological advances have enabled development across a broader area, and therefore the entire study area has been considered in relation to wind.

2.27. Drawing on the policy and guidance noted in the preceding section, certain landscape character areas have been excluded from the assessment of sensitivity to certain land

[11] http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/crops/industrial/energy/opportunities/pdf/yield/src/ne_src_yield_250.pdf

[12] http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/crops/industrial/energy/opportunities/pdf/yield/miscanthus/ne_miscanthus_yield_250.pdf

[13] http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/crops/industrial/energy/opportunities/ne.htm

uses. These are summarised below, and an overview of the character areas which have been evaluated against each development type is provided in Appendix C1.

Mineral extraction

2.28. The main pressure areas for coal extraction have been identified by the Council as follows. These areas are shown on Figure C2.1.

- South-east Northumberland coalfield area;
- Midgeholme/Plenmeller;
- Tyne/Derwent watershed area; and
- South-west of Scremerston.

2.29. The main pressure areas for hard rock extraction (whinstone and carboniferous limestone for crushed rock) have been identified by the Council as follows. These areas are shown on Figure C2.1.

- For whinstone, pressure exists along the Whin Sill, particularly:
    - East and west of Belford; and
    - North-east and south-west of Alnwick.
- For limestone, pressure exists along the Great Limestone, particularly the area running from Haydon Bridge in the Tyne Valley, through Kirkheaton, to Forestburn Gate south of Rothbury.

2.30. The main pressure areas for sand and gravel extraction have been identified by the Council as follows. These areas are shown on Figure C2.1.

- Milfield Plain and the Till and Breamish valleys;
- Coquet valley;
- Tyne valley; and
- The Derwent tributary.

Waste landfill

2.31. The Council has indicated that, within the current planning period, consideration is only likely to be given to the extension of existing landfill sites. The sensitivity assessment therefore focuses on the areas around the existing sites at Ellington Road and Seghill. These sites are shown on Figure C2.1.

Biomass crops

2.32. The Defra study of land capability for biomass crops identified areas which would be likely to produce 'high', 'medium' and 'low' yields of SRC and miscanthus. It was decided to remove areas predicted to give low yields of both crops from the study area. These largely relate to the upland areas in the south of the study area, and

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▸ Pressure Areas for Mineral Extraction and Waste Landfill

- Study Area
- Landscape Character Area Boundaries

- Pressure areas Whin
- Pressure areas Sand Gravel
- Pressure areas Limestone
- Pressure areas Coal

- Existing landfill sites

Map Scale 1:450,000

Figure C2.1

LUCGL 4723-001-r0

include the upper dales and moors of the North Pennines, and one area within the Northumberland sandstone hills.

KEY FEATURES AND INDICATORS OF SENSITIVITY

2.33. This section sets out the key features of each development type, in terms of their potential impacts upon the landscape. Corresponding indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity have been identified as a result.

2.34. The three development types of opencast coal extraction, waste landfill, and hard rock extraction, are to some extent similar. There are a number of important differences in the way these activities are perceived in the landscape, but they share underlying characteristics. Most importantly, all three types create large-scale disturbances, resulting in extensive removal of landscape features, and significant modification to the local landscape. As a result, the indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity to these three development types were found to be similar.

2.35. Key differences include the storage of overburden, which is particularly high for opencast coal extraction, but lower for the other types. Due to the volume of material removed, hard rock quarries usually cannot be restored to their original profile, whereas coal and waste sites can be restored to something like their original state. Waste landfill has additional associated effects arising from wind-blown litter, odour and pests, which do not affect extraction sites. The following sections set out the key features of each type.

Opencast coal extraction

2.36. The key features of this development type:

- Removal of existing landscape features;
- Large-scale excavation and associated visual intrusion, including lighting at night;
- Movement and storage of waste excavated material, with large amounts of material stored above ground;
- Mitigation measures during operation including screening landforms and planting;
- Nuisance including noise, dust, blasting and vibration, and frequent heavy vehicle movements on local roads;
- High ration of overburden to coal, meaning that land can usually be restored to its original landform; and
- Establishment of restored landscape features in the long term.

Waste landfill

2.37. The key features of this development type:

- Removal of existing landscape features;

- Large-scale excavation and associated visual intrusion, including lighting at night and prominent litter control fencing;
- On site water storage and treatment to avoid water pollution;
- Nuisance including dust, noise, odour and litter, as well as frequent heavy vehicle movements on local roads;
- Mitigation measures during operation including screening landforms and planting;
- Pest control measures including netting and audible 'bird-scarers';
- Creation of new landform and establishment of restored landscape features in the long term.

Hard rock extraction

2.38. The key features of this development type:

- Removal of existing landscape features;
- Medium- to large-scale excavation and associated visual intrusion, including lighting at night;
- Often deep workings, with a low percentage of stored overburden;
- Movement and storage of excavated material before and after crushing;
- Nuisance including noise, dust, blasting and vibration, and frequent heavy vehicle movements on local roads;
- Mitigation measures during operation including screen planting;
- Due to the volume of material removed, restoration to original profile is not usually possible;
- Introduction of new landscape features, such as cliffs and rock outcrops, in the long term following restoration.

2.39. The indicators of potentially reduced landscape sensitivity to these three development types are listed below, and are illustrated in Table C2.3. The shaded boxes in the table indicate where reduced sensitivity lies on each scale.

- Moderate variety in **landform**;
- Moderate variety in **landcover**;
- Medium or large **scale**;
- Moderate or greater **enclosure**;
- Relative simplicity of **skylines**;

- Few **landmarks** and low significance in **views**;
- Limited **intervisibility** with adjacent landscapes;
- Low numbers of **receptors**;
- Moderate or limited **settlement**;
- Higher prevalence of **industrial features**;
- Presence of **vertical features** is not directly applicable to this development type;
- Presence of **linear features** is not directly applicable to this development type;
- Few prominent historic features;
- Lower levels of **recreational** use;
- More frequent levels of **movement**;
- Lower levels of **remoteness** and tranquillity.

Table C2.3 Indicators of reduced sensitivity to open cast extraction and landfill

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
Landform	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
Land cover	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
Scale	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
Enclosure	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
VISUAL CRITERIA					
Skylines	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or views	Some important landmarks, or significant views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
Intervisibility	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
Visual Receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
CULTURAL CRITERIA					
Settlement	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
Industry	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
Linear features	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
Historic features	No significant historic features	Historic features but not relating to landscape	Some historic features relate to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Recreation	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
Movement	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
Remoteness	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise

Sand and gravel extraction

2.40. Sand and gravel extraction typically takes place along river valleys, exploiting fluvial deposits of graded aggregates.

2.41. The key features of this development type are:

- Removal of existing landscape features;
- Location within river valleys;
- Excavation, machinery and lighting, resulting in visual intrusion;
- Noise and visual intrusion of on-site processing and frequent heavy vehicle movements on local roads;
- Mitigation measures such as mounding and planting;
- Replacement with restored landscape, potentially including open water, in the long term.

2.42. The indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity to this development type are listed below, and are illustrated in Table C2.4.

- Some variety in **landform**;
- Some variety in **landcover**;
- Greater **enclosure**;
- Some variation in **skylines**;
- Few **landmarks** and low significance in **views;**
- Limited **intervisibility** with adjacent landscapes;
- Low numbers of **receptors**;
- Less dense **settlement**;
- Higher prevalence of **human features**;
- Presence of **vertical features** is not directly applicable to this development type;
- Presence of **linear features** is not directly applicable to this development type;
- Lower levels of **recreational** use;
- Busy to frequent levels of **movement**;
- Reduced **remoteness** and tranquillity.

Table C2.4 Indicators of reduced sensitivity to sand and gravel extraction

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
Landform	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
Land cover	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
Scale	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
Enclosure	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
VISUAL CRITERIA					
Skylines	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or views	Some important landmarks, or significant views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
Intervisibility	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
Visual Receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
CULTURAL CRITERIA					
Settlement	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
Industry	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
Linear features	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
Historic features	No significant historic features	Historic features but not relating to landscape	Some historic features relate to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Recreation	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
Movement	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
Remoteness	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise

Large-scale wind power development

2.43. Large-scale wind power development is defined in this study as any wind farm with more than five turbines, with no upper limit set. Turbine height has not been considered as a key factor, as most commercially available wind turbines are likely to have broadly similar potential landscape and visual effects.

2.44. The key features of this development type are:

- Large scale vertical moving structures extending over a large area;
- Turbines are visible over a broad area;
- Removal of landscape features is usually limited;
- Access tracks, substation buildings and power lines; and
- Disturbance and vehicle movements during construction phase.

2.45. The indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity to this development type are listed below, and illustrated in Table C2.5.

- Simple and consistent **landform**;
- Simple **landcover** with limited to occasional variety;
- Large to medium large **scale**;
- Limited or moderate **enclosure**;
- Simple or slightly varied **skylines**;
- Limited **landmarks** or role of the landscape within key **views**;
- Limited **intervisibility** with neighbouring landscapes;
- Lower numbers of **receptors**;
- Presence of **settlement** is not directly applicable to this development type, although it may be an indicator of receptors (see above);
- Greater presence of **industrial features**;
- Prominent **vertical** features;
- Prominent **linear** features
- Fewer prominent **historic features**;
- Limited **recreational** use;
- Moderate or greater levels of **movement**; and

Reduced remoteness and tranquillity.

Table C2.5 Indicators of reduced sensitivity to large-scale wind power development

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
Landform	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
Land cover	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
Scale	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
Enclosure	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
VISUAL CRITERIA					
Skylines	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or views	Some important landmarks, or significant views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
Intervisibility	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
Visual Receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
CULTURAL CRITERIA					
Settlement	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
Industry	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
Linear features	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
Historic features	No significant historic features	Historic features but not relating to landscape	Some historic features relate to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Recreation	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
Movement	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
Remoteness	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise

Small-scale wind power development

2.46. Small-scale wind power development is defined in this study as being any wind farm with five or fewer turbines. Turbine height has not been considered as a key factor, as most commercially available wind turbines are likely to have broadly similar potential landscape and visual effects. However, this typology is not intended to include small domestic and community turbines.

2.47. The key features of this development type are:

- Large scale vertical moving structures extending over a limited area;
- Turbines are visible over a broad area;
- Removal of landscape features is usually limited;
- Access tracks, substation buildings and power lines; and
- Disturbance and vehicle movements during construction phase.

2.48. The indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity to this development type are similar to those outlined for large scale wind farm development, however small scale wind power development can be accommodated within a wider range of tolerance for the majority of criteria. The range of these indicators is illustrated in Table C2.6.

Table C2.6 Indicators of reduced sensitivity to small-scale wind power development

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
Landform	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
Land cover	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
Scale	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
Enclosure	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
VISUAL CRITERIA					
Skylines	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or views	Some important landmarks, or significant views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
Intervisibility	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
Visual Receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
CULTURAL CRITERIA					
Settlement	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
Industry	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
Linear features	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
Historic features	No significant historic features	Historic features but not relating to landscape	Some historic features relate to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Recreation	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
Movement	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
Remoteness	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise

Biomass crops

2.49. As noted above, biomass crops will take the form of broadleaf plantations for SRC, or fields of tall miscanthus grass. The two types are considered likely to have similar landscape and visual effects. SRC plantations may cause greater visual obstruction, although miscanthus will be more noticeable in the landscape, as it is currently a relatively unusual crop. The landscape impact will vary with the scale of plantations.

2.50. The key features of this development type:

- Single species broadleaf woodland plantations with even age structure;
- (and/or) fields of miscanthus grass;
- Cleared land following harvest.

2.51. The indicators of reduced landscape sensitivity to this development type are listed below, and are illustrated in Table C2.7.

- Limited or moderate variety in **landform**;
- Moderate or greater variety in **landcover**, with existing woodland blocks and existing cropping patterns;
- Typically medium to medium-large **scale** landscapes will be more suitable;
- Moderate **enclosure**;
- Moderate variation in **skylines**;
- Limited **landmarks**, as plantations may restrict **views** to features, however sensitive siting could reduce this impact;
- Moderate or limited **intervisibility**;
- Moderate or lower levels of visitors or viewers will reduce the number of **receptors** affected by restricted views;
- The presence of development and man-made structures, including **settlement**, **industry**, **vertical** and **linear features**, is not directly applicable to this development type, as it does not comprise overtly man-made elements;
- Limited **historic features** and lower levels of **recreational use** as plantations may restrict views;
- Some **movement** within the landscape will reduce sensitivity, however this is not a significant criteria for this development type;
- Some human activity and evidence of cropping within the landscape – reduced **remoteness**.

Table C2.7 Indicators of reduced sensitivity to biomass plantations

LANDSCAPE CRITERIA					
Landform	Simple, consistent	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking strong complexity	Complex, strong topographical variety
Land cover	Simple, predictable limited variety in landcover	Simple, with occasional variety	Some variety	Varied, but lacking complexity	Much variety in landcover resulting in mosaic effect
Scale	Large	Medium-large	Medium	Medium-small	Small
Enclosure	Open, exposed	Generally open, enclosed in places	Some enclosure	Mostly enclosed, some open areas	Enclosed
VISUAL CRITERIA					
Skylines	Simple, predictable	Largely simple, some variety	Varied	Some complexity	Complex, unpredictable and interrupted
Views and landmarks	Contains no landmarks and is not a feature in views	Limited landmarks or significance in local views	Locally important landmarks or views	Some important landmarks, or significant views	Landscape contains important landmarks, or is important in views
Intervisibility	Self contained, restricted intervisibility	Occasional views to adjacent landscapes	Intervisibility with some neighbouring landscapes	Intervisibility and strong links to neighbouring landscapes	Extensively intervisible, part of wider landscape
Visual Receptors	Low number of viewers from properties and transport routes	Local transport routes, limited numbers of residents	Some visibility from main transport routes, more residents	Higher visibility from main transport routes and properties	Frequent properties and views from main transport routes.
CULTURAL CRITERIA					
Settlement	Urban areas	Towns and larger settlements	Occasional towns or frequent villages	Occasional villages/ hamlets or frequent farmsteads	Occasional properties eg farmsteads
Industry	Industrial areas or brownfield land	Many human features	Limited industrial influence	Very limited, small scale industry	No industrial influence
Vertical features	Frequent, prominent vertical features	Some prominent vertical features	Some vertical features, but lacking prominence	Few vertical features	None
Linear features	Prominent, large-scale linear features	Prominent medium-scale features	Linear features, but lacking prominence	Few linear features	None
Historic features	No significant historic features	Historic features but not relating to landscape	Some historic features relate to landscape	Some prominent historic features	Historic features are prominent in the landscape
Recreation	Little or no recreational use	Low level informal or local recreational use	Locally significant recreational use or attraction	Well used for recreation, greater than local attraction	Important for recreation for locals and visitors
PERCEPTUAL CRITERIA					
Movement	Busy, frequent to continuous movement	Frequent movement on roads and railways	Occasional to frequent movement	Quiet, limited movement	Still, very occasional movement
Remoteness	Not tranquil, much human activity and noise	Limited tranquillity	Some human activity reducing sense of remoteness	Relatively tranquil	Tranquil, little human activity or noise

3. SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

3.1. The following section discusses the findings of the landscape and visual sensitivity assessment. Evaluation tables for each landscape character area are included in Appendix C2. The tables note the assessed sensitivity of each character area to each development type, and include justification based on the NLCA.

3.2. Figures C3.1 to C3.7 illustrate the pattern of landscape and visual sensitivity to each development type across the study area.

3.3. Generally, the results show a high level of sensitivity across the County to several of the key land uses. This reflects the high impact of these development types, particularly opencast extraction and large-scale wind farms.

3.4. This sensitivity assessment has been carried out at a County-wide scale, with no detailed assessment of smaller areas. There may therefore be local variations in sensitivity (either increased or decreased) within character areas. The sensitivity assessment can act only as guidance: each proposal must be considered on its own merits.

OPENCAST COAL EXTRACTION

3.5. The evaluation of sensitivity to opencast coal extraction was limited to four identified pressure areas, as set out in Section 2.28. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.1. No areas have been assigned low sensitivity, largely due to the particularly high impacts on the landscape and views which are associated with this development type. Each of the four pressure areas is discussed below.

South-east Northumberland coalfield area

3.6. In south-east Northumberland, the coastal strip north and south of Blyth is of high sensitivity, due to its importance as a recreational resource, and of views along the coast. Sensitivity decreases inland, away from the coastal strip. Much of this landscape has already been worked for coal, and the evidence of past and current extraction remains visible in places. However, there are also pockets of land unaffected by extraction, which would have locally higher sensitivity. Sensitivity is also assessed as higher around the main settlements, due to the density of residential receptors.

Midgeholme/Plenmeller

3.7. The Midgeholme/Plenmeller area is of high sensitivity. It lies close to the North Pennines AONB, and is also close to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. This area includes open moorland in a prominent location above the Tyne Gap, and also sections of the South Tyne valley, which is a smaller-scale landscape with historic and recreational interest. Views from the AONB and Hadrian's Wall would be a key consideration for siting and mitigation proposals in the area.

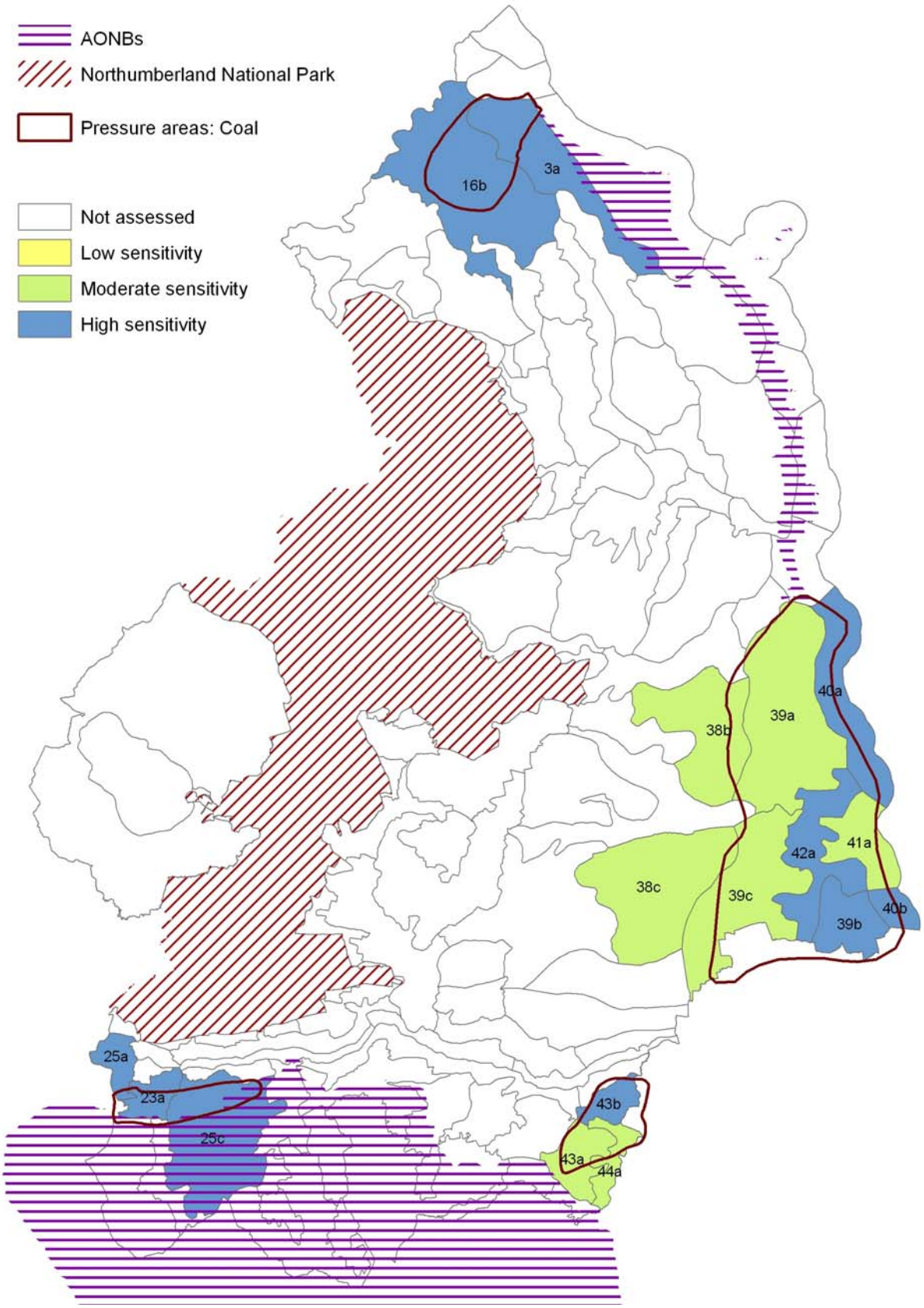
Tyne/Derwent watershed area

3.8. The Tyne/Derwent area also has some areas of moderate sensitivity. These upland areas have again been subject to mineral extraction in the past, but are highly visible from a range of receptors. The area to the north is particularly visible from Prudhoe and other receptors within the Tyne Gap, such that this sensitive ridge has been assigned high sensitivity. Further south there is more limited intervisibility with the North Pennines AONB. The area is well used for recreation, and is close to the more settled area around Consett in County Durham.

South-west of Scremerston

3.9. The Scremerston area is principally rural, with little modern human influence in places. It is a settled landscape in which the effects of opencast mining could not be easily mitigated. It is also in the vicinity of the Northumberland Coast AONB, although intervisibility is relatively limited from further inland due to higher ground along the coast. Inland areas are potentially more visible from Northumberland National Park, and these views should be considered in siting and mitigation proposals. These landscapes are of high sensitivity.

Figure C3.1 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Opencast Coal Extraction

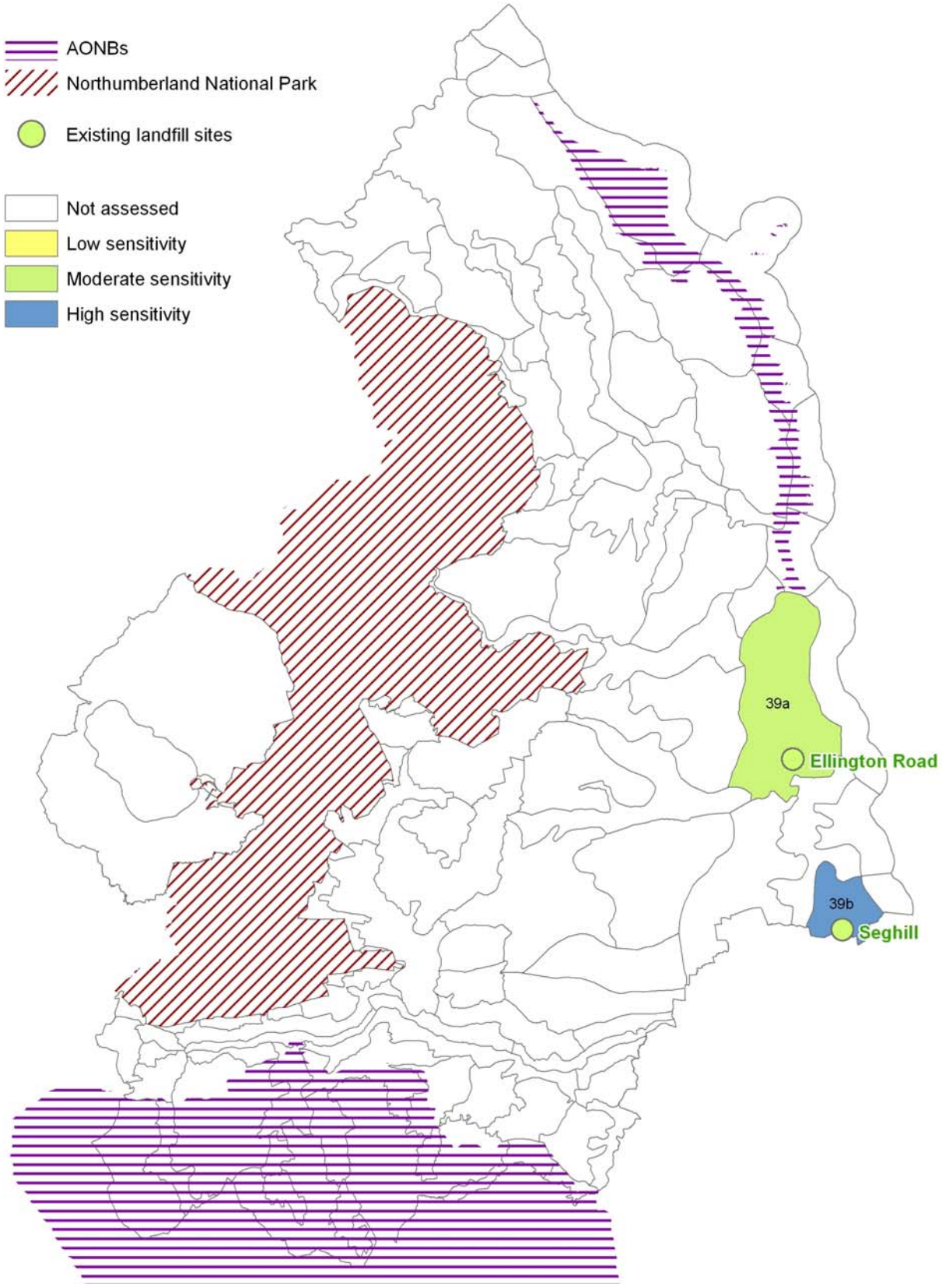


WASTE LANDFILL

3.10. The evaluation of landscape sensitivity to waste landfill focused on just two character areas, which are the locations of existing landfill sites which may be extended. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.2.

3.11. The evaluation indicates that the landscape around the Seghill landfill is more sensitive than that around the Ellington Road site. This is largely as a result of the greater number of receptors, primarily residents, in the Seghill area as compared to the vicinity of Ellington Road. However, there are also high numbers of potential receptors around the latter site, and moderate sensitivity has been assessed.

Figure C3.2 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Waste Landfill



HARD ROCK EXTRACTION

3.12. The evaluation of landscape sensitivity to hard rock extraction for crushed rock focused on two areas of the Whin Sill for whin extraction, and the area of the Great Limestone for limestone extraction, as set out in Section 2. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.3.

Whin Sill

3.13. The whin areas in the north of the County are generally of higher sensitivity where they are within or adjoining the Northumberland Coast AONB. This is particularly so in the area east of Belford, and close to the landmark features around Bamburgh. This area is highly visible from a number of key locations, including the A1, and the open coastal views are a key feature of the landscape. The Kyloe and Belford Hills are more detached from the AONB, but are assigned moderate sensitivity due to their relative prominence in a number of views. The Belford Hills area in particular is visible from locations within the AONB.

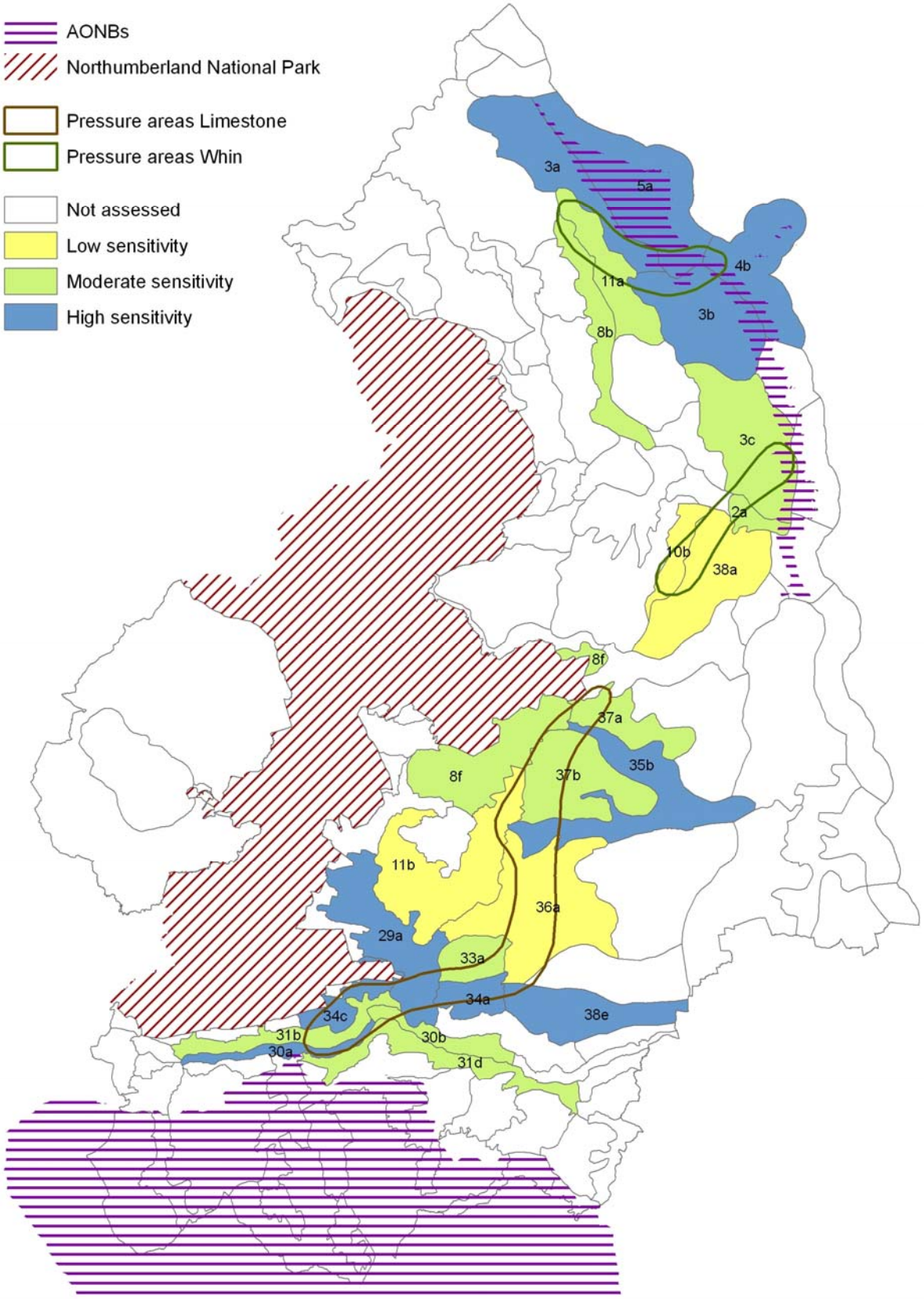
3.14. North-east of Alnwick, the landscape is more self-contained, and is simpler in composition. There is some visibility from the AONB and the A1 corridor. The high level of recreational use associated with Alnwick and the AONB coast must be a key consideration when siting any proposals in this area. The area south of Alnwick has been assigned low sensitivity, as this area is not greatly visible, and not heavily used for recreational purposes. To the west, the upland fringe of Alnwick Moor is potentially visible from Alnwick, but is a simple landscape and is also assigned low sensitivity.

Great Limestone

3.15. Where limestone areas are within valleys, they have generally been assigned higher sensitivity, as at the Font, Wansbeck and North Tyne valleys. Some areas along the Tyne Gap are also assessed as high sensitivity, in part due to the presence of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (34a, 34c, 38e), although there may be sites which would not affect the setting of the Wall. Other parts of the Tyne Gap are considered to be of moderate sensitivity, where views from the National Park and Hadrian's Wall are less significant, and where existing infrastructure affects the landscape. Regard must be had to the high numbers of receptors, including residents, within this area.

3.16. Moderate sensitivity has also been assigned to the *Lowland Farmed Ridges* (LCT 37), as these are relatively more visible from the settled farmland to the east, as well as in views from the National Park to the west. Low sensitivity is applied to the upland fringe areas between the North Tyne and Wansbeck valleys. These areas include moorland and marginal farmland, which is sparsely settled and has more limited recreational use. They are generally large-scale landscapes capable of absorbing larger-scale interventions. An exception is *Harwood Forest* (character area 8f), assigned moderate sensitivity due to its proximity to the National Park, and presence in views from the popular Simonside Hill.

Figure C3.3 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Hard Rock Extraction



SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION

3.17. The evaluation of landscape sensitivity to sand and gravel extraction focused on four pressure areas, as noted in Section 2. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.4.

Milfield Plain and the Till and Breamish valleys

3.18. The lowest sensitivity has been assessed for the valleys of the Breamish and Till. The former is a low-lying vale, between areas of higher ground, and with few receptors or landmarks. The unusually flat basin of the Rivers Till and Glen around Milfield has been extensively exploited, and the human-influenced landscape shows less sensitivity. Both these areas are overlooked from the Cheviot Hills, within Northumberland National Park. However, they are seen as active landscapes, and carefully sited and screened extraction works need not have an extensive adverse effect on tranquillity. Around these areas are landscapes of moderate sensitivity, relating to smaller-scale valleys, such as the Bowmont Water, and farmland with more intricate land cover patterns.

3.19. The highest sensitivity areas in this northern portion of Northumberland are the flanks of the Cheviot foothills, which are outliers of Northumberland National Park, and the area north-east of the Milfield Basin, which is close to the villages of Ford and Etal, with their high level of historical interest and visitor attractions.

3.20. Views across this low-lying area, particularly from inside the National Park, but also towards it from the hills to the east, should be carefully considered in siting and mitigation, including restoration, of proposals in this area.

Coquet valley

3.21. The Coquet valley and the area to the north have also been assigned higher sensitivity, due to the smaller scale of the Coquet, its relationship to the National Park, and the higher historic and recreational value of these landscapes. Views into the valley from the National Park should be considered as part of siting and mitigation, including restoration, for any extraction proposals.

Tyne valley

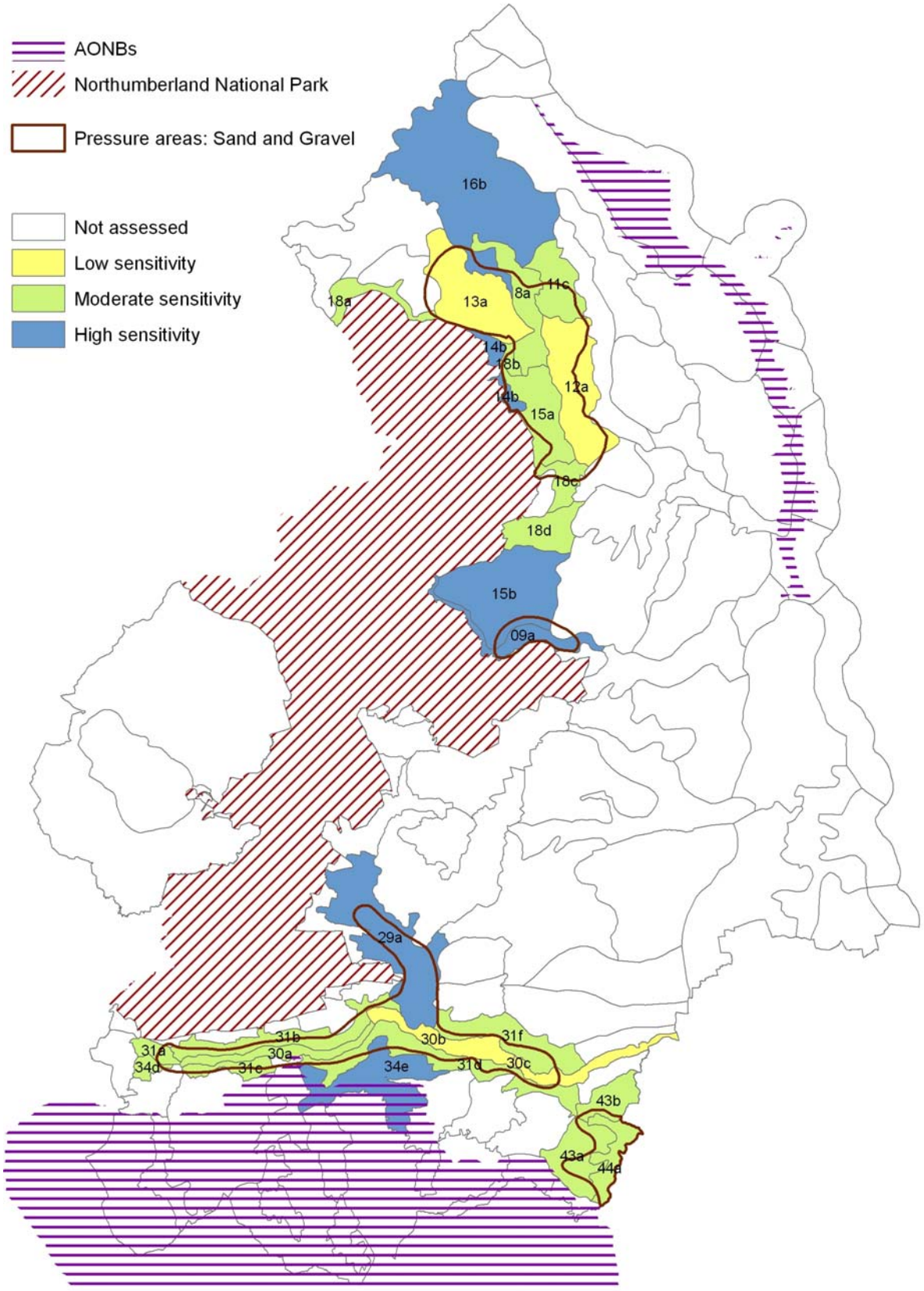
3.22. Around the North and South Tyne valleys, the lowest sensitivity has been assessed for the valley floor downstream from Newbrough. These flat alluvial plains are extensively settled, and although there are large number of receptors, there is also much human influence in the landscape. The valley sides are of higher sensitivity, as they become increasingly visible, particularly from key transport routes, and around settlements. Further west, the valley floor becomes less human-influenced. Areas outside the Tyne Gap have been evaluated as high sensitivity. The higher land above the valley is much more visible, while the North Tyne valley is a more intimate, intricate landscape, which has less capacity to accommodate large-scale extraction.

Derwent tributary

3.23. The small pressure area around the Derwent tributary has been assigned moderate sensitivity. This area is less densely settled than the Tyne valley, although there are views into the valley from the more settled area around Consett in County Durham. The higher parts of this area are relatively exposed, being visible from the Tyne valley

and the North Pennines AONB. However, sand and gravel extraction is likely to be limited to valley floor areas, though wider views should be considered in siting and mitigation.

Figure C3.4 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Sand and Gravel Extraction



LARGE-SCALE WIND POWER

3.24. The evaluation of landscape sensitivity to large-scale wind power schemes examined the whole County, as set out in Section 2. Large-scale wind power development is defined in Section 2 as wind farms of more than five turbines of any size. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.5. Extensive areas have been assessed as being of high sensitivity, and no areas have been assigned low sensitivity, due to the high impacts on the landscape and views, often extending over a broad area, which are associated with this development type.

3.25. Higher sensitivity has been assessed across large areas of the study area. These areas can be grouped as follows:

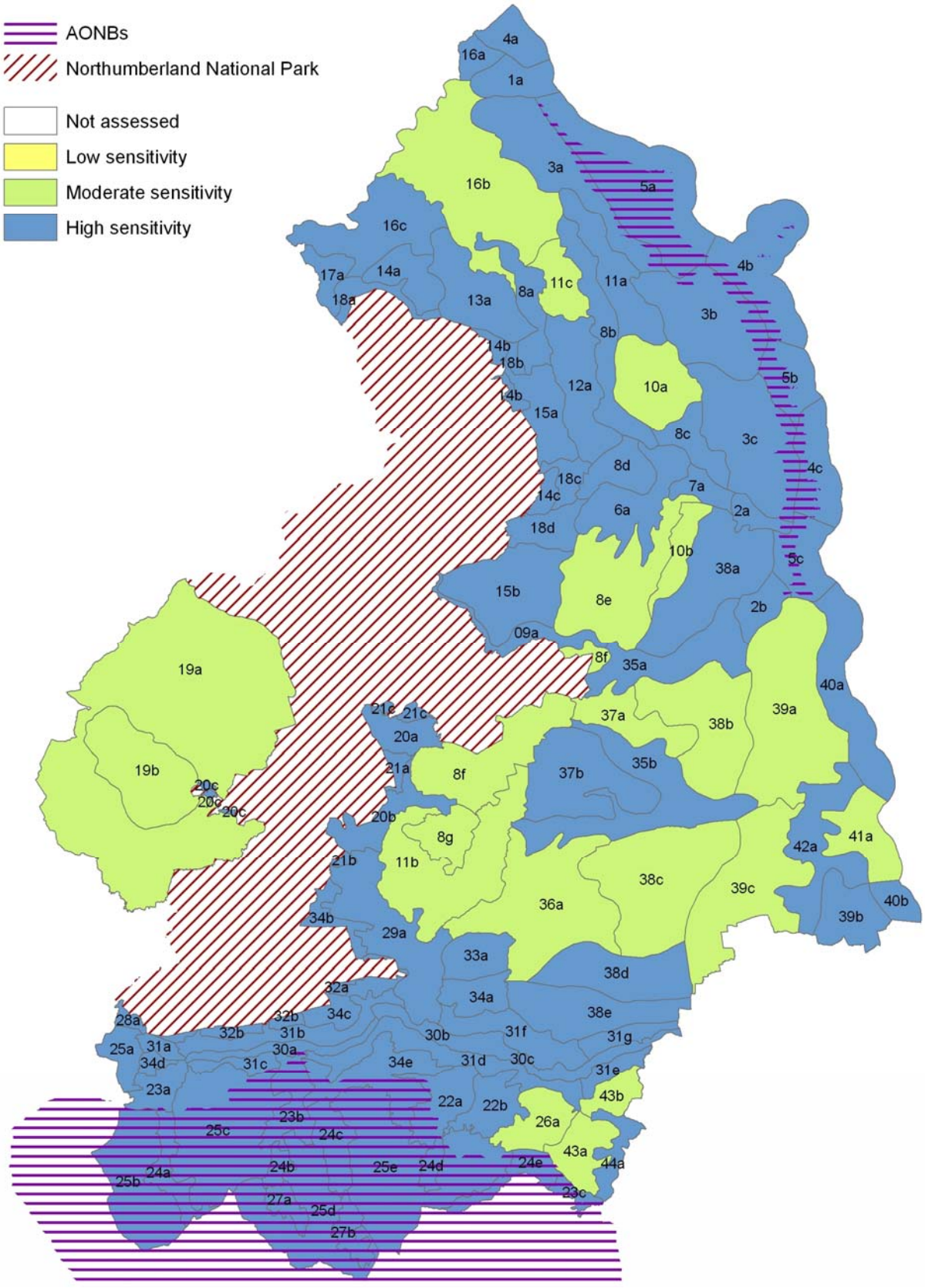
- Northumberland Coast AONB and surroundings;
- Other undeveloped coastal locations;
- North Pennines AONB and surroundings;
- Areas at the fringe of Northumberland National Park;
- The Tyne Gap;
- Other river valleys;
- Prominent ridges such as the Kyloe Hills; and
- The densely settled parts of south-east Northumberland.

3.26. Areas of moderate sensitivity include the Kielder moors and Kielder Reservoir. These large-scale upland areas have few receptors, and although the reservoir receives large numbers of visitors, it is already a strongly human-influenced landscape. Other areas of less densely settled open farmland and upland fringe are considered to be of moderate sensitivity, including the area around Lowick, Rosebrough Moor, Rothbury Forest, Harwood and Knowesgate, and Ingoe Moor. Some of these areas are visible from the National Park, but are considered to be of lower sensitivity on their own account. Views from the national park must be a key consideration in siting and designing any proposals in these areas. Parts of south-east Northumberland are also assigned lower sensitivity, due to the extent of human influence, and the relatively open scale of the landform, although pockets of higher-sensitivity landscape do occur.

3.27. Particular attention is also required to the potential for indirect effects upon adjacent landscape character areas, arising from the intervisibility of the character area with its neighbouring landscapes. The broader visibility associated with wind turbines indicates that cross-boundary effects will be more likely. This assessment has principally addressed the sensitivity of each character area to development within its own boundaries, particularly with regard to views in and out. However, the findings offer a firm guide as to the likely sensitivity of a character area to development in an adjacent character area. As noted in Section1, boundaries are to some extent notional, and represent zones of transition from one level of sensitivity to another.

3.28. Due to the potential variety of wind farm scale within this typology (from six turbines, to potentially dozens), there may be some variation in sensitivity to developments at the larger or smaller end of this scale.

Figure C3.5 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Large-scale Wind Farms



SMALL-SCALE WIND POWER

3.29. The evaluation of landscape sensitivity to small-scale wind farms examined the whole County, as set out in Section 2. Small-scale wind power development is defined in Section 2 as wind farms of up to five turbines of any size. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.6.

3.30. Higher sensitivity has been assessed for a number of landscapes within the County. These are primarily concentrated around landscapes and landscape features which already have significant protection, indicating greater potential for landscape and visual effects. Areas within and adjacent to the Northumberland Coast AONB and the North Pennines AONB are generally considered to be of high sensitivity, as are areas along the course of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. A number of areas with a strong relationship to Northumberland National Park have also been evaluated as being of higher sensitivity, including the valleys immediately adjacent to the Cheviot Hills and the upland commons. Where intervisibility is more limited, or where adjacent landscapes are considered less sensitive on their own account, moderate sensitivity has been assigned. Views from protected landscapes must be a key consideration when siting and designing any proposals.

3.31. Other areas not specifically protected are considered to be of higher sensitivity for a range of reasons. Prominent ridges, such as the Kyloe Hills and Doddington Moor, are of high sensitivity due to their visible nature. Several valley landscapes, including the Aln and Coquet, and parts of the Tyne Gap, are of high sensitivity due to their smaller scale, which does not lend itself to large turbines.

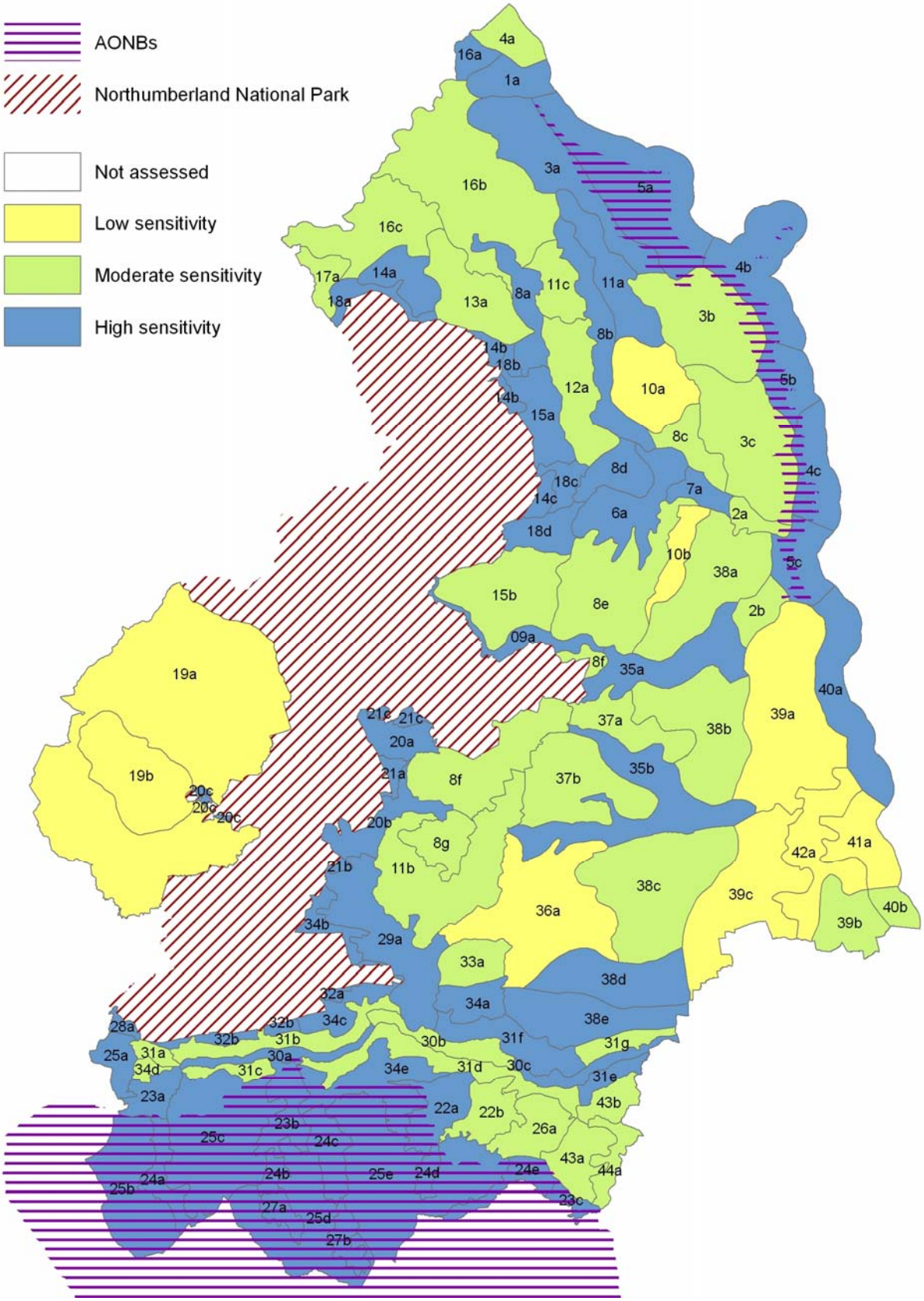
3.32. Areas assigned moderate sensitivity include farmland and upland fringe landscapes, where these are open, larger-scale, and more sparsely settled. Less prominent sections of the sandstone hills have been assigned a moderate sensitivity. Parts of the Tyne Gap are considered to be of moderate sensitivity due to the more human-influenced landscape character.

3.33. The areas assigned the lowest sensitivity include Kielder Reservoir and Forest. This large-scale upland has few receptors, and although the reservoir receives large numbers of visitors, it is already a strongly human-influenced landscape. Other upland and upland fringe areas of lower sensitivity are Rosebrough Moor and Ingoe Moor, both large in scale and sparsely settled, they are not greatly prominent in views from other landscapes. Parts of south-east Northumberland are also considered to be of lower sensitivity, due to the extent of human influence, and the relatively open scale of the landform, although pockets of higher-sensitivity landscape do occur.

3.34. Particular attention is also required to the potential for indirect effects upon adjacent landscape character areas, arising from the intervisibility of the character area with its neighbouring landscapes. The broader visibility associated with wind turbines indicates that cross-boundary effects will be more likely. This assessment has principally addressed the sensitivity of each character area to development within its own boundaries, particularly with regard to views in and out. However, the findings offer a firm guide as to the likely sensitivity of a character area to development in an

adjacent character area. As noted in Section1, boundaries are to some extent notional, and represent zones of transition from one level of sensitivity to another.

Figure C3.6 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Small-scale Wind Farms



BIOMASS PLANTATIONS

3.35. The evaluation of sensitivity to biomass plantations examined all of the study area, with the exception of some upland areas set out in Section 2. Relative sensitivity is illustrated in Figure C3.7.

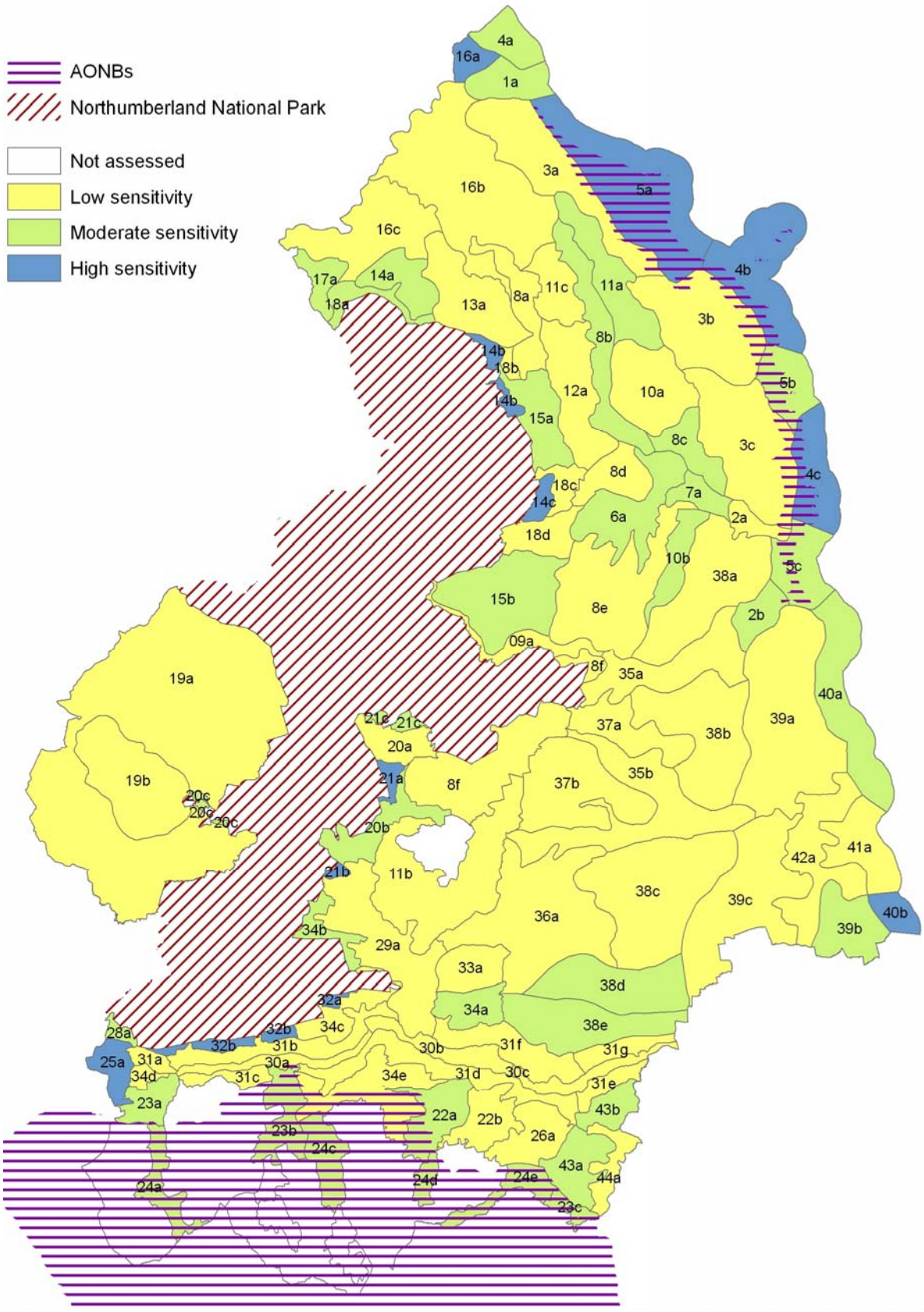
3.36. The intrinsic characteristics of biomass plantations are generally far less intrusive than other development types considered in this study. As a result, relatively few areas have been assigned higher sensitivity to this type, with the majority of the study area assessed as low sensitivity. Nevertheless, any proposals should be carefully sited and designed in order to achieve a fit with the landscape, particularly with regard to views from protected landscapes and other sensitive receptors.

3.37. High sensitivity has been assessed for parts of the Northumberland Coast AONB, and other coastal locations, particularly the most open, exposed areas which are almost devoid of trees. Landscapes immediately adjacent to Northumberland National Park, and which are prominent parts of the National Park's setting, have also been assigned high sensitivity.

3.38. Moderate sensitivity has been assessed for a number of valley landscapes, including the North Pennine Dales, and valleys adjacent to the National Park, as well as parts of the Aln valley. Areas with significant historic interest, such as around Hadrian's Wall, and substantial designed landscapes, such as Seaton Delaval and Hulne Park, are also considered to be of moderate sensitivity. Other parts of the coast, and the prominent ridge of the Kyloe Hills, are evaluated as moderate.

3.39. The potential difference in effect between the two types of biomass crop, miscanthus and SRC, should also be taken into account. While neither crop is considered to be greatly obtrusive, miscanthus may be perceived as out of place in certain landscapes. Generally, miscanthus would be better suited to larger-scale farmland or urban fringe landscapes, and may look particularly out of place in an upland. SRC on the other hand may be more suited to upland and upland fringe areas, or landscapes with higher levels of existing woodland.

Figure C3.7 Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Biomass Plantations



CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

3.40. This section briefly discusses the potential for cumulative effects to occur, in relation to each development type.

3.41. Cumulative effects occur due to the combined effects of a number of different developments, where these effects are greater than the sum of the effects of the individual developments. Cumulative effects on the landscape occur when a number of developments, and the relationship between them, begins to influence the overall character and perception of a particular landscape. Cumulative visual effects occur where the observer is aware of more than one development, either within a single view (*combined* effects), in different views from the same location (*successive* effects) or when seen *sequentially* when moving through a landscape.

Coal extraction

3.42. Direct cumulative effects of coal extraction may be uncommon, as there are likely to be relatively few instances of this type of development. However, indirect effects include the longer-term effects of landscape restoration, following the extraction phase. The effects of this can be seen in south-east Northumberland, where the extensive former workings have been restored in a manner which is often inconsistent with the pre-existing landscape character. Restoration proposals must therefore be given detailed scrutiny, not just in terms of proposed landscape elements, but also in terms of the likely character which a restored landscape will achieve, and the compatibility of this character with the surrounding landscape. This should be particularly carefully considered in areas likely to come under more intensive pressure either now or in the future, in order to maintain consistency of character through successive phases of restoration. Likely future pressure for redevelopment of post-extraction sites, as brownfield land, should also be given attention.

Waste landfill

3.43. Cumulative effects are not an issue for this type, as only a very limited number of developments are likely to occur.

Hard rock extraction

3.44. This development type is unlikely to be frequent across the landscape, and direct cumulative effects are therefore less likely. Mitigation approaches including planting (preferably native) to screen and filter views, will assist in reducing cumulative visual effects. Longer-term indirect effects are associated with landscape restoration, where post-extraction landscapes are not always compatible with the pre-existing landscape. Restoration proposals must therefore be given detailed scrutiny in terms of the likely character which a restored landscape will achieve, and the compatibility of this character with the surrounding landscape. This should be particularly carefully considered in areas likely to come under more intensive pressure either now or in the future.

Sand and gravel extraction

3.45. The cumulative effects of this development type may affect the Milfield Basin in particular, where extraction is currentlyunderway, and is likely to continue in the

future. The greater potential density of extraction operations suggests that mitigation measures should be carefully considered, including woodland screen planting proposals to reduce visual effects. Restoration proposals should ensure that landscapes are returned to their pre-extraction character, in terms of landscape features and elements. Retention of woodlands may be desirable, as they can also function as screening during extraction. Large water bodies may not be appropriate in this area, which is widely overlooked from higher ground. Above all, views from the National Park are a key factor in considering potential cumulative effects of proposals in this area, as well as views towards the Cheviot Hills from the lower hills to the east.

3.46. Sequential cumulative effects may be an issue along the Tyne Gap, where extraction sites may be located along the line of key transport routes, such as the A69 and the Newcastle to Carlisle railway. Screening of sites in views from such routes will reduce the potential for sequential visual effects.

Wind farms

3.47. Cumulative effects are a key issue for wind farms (both large and small typologies) due to their visibility over broad areas. Where multiple developments are constructed in close proximity, or where neighbouring landscapes are strongly intervisible with one another, cumulative effects will be more intense, but other areas will be unaffected. Conversely, where development is more dispersed, cumulative effects will be less intense but will affect a much wider area. The balance between these two scenarios, ie concentration versus dispersal, is a fine one.

3.48. Natural England do not currently offer detailed guidance on cumulative effects, but recent Scottish guidance suggests that a pattern of 'clusters' of wind farms, separated by gaps, will reduce cumulative effects by maintaining a clear separation between landscapes with and without wind farms.[14] The guidance also notes that these gaps would need to be large in scale.

3.49. Clusters of wind farms are already developing in Northumberland, often coinciding with the identified 'wind resource areas'. Examples include the consented Ray and Green Rigg proposals in the west, and the consented Middlemoor and Wandylaw schemes north of Alnwick. At present, gaps between these emerging clusters are suitably large in scale. Overall, separation as described in the Scottish guidance is considered to be achievable in a local authority the size of Northumberland.

3.50. The present study has not carried out a detailed examination of the potential cumulative effects of current proposals, as this would only be a 'point in time' assessment, which would quickly be outdated. The cumulative effects of each proposed development should be individually assessed, based on the existing, consented and proposed wind farms in the landscape or in the planning system at the time.

3.51. Cumulative assessments are normally carried out in stages:

[14] Scottish Natural Heritage (2009) Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape, p.44-45

- firstly considering the application site in conjunction with existing sites and those under construction;
- secondly by considering sites that have planning consent; and
- finally by considering sites that are the subject of a valid but as yet undetermined planning application. This last category will be more speculative than the others.

3.52. The assessment can also include sites where wind farm proposals have been subject of scoping reports, although these will usually be far less well-developed.

3.53. The process is normally informed by combining the zones of theoretical visibility (ZTV) of different wind farm developments, to identify those locations from where more than one development would be visible. Further wire frame analysis and the preparation of photomontages may be required to examine the cumulative visual effects.

3.54. Factors to consider in interpreting the results of the cumulative visual assessment include:

- the arrangement, balance, and composition of wind farm developments in the view, e.g. in one direction or part of the view, or seen in all directions;
- the relationship and compatibility of design and scale of wind farm developments (or several distinct groups of turbines within an overall larger wind farm development), including the number, size and design of turbines;
- the relationship and compatibility between the layout of different wind farm developments, e.g. where one wind farm development may be a group or a line of turbines, and another may be a laid out on a grid, and the way aspect can influence how turbines are lit or silhouetted in the landscape;
- the position of the wind farm developments in the view, e.g. on the skyline, or against the backdrop of land;
- the sense of distance between the wind farm developments and the distance between the viewer and different wind farm developments;
- the extent to which different wind farm developments appear to merge to create the impression of much larger developments, further raising issues of size and the compatibility of different layouts and designs;
- the relative prominence of the wind farm developments within key views, taking into account the composition of the view and the nature of foregrounds and any backdrops; and
- the extent to which there are cumulative effects with other vertical elements, for example prominent or skylined communications infrastructure.

Biomass plantations

3.55. Cumulative effects of biomass plantations are considered to be likely only where very large plantations are established, which may lead to similar types of effect which are associated with large-scale commercial forestry. However, assuming that current forestry design good practice is followed, large-scale monoculture is unlikely to be established for biomass production. In the event that miscanthus becomes an increasingly common crop, there may be cumulative effects where stands are seen frequently throughout the landscape. Consideration must be given to combined effects on views from sensitive locations and protected landscapes. As noted above, biomass plantations are generally far less intrusive than other development types considered in this study, and significant cumulative effects are not, therefore, considered likely to be a significant issue.

Appendix C1

Areas to which sensitivity assessments to different development types have been applied

LCT No.	Landscape character type (LCT)	Character area No.	Landscape character area	Open cast coal	Crushed rock	Sand and gravel	Waste landfill	Small scale wind	Large scale wind	Biomass
1	Broad River Mouth	1a	Tweed River Mouth	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
2	Coastal Incised Valley	2a	Lower Aln	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
2	Coastal Incised Valley	2b	Lower Coquet	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
3	Farmed Coastal Plain	3a	Haggerston	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
3	Farmed Coastal Plain	3b	Lucker	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
3	Farmed Coastal Plain	3c	Rock	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
4	Rocky Coastline	4a	North Tweed Coast	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
4	Rocky Coastline	4b	Farne Islands Coast	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
4	Rocky Coastline	4c	Craster Coast	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
5	Sandy Coastline	5a	Holy Island Coast	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
5	Sandy Coastline	5b	Beadnell and Embleton Bays	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
5	Sandy Coastline	5c	Aln and Coquet Estuaries	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
6	Broad Sandstone Valley	6a	Whittingham Vale	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
7	Estate Valley	7a	Hulne Park	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8a	Doddington Ridge	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8b	Kyloe and Chillingham Hills	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8c	Charlton Ridge	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8d	Beanley Moor	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8e	Rothbury Forest	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8f	Harwood Forest	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
8	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8g	Sweethope and Blackdown	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
9	Sandstone Upland Valleys	9a	Coquetdale	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
10	Smooth Moorland	10a	Rosebrough Moor	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
10	Smooth Moorland	10b	Alnwick Moor	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
11	Sandstone Fringe Farmland	11a	Belford Hills	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
11	Sandstone Fringe Farmland	11b	Buteland and Colt Crag	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
11	Sandstone Fringe Farmland	11c	Hetton	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
12	Broad Farmed Vale	12a	Breamish Vale	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
13	Broad Floodplain Valley	13a	Till and Glen Valleys	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
14	Igneous Foothills	14a	Moneylaws and Coldside	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
14	Igneous Foothills	14b	Wooler Foothills	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

LCT No.	Landscape character type (LCT)	Character area No.	Landscape character area	Open cast coal	Crushed rock	Sand and gravel	Waste landfill	Small scale wind	Large scale wind	Biomass
14	Igneous Foothills	14c	Old Fawdon	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
15	Upland Fringe Farmland	15a	Lilburn and Roddam	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
15	Upland Fringe Farmland	15b	Upper Coquet	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
16	Open Rolling Farmland	16a	Halidon	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
16	Open Rolling Farmland	16b	Duddo and Lowick	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
16	Open Rolling Farmland	16c	East Learmouth	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
17	Upland Fringe Ridges	17a	Horse Rigg	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
18	Upland Fringe Valley	18a	Bowmont Valley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
18	Upland Fringe Valley	18b	Wooler Vale	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
18	Upland Fringe Valley	18c	Upper Breamish	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
18	Upland Fringe Valley	18d	Upper Aln	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
19	Moorland and Forest Mosaic	19a	Kielder and Redesdale Forests	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
19	Moorland and Forest Mosaic	19b	Kielder Reservoir	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
20	Rolling Upland Valleys	20a	Otterburn and Elsdon Valley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
20	Rolling Upland Valleys	20b	Bellingham and Woodburn Valley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
20	Rolling Upland Valleys	20c	Upper North Tyne Valley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
21	Rolling Uplands	21a	Corsenside Common	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
21	Rolling Uplands	21b	Ealingham Rigg	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
21	Rolling Uplands	21c	Otterburn Plateau	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
22	Farmed River Valleys	22a	Devil's Water and Hinterland	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
22	Farmed River Valleys	22b	Dipton Wood and Slaley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
23	Lower Dale	23a	Lower South Tyne	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
23	Lower Dale	23b	Lower Allenheads	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
23	Lower Dale	23c	Lower Derwent	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
24	Middle Dale	24a	Middle South Tyne	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
24	Middle Dale	24b	Middle West Allen	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
24	Middle Dale	24c	Middle East Allen	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
24	Middle Dale	24d	Middle Devil's Water	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
24	Middle Dale	24e	Middle Derwent	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
25	Moorland Ridges	25a	Blenkinsopp Common	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
25	Moorland Ridges	25b	Hartleyburn and Knarsdale Commons	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
25	Moorland Ridges	25c	Whitfield Moor	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
25	Moorland Ridges	25d	Allen Common and Mohope/Acton Moors	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗

LCT No.	Landscape character type (LCT)	Character area No.	Landscape character area	Open cast coal	Crushed rock	Sand and gravel	Waste landfill	Small scale wind	Large scale wind	Biomass
25	Moorland Ridges	25e	Hexhamshire and Bulbeck Commons	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
26	Upland Farmland and Plantations	26a	Healey	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
27	Upper Dale	27a	Upper West Allen	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
27	Upper Dale	27b	Upper East Allen	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
28	Basin Valley and Fringes	28a	River Irthing	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
29	Broad Wooded Valley	29a	North Tyne Valley	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
30	Glacial Trough Valley Floor	30a	Haltwhistle to Newbrough	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
30	Glacial Trough Valley Floor	30b	Newbrough to Corbridge	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
30	Glacial Trough Valley Floor	30c	Corbridge to Wylam	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31a	Tipalt Burn	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31b	Haltwhistle to Bridge End	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31c	North Plenmeller Common	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31d	Langley to Stocksfield	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31e	Stocksfield to Prudhoe	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31f	Acomb to Ovington	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
31	Glacial Trough Valley Sides	31g	Ovington to Wylam	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
32	Parallel Ridges and Commons	32a	Howden Hill	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
32	Parallel Ridges and Commons	32b	Haltwhistle, Melkridge and Ridley Commons	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
33	Tributary Valley	33a	Erring Burn	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
34	Upland Commons and Farmland	34a	Acomb Ridge	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
34	Upland Commons and Farmland	34b	Broadpool Common	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
34	Upland Commons and Farmland	34c	Grindon Common	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
34	Upland Commons and Farmland	34d	Featherstone Common	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
34	Upland Commons and Farmland	34e	Lowes and Nubbock Fells	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
35	Broad Lowland Valley	35a	Coquet Valley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
35	Broad Lowland Valley	35b	Font and Wansbeck Valleys	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

LCT No.	Landscape character type (LCT)	Character area No.	Landscape character area	Open cast coal	Crushed rock	Sand and gravel	Waste landfill	Small scale wind	Large scale wind	Biomass
36	Lowland Farmed Moor	36a	Ingoe Moor	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
37	Lowland Farmed Ridges	37a	Wingates Ridge	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
37	Lowland Farmed Ridges	37b	Longwitton Ridge	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
38	Lowland Rolling Farmland	38a	Longframlington	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
38	Lowland Rolling Farmland	38b	Longhorsley	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
38	Lowland Rolling Farmland	38c	Whalton and Belsay	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
38	Lowland Rolling Farmland	38d	Pont Valley	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
38	Lowland Rolling Farmland	38e	North Tyne Ridge	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
39	Coalfield Farmland	39a	Coastal Coalfields	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Coalfield Farmland	39b	Seaton Delaval	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Coalfield Farmland	39c	Stannington	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
40	Broad Bays and Dunes	40a	Druridge Bay	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
40	Broad Bays and Dunes	40b	Seaton Dunes	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
41	Developed Coast	41a	Blyth and Wansbeck Estuaries	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
42	Urban and Urban Fringe	42a	Ashington, Blyth and Cramlington	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
43	Coalfield Upland Fringe	43a	Kiln Pit Hill Hinterland	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
43	Coalfield Upland Fringe	43b	Prudhoe Hinterland	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
44	Coalfield Valley	44a	Derwent Valley	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

Appendix C2

Sensitivity Evaluation Tables

Landscape Character Area:	1a Tweed River Mouth		
LCT	Broad River Mouth	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The Tweed mouth opens out to the North Sea, providing the setting for the historic town of Berwick, and its distinctive landmark bridges.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The relative simplicity of this landscape suggests reduced sensitivity. However, it includes important landmarks and is highly visible from Berwick and from key transport routes. Although there are frequent human features, including vertical features, historic elements are prominent, and the area is important for tourism.		High
Large-scale wind	The medium scale of this landscape, and the proximity to the large settlement of Berwick, suggest even greater sensitivity than for small-scale wind power.		High
Biomass	Again, the prominence of historic landmarks and the importance for tourism suggests greater sensitivity, although the nature and scale of landform and landcover may be less sensitive.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Any plantations or wind turbines would necessarily have to be sited to maintain the open nature of views to and from the historic settlement and the landmark bridges, as well as views along the coast, taking into account the likely sensitivities of residential receptors and tourists.			

Landscape Character Area:	2a Lower Aln		
LCT	Coastal Incised Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The Aln meanders through this steep-sided valley, which forms the setting for the town of Alnwick. It is cut off from direct coastal influence by the village on Alnmouth on a promontory.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	The relatively simple landform and landcover, and medium-scale enclosed nature of this valley, suggest reduced sensitivity. There are also many human features within the valley, associated with Alnwick, leading to reduced tranquillity. On the other hand, the valley forms the setting for historic features, is visible from transport routes, and provides some recreational value.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The enclosed valley landscape is indicative of greater sensitivity, despite the relative simplicity of form. The importance of visual features and historic elements also suggests increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Large-scale wind power schemes are unlikely to come forward in an incised valley. The landform, visibility and smaller scale indicate high sensitivity to this type.		High
Biomass	Most of the indicators suggest that this landscape could accommodate biomass plantations, with only the presence of historic features indicating any increased sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Developments within the valley would have to have regard to the setting of Alnwick and Alnmouth, and any historic features, including the outer parts of the Hulne Park Registered Park and Garden. Screening of extraction works could be achieved by woodland structure planting to limit views from transport routes and settlements. Planting should reflect existing landscape structure, as should any long-term restoration proposals.			

Landscape Character Area:	2b Lower Coquet		
LCT	Coastal Incised Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	The steep-sided wooded valley of the Coquet meanders through more open coastal farmland, and forms part of the setting of Warkworth.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The medium-small scale of this landscape, and the importance of views and landmarks, suggests a higher sensitivity. Many indicators are on the border line in this landscape, such as the degree of human influence.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Large-scale wind power schemes are unlikely to come forward in an incised valley. The greater scale of such schemes would not relate to the medium-small valley.		High
Biomass	Again the medium-small scale of the landscape may indicate increased sensitivity, although other factors may be suited to biomass. Plantations may be able to sit well in the more open parts of the landscape.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Any proposals should be steered away from the 'inner valley', being the incised course of the Coquet, which is often gorge-like and picturesque, and towards the more open coastal farmland which flanks it. Development should respect the settings of settlements and historic features, including the prominent tower of Warkworth Castle, as well as the estate village of Guyzance.			

Landscape Character Area:	3a Haggerston		
LCT	Farmed Coastal Plain	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This area of farmland, stretching from Berwick to Belford, has a coastal influence, and is generally open. It is backed by the Kyloe Hills, and looks out towards Holy Island. The area is on the western edge of the Northumberland Coast AONB.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies to the northern end of this area. The simple, larger-scale landform, and simple skylines, suggests reduced sensitivity. However, the landscape is visible from key routes and settlements, including Berwick, and there is relatively little industrial influence. The proximity of the important recreational resources has also been considered.		High
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the southern part of this area, around Belford. Here the landform is slightly more complex, as the coastal plain is squeezed into a narrow strip. The landscape remains very visible from key routes, and the popular coastal strip.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The form, scale and complexity of the landscape suggests some reduced sensitivity. However, there are important landmarks and views in this area, including the A1 and ECML routes, as well as views from the coast. There are also few vertical features.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The indicators for biomass plantations suggest lower sensitivity, with the exception of historic features, which include the prominent Haggerston Castle, and vernacular architecture.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Any development must consider the potential for views from the Northumberland Coast AONB, and visual impacts upon visitors. Inland and seaward views, as well as those along the coast, should be taken into account. Views from the main settlements of Berwick and Belford should be considered, as well as effects on the setting of the historic town of Berwick. There may be opportunities to improve existing landscape structure as part of mineral restoration plans.			

Landscape Character Area:	3b Lucker		
LCT	Farmed Coastal Plain	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This coastal influence on this area of farmland is reduced by rising ground to the east. The arable landscape is relatively sparsely settled, and is generally open. It is backed by the Kyloe Hills, and has some relationship with the coastal strip.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the northern part of this area, around Belford. Here the landform is slightly more complex, due to the outcroppings of the Whin Sill at Belford Station. The landscape is very visible from key routes, and from the popular coastal strip, which includes elevated viewpoints at Bamburgh Castle.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The form, scale and complexity of the landscape suggests some reduced sensitivity. The area does not have any significant landmarks, although it is visible from the A1 and ECML routes, as well as from the coast. There are some vertical features, and little recreational use, although historic features are prominent.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Views from the coastal strip are more likely to be affected by large scale schemes, although the large scale of this character area does indicate some potential.		High
Biomass	The indicators for biomass plantations suggest lower sensitivity, with the exception of historic features, which include the prominent Haggerston Castle, and vernacular architecture.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Any development must consider the potential for views from the Northumberland Coast AONB, and visual impacts upon visitors. Inland and seaward views, as well as those along the coast, should be taken into account. Effects on prominent landmarks outside the area, including Bamburgh Castle, should be considered. There may be opportunities to improve existing landscape structure as part of mineral restoration plans.			

Landscape Character Area:	3c Rock		
LCT	Farmed Coastal Plain	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This coastal influence on this area of farmland is limited by rising ground to the east. The arable landscape is well wooded with occasional estate landscapes. It is backed by the Charlton Ridge, and has some relationship with the coastal strip.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the southern part of this area, between Howick and Alnwick. The medium-large scale, with some enclosure and limited complexity, suggests some capacity for extraction. Visual criteria also suggest moderate sensitivity. However there is limited existing industry, and the area has historic and recreational value.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The form, scale and complexity of the landscape suggests some reduced sensitivity. The area has few significant landmarks, although it is visible from the A1 and ECML routes, as well as from the coast. There are some existing vertical features.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Views from the coastal strip are more likely to be affected by large scale schemes, and the more varied, wooded land cover suggests higher sensitivity.		High
Biomass	The indicators for biomass plantations suggest lower sensitivity, with the exception of historic features, which include the estate landscape at Howick Hall.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Any development must consider the potential for views from the Northumberland Coast AONB, and visual impacts upon visitors. Inland and seaward views, as well as those along the coast, should be taken into account. This landscape has a well-established structure of shelterbelts and estate woodland, and any plantations should be designed to fit into this pattern. Restoration of any mineral extraction sites should also relate to this structure.			

Landscape Character Area:	4a North Tweed Coast		
LCT	Rocky Coastline	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This section of high rocky cliffs stretches north from Berwick upon Tweed, and continues into the Scottish Borders.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The complexity of this coastal landscape suggests increased sensitivity, although it offers some enclosure within simple skylines. The cliffs are important landmarks in themselves, very visible from the A1 and ECML. The area is well used for recreation, although there are some prominent human features, and the transport routes reduce tranquillity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The relatively small scale of the landward part of this landscape suggests higher sensitivity to larger developments. The area is also prominent in views along the coast, including from popular locations to the south of Berwick.		High
Biomass	The complexity of this landscape, and its high visibility from key routes, suggests higher sensitivity, although other factors including the lack of prominent historic features, suggest the reverse.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Any development must take account of potential views from the Northumberland Coast AONB and visual impacts on visitors. The coastal views from the key transport routes should also be considered.			

Landscape Character Area:		4b Farne Islands Coast	
LCT	Rocky Coastline	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	The sweeping views along this coast are a key factor, with the upstanding landmark of Bamburgh Castle, and the offshore Farne Islands, forming visual foci. The area is within the Northumberland Coast AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the northern end of this area, around Bamburgh. Although some indicators point to reduced sensitivity, the visual factors and the importance of Bamburgh Castle as a historic landmark and tourist attraction, are the key factors.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This landscape is complex in terms of landform and landcover. There are significant landmarks and large numbers of receptors. There is little industry, few vertical features, and prominent historic elements.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	There is some complexity in landcover, although this does not relate to woodland cover. There are significant landmarks, and large numbers of receptors, particularly recreational users.		High
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures would need to address the high visual sensitivity of this landscape, primarily in terms of sympathetic siting. Site design should aim to avoid effects on key views and landmarks, as well as on important landscape features such as the dune systems. Proposed development, and associated mitigation measures, should take account of the areas situation within the Northumberland Coast AONB.			

Landscape Character Area:		4c Craster Coast	
LCT	Rocky Coastline	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	The sweeping views along this coast are a key factor, with the ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle forming a visual focus. The area is within the Northumberland Coast AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This landscape is relatively simple in terms of landform and landcover. There are significant landmarks and large numbers of receptors. There is little industry, few vertical features, and prominent historic elements.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Although some factors indicate reduced sensitivity, there are significant landmarks, and large numbers of receptors, particularly recreational users.		High
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures would need to address the high visual sensitivity of this landscape, primarily in terms of sympathetic siting. Site design should aim to avoid effects on key views and landmarks. Proposed development, and associated mitigation measures, should take account of the areas situation within the Northumberland Coast AONB.			

Landscape Character Area:	5a Holy Island Coast		
LCT	Sandy Coastline	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The key features of this landscape are the sweeping tidal sands, offering broad views across to Holy Island and its prominent castle. The area is part of the Northumberland Coast AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the southern part of this area around Waren Mill. The landscape here is strongly influenced by the prominent landmarks of Bamburgh Castle and Lindisfarne Castle, which combine with the sweeping coastal views.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a visually diverse landscape with important landmarks, and is visible from key routes. There are limited modern human influences and key historic features within this popular area.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	There is some complexity in landcover, although this does not relate to woodland cover. There are significant landmarks, and large numbers of receptors, particularly recreational users.		High
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures would need to address the high visual sensitivity of this landscape, primarily in terms of sympathetic siting. Site design should aim to avoid effects on key views and landmarks. Proposed development, and associated mitigation measures, should take account of the areas situation within the Northumberland Coast AONB.			

Landscape Character Area:	5b Beadnell and Embleton Bays		
LCT	Sandy Coastline	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This area comprises sandy bays divided by rocky headlands, with small villages and dune systems. The area is part of the Northumberland Coast AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a relatively complex landscape, with significant views, and little modern human influence. The area is popular with visitors and there are large numbers of receptors.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The relative complexity of landform, tranquillity, and importance of some historic features, particularly the traditional villages, may not be suited to large-scale plantations.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures would need to address the visual sensitivity of this landscape, primarily in terms of sympathetic siting. Site design should aim to avoid effects on key views and landmarks, as well as on important landscape features such as the dune systems. Proposed development, and associated mitigation measures, should take account of the areas situation within the Northumberland Coast AONB.			

Landscape Character Area:	5c Aln and Coquet Estuaries		
LCT	Sandy Coastline	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	The Aln and Coquet emerge, forming estuaries of mudflats and saltmarsh. Between is a long strip of beach backed by dunes. The area is part of the Northumberland Coast AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a relatively simple landscape of medium scale. Coastal views are an important aspect, and there are large numbers of receptors, including residents and users of the ECML. Although there is limited tranquillity, there are prominent historic features and the area is popular as a recreational resource.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The highly visual nature of this landscape suggests increased sensitivity to plantations, although this may be reduced by its less tranquil state.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures would need to address the visual sensitivity of this landscape, primarily in terms of sympathetic siting. Site design should aim to avoid effects on the setting of Alnmouth and Warkworth, as well as on important landscape features such as saltmarsh and dune systems. Proposed development, and associated mitigation measures, should take account of the areas situation within the Northumberland Coast AONB.			

Landscape Character Area:	6a Whittingham Vale		
LCT	Broad Sandstone Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The basin-like valley of the Aln, with its tributaries, as it flows through the Northumberland Sandstone Hills. There is significant woodland cover and a strong enclosure pattern.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape has some variety and limited movement. There is relatively little modern human influence, and some locally important landmarks. The landscape is visually contained with moderate numbers of receptors.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale wind power schemes are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. The medium-scale of this valley would not suit large-scale development.		High
Biomass	Most of the indicators suggest that biomass plantations could be accommodated within this landscape, subject to consideration of historic features.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Any proposals within this landscape should have regard to the strong enclosure pattern. Site design should relate to this pattern, and mitigation should seek to protect or enhance it. The settings of historic buildings and traditional villages should also be considered.			

Landscape Character Area:	7a Hulne Park		
LCT	Estate Valley	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The River Aln flows through this valley, much of which is part of the Registered Park and Garden of Hulne Park. The valley forms the setting for Alnwick Castle and the western edge of Alnwick.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The complexity and diversity of landform and land cover within this parkland landscape, combined with the importance of historic features, recreation, and views, indicates the highest level of sensitivity to wind turbines.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind power, above.		High
Biomass	Although this is a complex landscape, with significant historic landmarks, plantations have been established within it, and could relate to the parkland structure.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Clearly any proposals within this landscape must consider the potential for impacts upon the Registered Park and Garden, as well as upon the setting of Alnwick Castle, historic buildings within the park, and Alnwick itself. The historic landscape structure of estate woodland should be respected, and mitigation works could include any necessary restoration or management works.			

Landscape Character Area:		8a Doddington Ridge	
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Open moorland, including an array of historic rock art, cairns and other features, with a strong relationship to the Cheviot Hills across the Till basin.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Extraction may affect the Till as it passes through this area. The lower-lying parts potentially affected have less intervisibility, and fewer historic features.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	This area has some variety of landform and land cover, and has a strong visual relationship with the neighbouring Till valley and the Cheviots beyond. There are limited human influences, although historic features are common. Receptors include the A697 and residents of Wooler, as well as visitors to Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	Larger-scale wind power schemes would have greater visibility from the Cheviot Hills, potentially affecting the setting of the National Park.		High
Biomass	The indicators suggest this landscape would not have great sensitivity to biomass plantations. There are already some areas of forestry within the area, and biomass plantations could relate well to locations away from historic sites.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Consideration of the important clusters of prehistoric rock art should be considered in the siting of any proposals. There may be issues of site intervisibility and setting related to these historic features. Plantations in particular should avoid masking cultural heritage, as well as natural heritage features. Setting of the National Park, and views from the Cheviot Hills, are also major considerations. The scarp slope immediately above the Till basin is considered to be the most sensitive part of this landscape.			

Landscape Character Area:	8b Kyloe and Chillingham Hills		
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This chain of hills forms a scarp slope facing west, overlooking the Breamish valley. There are large areas of forestry, and several important historical sites, such as Ros Castle hillfort and Chillingham Castle.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the northern end of the area. This forested area includes rocky outcrops which are popular with rock climbers. The scarp here is of lesser importance in views, although it is a relatively tranquil landscape with few human features.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape has some diversity of topography and land cover. The scarp slope is particularly prominent in views from the west, and several hills serve as landmarks. There are important historic features which are also tourist attractions.		High
Large-scale wind	Larger wind power developments may affect views over a wider area, potentially affecting views from Northumberland National Park		High
Biomass	The generally high visibility of this landscape, and the prominence of some of the hills, increase the likely sensitivity to plantations. However, forestry plantations have been successfully established along parts of the ridge, and less prominent locations may therefore be suitable.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The visibility of the hills is a key consideration for this landscape, when considering the siting of proposals. Visibility extends some distance, particularly towards the west, and effects on views from the National Park may become an issue for larger developments. Consideration should also be given to the setting of Chillingham Castle, its Registered Park and Garden, Ros Castle, and other historic landmarks.			

Landscape Character Area:		8c Charlton Ridge	
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This group of low hills divides the Aln valley from the coastal plain, and forms part of the wider setting of Alnwick and Hulne Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The medium-small scale of this landscape, its lack of industrial or vertical features, and its role in views from Alnwick and the Aln valley, suggest increased sensitivity in the south. In the north of the area, the scale becomes larger and the intervisibility decreases, leading to reduced sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The simpler landform and greater scale of the northern part of the landscape may indicate some potential, although large wind power schemes would not be suited to the more diverse and visible hills immediately above the Aln valley and Hulne Park.		High
Biomass	There are few significant landmarks in this landscape, and its local visibility does not preclude biomass plantations. The scale of any plantations may be limited by the medium-small scale of the landform, although this increases to the north.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Siting of any development would need to consider potential effects on views from Alnwick, Alnwick Castle, and Hulne Park. Development should relate to the landform, and may offer opportunities to strengthen the landscape pattern and structure.			

Landscape Character Area:		8d Beanley Moor	
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This area of moorland has a west-facing scarp slope above the Breamish valley, and has a visual relationship with the Cheviot Hills.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The more varied landform and landcover, coupled with the relative visual importance of this landscape when seen from the west, suggests increased sensitivity. The lack of human features, leading to some tranquillity, is also a factor.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind power, above. The large scale of development may further affect views, potentially including those from Northumberland National Park.		High
Biomass	This medium-scale landscape would be able to accommodate biomass plantations without significant detriment to its character. There are already substantial forestry plantations.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Development should be sited to minimise effects on historic sites and prominent landscape features such as rock outcrops. Views from the A697 and from the National Park should be considered.			

Landscape Character Area:		8e Rothbury Forest	
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This extensive moorland area has extensive forestry plantations, and large open areas of heather moorland. There are several rocky outcrops, particularly along the steep slopes which drop to the Aln and Coquet valleys.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a large-scale, relatively simple landscape, with existing vertical features. There are relatively few receptors, mainly road users. Historic features and tourist attractions are present and indicate locally higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The landscape is of a large enough scale to accommodate larger wind power schemes. There is a degree of sensitivity arising from the presence of historic features and tourist attractions, and from the area's intervisibility with Northumberland National Park.		Moderate
Biomass	Away from significant attractions, including Cragside, there are few indicators of increased sensitivity to biomass plantations. The extensive existing forestry further suggests suitability.		Low
Mitigation issues			
There are key locations within this landscape, particularly Cragside, which should be considered when siting development. Effects on views from the Aln and Coquet valleys, particularly the latter which forms the setting of Rothbury, should also be considered. Upland habitats should be maintained or enhanced as part of any development, and the settings of natural features, such as rock outcrops, should be retained.			

Landscape Character Area:	8f Harwood Forest		
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This large expanse of open moorland and pasture is broken up by extensive areas of coniferous forestry at Harwood Forest and Raylees Common. The area extends into Northumberland National Park, although the assessment applies only to the area outside. Simonside Hill is a prominent landmark and a popular walking destination.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction relates to the eastern edge of this area. The relative simplicity of the landscape suggests reduced sensitivity, but the openness and high visibility may indicate locally greater sensitivity, particularly given potential views from Simonside Hill. There is higher tranquillity, although no significant historical features. Recreational use in the area is low-level, though Simonside Hill is a popular walk.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Most of the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type of development, including scale, landform, land cover, and the lack of landmarks. However the relatively high visibility of the area, particularly from sensitive locations within the National Park, add to the likely sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Again, there are several indicators of reduced sensitivity to large-scale wind power schemes. The relatively high visibility of the area, particularly from sensitive locations within the National Park, add to the likely sensitivity.		Moderate
Biomass	The very open nature of the landscape, and its intervisibility with the National Park suggest increased sensitivity, although the presence of forestry demonstrates that plantations can be established successfully in this landscape.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from the National Park, particularly from the popular Simonside Hills, will be a key consideration in the siting and design of developments. Siting should be sympathetic to the setting of natural features such as rock outcrops, and upland habitats should be protected or enhanced. The relationship between the upland and the adjacent valleys of the Coquet, Rede and Elsdon should also be considered. Screening of mineral sites may be appropriate.			

Landscape Character Area:		8g Sweethope and Blackdown	
LCT	Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This area of heather and grass moorland has large coniferous plantations, and prominent outcrops including Great Wanney Crag. Sweethope Lough is important for fishing.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Several indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, although the landscape does contain local landmark hills, and is visible from the surrounding landscape. The east-facing dip slope is generally less visible from Northumberland National Park. There are no vertical features and the area is relatively tranquil.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The medium scale of this landscape, combined with the locally important landmark hills and relative tranquillity, indicates a slightly higher sensitivity to the larger wind power schemes.		Moderate
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Developments should be sited so as to avoid impinging upon the locally significant outcrop hills, such as Great Wanney Crag. Consideration should be given to potential effects on views from the National Park, and to the settings of historic features, including Dere Street Roman Road. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced.			

Landscape Character Area:	9a Coquetdale		
LCT	Sandstone Upland Valley	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	The narrow valley of the Coquet follows the north edge of the Simonside Hills to Rothbury, where it flows through a steep-sided gorge. The river meanders across a narrow flat floor. The southern side of the valley is within Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The small-scale, varied nature of the valley suggest increased sensitivity, as do the importance of local views from transport routes. The lack of intervisibility suggests reduced sensitivity, although there are prominent historic features and some recreational use.		High
Small-scale wind	The landscape and landform of the valley indicate increased sensitivity to wind power development. Although other visual indicators may suggest reduced sensitivity, the valley landform is the key consideration. There are locally important landmarks and some historic features,.		High
Large-scale wind	Proposals for large-scale wind power development are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. There are numerous indicators of higher sensitivity to this type, the unsuitable scale and landform being the most significant.		High
Biomass	This is a small-scale, visually diverse valley landscape. Several indicators suggest reduced sensitivity; smaller-scale plantations would be appropriate within this landscape.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The pattern of land uses on the valley floor should be considered in the siting, planning and restoration of any extraction works. Riparian habitats should be protected or enhanced. Screen planting or plantations should be designed to fit into the pattern of shelterbelts. Consideration should be given to potential effects on views from the National Park. The gorge at the east of the area is considered to be particularly sensitive, and regard should be had to the setting of Rothbury.			

Landscape Character Area:	10a Roseborough Moor		
LCT	Smooth Moorland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This large area of heather and grass moorland is broken up by large-scale forestry, although extensive open areas remain. Almost flat, with some wooded gullies and prominent masts.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Most indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. The landform and landcover is simple and medium-large, views are of less importance and receptors are few. The higher tranquillity and lack of linear features do indicate sensitivity, however, there are substantial communications masts and few historic features.		Low
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, although the greater impacts associated with larger-scale proposals increase the sensitivity level.		Moderate
Biomass	All the indicators for this development type suggest reduced sensitivity to biomass plantations. There are extensive forestry plantations within the area.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting of development should seek to reduce effects on the few prominent hills and landforms. The effects on views from the adjacent Chillingham hills, and from the coastal plain to the east, should also be considered. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced.			

Landscape Character Area:	10b Alnwick Moor		
LCT	Smooth Moorland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This moorland is affected by urban fringe development around Alnwick, and also extends into the Registered Park and Garden of Hulne Park. There are important remains of historic mining operations.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the central part of this area. The landform is simple and of medium-large scale, and landcover shows only moderate variety. There are some important views, and the landscape is potentially visible from Alnwick and the farmland to the east. There are few historic features or recreational opportunities.		Low
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landform is simple and of medium-large scale, and landcover shows only moderate variety. The relative importance of views, and the extensive visibility from the farmland to the east, and from the coast, suggest some sensitivity. Other indicators suggest reduced sensitivity.		Low
Large-scale wind	Some indicators suggest increased sensitivity to larger wind power schemes, including land cover, and most importantly the intervisibility and importance of the landscape in views.		Moderate
Biomass	There are numerous factors suggesting reduced sensitivity to this type, with only the extensive intervisibility of the moor pointing to a higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of any proposals must be developed with consideration for the potential effects on views from Alnwick, the farmland to the east, and the coastal plain. Consideration should be given to the setting of Hulne Park and Alnwick. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced. Restoration proposals should reflect the existing landscape pattern and structure, and opportunities to enhance this exist where the settlement edge of Alnwick is weaker.			

Landscape Character Area:	11a Belford Hills		
LCT	Sandstone Fringe Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This area occupies the dip slope east of the Kyloe Hills. It comprises a mix of upland fringe farmland and forestry. The slope forms a backdrop to the coastal plain to the east.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	The northern half of this area is subject to pressure for whin extraction. Landform and landcover are generally simple, and the scale is medium. The landscape is extensively intervisible and significant in views, including views from the AONB. There is no industrial influence, and some historic features.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landform and landcover are generally simple, and the scale is medium. The landscape is extensively intervisible and significant in views from neighbouring landscapes, and from transport routes. There are some prominent vertical features as well as historic elements.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, although the greater scale may increase the potential for effects along the coastal strip.		High
Biomass	The visual indicators relating to intervisibility and receptors suggest increased sensitivity, though most others do not. Smaller scale plantations are likely to be suitable in this landscape.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The principal consideration for siting and design of proposals within this landscape is the potential effect on views from the east, and in particular from the Northumberland Coast AONB. There is a strong pattern to parts of this landscape, which should be respected in the design of proposals or restoration schemes. The setting of Belford, and the Registered Park and Garden at Belford Hall, should be considered.			

Landscape Character Area:	11b Buteland and Colt Crag		
LCT	Sandstone Fringe Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This area contains distinctive landforms associated with the Whin Sill, within an expansive upland fringe landscape of marginal farmland.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction occurs along the eastern edge of the area, away from the National Park. The landform and landcover, and medium-large scale indicate reduced sensitivity. The landscape is visible from transport routes and from other landscapes, and away from the A68 is relatively tranquil. The presence of historic features indicates locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Most factors indicate a reduced sensitivity for this type. The intervisibility of the landscape, the lack of existing vertical features, and the presence of prominent historic elements indicate increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The relative variety and diversity of the landform, land cover and skylines, indicates slightly higher sensitivity to larger wind power schemes. The views from the A68 and Northumberland National Park may be more affected by the larger scale of development.		Moderate
Biomass	Most of the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to biomass, although the intervisibility and prominence of historic features suggest that sensitivity may locally be higher.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The intervisibility of this landscape means that siting must have regard to views from outside the landscape, including from the National Park. Screening woodland may be appropriate, although this landscape is not greatly wooded. Consideration must be given to the settings of historic features within the landscape, as well as distinctive natural features.			

Landscape Character Area:	11c Hetton		
LCT	Sandstone Fringe Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	An area of farmland between the ridges of Doddington Moor and the Kyloe Hills. Large arable fields and sparse settlement.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The limited diversity and medium-large scale indicate reduced sensitivity, as do the limited landmarks and numbers of receptors. Higher sensitivity is indicated by the stillness and tranquillity. There is limited recreation, and few historic features, although there are few modern human features either.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The landscape and visual criteria all suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. However, higher sensitivity is indicated by the cultural criteria, including the lack of modern features, and the perceptual criteria of tranquillity and limited movement.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, although there would be greater potential effects on views from those neighbouring landscapes which do have views across this area.		Moderate
Biomass	All the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of the perceptual criteria, which indicate higher sensitivity due to the stillness and relative tranquillity. Small-scale or sensitively sited plantations could sit well in this landscape.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design should consider views into this landscape from the neighbouring higher ground. Views from the St Cuthbert's Way long-distance footpath should also be considered. Screening of sand and gravel works should take cues from the existing landscape pattern. Screening, restoration, and biomass plantations may present opportunities to improve the relatively weak structure of this landscape.			

Landscape Character Area:	12a Breamish Vale		
LCT	Broad Farmed Vale	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The Breamish meanders through this broad valley landscape, though it is not a substantially visual feature. Mixed farmland is divided by woodland and shelterbelts, and the Registered Park and Garden at Chillingham.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The relative diversity and medium-large scale indicate reduced sensitivity, and there are few receptors or key landmarks. There is some visibility from the hills above Chillingham to the east, and from the Cheviots within Northumberland National Park to the west. The importance of historic landscape features and recreational use indicate higher sensitivity in some locations.		Low
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of intervisibility, as the landscape is visible from the Chillingham hills and from the Cheviots. There are few modern human features, and prominent historic features and tourist attractions, principally Chillingham Castle.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The relative diversity of landform and land cover indicate higher sensitivity to larger developments. Potential effects on views from the National Park may be greater due to the large scale of development.		High
Biomass	Almost all the criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. However, the landscape is visible from surrounding higher ground, including the National Park. There are also prominent historic features and tourist attractions suggesting locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design should consider potential effects on views from outside this landscape, principally those from the National Park. The setting of Chillingham Castle and its Registered Park and Garden is an important aspect of this landscape which should be respected. Historic estate villages and other features should similarly be considered. Screening, restoration, and biomass plantations should be designed to take cues from the existing landscape structure, which is relatively strong in the southern part of this area.			

Landscape Character Area:	13a Till and Glen Valleys		
LCT	Broad Floodplain Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Large-scale flat valley landscape, strongly associated with the surrounding higher ground, including the Cheviot Hills (part of the Northumberland National Park) and Doddington Moor.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The river valley has already been exploited for aggregates. This strongly human-influenced landscape could accommodate further extraction, but care should be taken to avoid affecting views to and from the Cheviot Hills.		Low
Small-scale wind	Large-scale, simple landscape, which is significantly man-modified. However there are important views to and from the Cheviots, and a greater number of receptors and residents.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Although a large-scale, simple landscape, there are important views across this landscape both from and to the Cheviots, potentially affecting high numbers of sensitive receptors.		High
Biomass	Large-scale landscape with a simple pattern could accommodate medium-large plantations. Either miscanthus or SRC would relate to the pattern of forestry on the valley floor. Care must be taken to avoid interrupting significant views to the Cheviots.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should take account of the overlooked nature of this landscape, with key views from surrounding higher ground. In particular, the potential effects on views from within the National Park should be considered. Site design should relate to the pattern of this landscape, in terms of woodland and field patterns. Restoration should seek to avoid large water bodies which would be prominent in elevated views.			

Landscape Character Area:	14a Moneylaws and Coldside		
LCT	Igneous Foothills	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	These two rounded outlying hills of the Cheviot massif are similar in character to the main group of hills, though separated from them by the Bowmont Water.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a simple, large-scale landscape, but has some diversity of land cover. Visually, there are complex skylines, significant views, and extensive intervisibility, although few receptors. The lack of modern human features further indicates increased sensitivity, though the most important factor is the importance of this landscape in views to and from Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, the importance of the hills in views to and from the National Park suggests high sensitivity.		High
Biomass	The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type, although the visual criteria, particularly the extent of intervisibility, suggest the reverse. The relative tranquillity of the area also suggests increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The siting of proposals must consider the potential effects on views from within the National Park, as well as the setting of the National Park in terms of views of the Cheviots from the surrounding farmland. These hills form an important part of the foreground to the Cheviot Hills when seen from the north and north-west. The pattern of tree lines along the lower slopes should be respected in the design of any plantations, access routes, or mitigation planting.			

Landscape Character Area:	14b Wooler Foothills		
LCT	Igneous Foothills	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	These foothills form the edge of the Cheviot massif at its north-eastern extent. They form a backdrop to the town of Wooler, and act as an entry point for visitors into Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction is only likely to apply to the lower-lying parts of this area. The relative diversity and larger scale of the landscape suggests reduced sensitivity, although the importance of views and intervisibility is higher. The area is tranquil, with limited modern human influence. There may be areas of locally lower sensitivity in less visible locations.		High
Small-scale wind	This is a simple, medium-large-scale landscape, but has some diversity of land cover. Visually, there are complex skylines, significant views, and extensive intervisibility. There are some modern human features, including a mast and pylons. The most important factor is the importance of this landscape in views to and from Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, the importance of the hills in views to and from the National Park suggests high sensitivity.		High
Biomass	High intervisibility, high levels of recreational use, and the presence of historic features are the main indicators of higher sensitivity to this type. Locally, there may be areas of lower sensitivity, where biomass plantations can be introduced among existing forestry plantations.		High
Mitigation issues			
The siting of proposals must consider the potential effects on views from within the National Park, as well as the setting of the National Park in terms of views of the Cheviots from the surrounding farmland. These hills form an important part of the foreground to the Cheviot Hills when seen from the north-west and west, and serve as a backdrop to the town of Wooler. The setting of the town, and of historic features, should be respected. Regard must be had to access and views from key access routes, including St Cuthbert's Way.			

Landscape Character Area:	14c Old Fawdon		
LCT	Igneous Foothills	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	These high rounded foothills are almost uninhabited, and are mostly rough grazing. Several hill forts occur on hill tops, and the area is visually and physically closely linked with the Cheviots to the west.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The simplicity and large scale of this landscape indicates reduced sensitivity. However, the importance of these hills in views of the Cheviots, and their extensive intervisibility, coupled with high tranquillity, indicates high sensitivity to this type.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, the importance of the hills in views to and from Northumberland National Park suggests high sensitivity.		High
Biomass	The simplicity and exposed, large scale of the landscape suggests higher sensitivity to this type. There are prominent historic features and the area is well used for recreation, as well as being highly visible.		High
Mitigation issues			
Any development within this area is likely to have effects on views both to and from the Cheviot Hills, and therefore on the setting of the National Park. The setting of hill forts and other historic remains should also be respected.			

Landscape Character Area:	15a Lilburn and Roddam		
LCT	Upland Fringe Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Rolling farmland with extensive estate influences and historic settlements, at the edge of Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The landscape is very visible from neighbouring raised ground, and there are higher numbers of receptors. Historic features are prominent, and the area is well used for recreation. However, the varied topography and land cover, and the level of enclosure, indicate reduced sensitivity in some areas at least.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The variety of land cover suggests increased sensitivity to this type, which is emphasised by the high intervisibility and prominence of historic features. Although some factors indicate reduced sensitivity, the proximity of this landscape to the National Park suggests the highest level of sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The relative diversity of the landscape indicates reduced sensitivity to this type. The key factors are the intervisibility of the landscape, particularly when seen from within the National Park, and the importance of historic elements in the landscape. Sensitivity may vary locally due to the variety of landform and land cover.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The siting of proposals must consider the potential effects on views from within the National Park, as well as the setting of the National Park in terms of views of the Cheviots from the farmland and hills to the east. The setting of historic buildings and villages should be respected, as should the layout of designed landscapes. Views from the A697 should also be considered.			

Landscape Character Area:	15b Upper Coquet		
LCT	Upland Fringe Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Rolling mixed upland farmland with frequent small-scale woodland and strong enclosure pattern. The landscape is closely linked to that of Northumberland National Park, which lies to the north-west, west and south of this area.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The landscape and visual criteria mostly indicate reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of intervisibility; the landscape is visible in views from and to Northumberland National Park. The tranquillity of the landscape, its recreational usage, and the importance of historic features are also indicative of higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The variety of land cover suggests increased sensitivity to this type, which is added to by the high intervisibility and prominence of historic features. Although some factors indicate reduced sensitivity, the proximity of this landscape to the National Park suggests the highest level of sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The relative diversity of the landscape indicates reduced sensitivity to this type. The key factors are the intervisibility of the landscape, particularly when seen from within the National Park, and the importance of historic elements in the landscape. Sensitivity may vary locally due to the variety of landform and land cover.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The siting of proposals must consider the potential effects on views from within the National Park, as well as the setting of the National Park in terms of views of the Cheviots and Simonside Hills, particularly from the hills above Rothbury. The setting of historic buildings and villages should be respected. Proposals for restoration, screening woodland or biomass plantations should take cues from the existing landscape structure and pattern.			

Landscape Character Area:	16a Halidon		
LCT	Open Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	A small area of rolling farmland north of Berwick and the Tweed, part of the extensive arable Merse landscape which occupies the area north of the Scottish border. Halidon Hill offers broad views across the wider landscape.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape and cultural criteria generally indicate reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria, however, suggest more sensitivity due to the area's high intervisibility, and the importance of Halidon Hill as a landmark. The area is visible from a wide area, which includes parts of Berwick, and the A1and A6105.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, this is a highly visible landscape.		High
Biomass	The intervisibility of this landscape, as a landmark and as a viewpoint, indicate higher sensitivity. The area also contains the battlefield of Halidon Hill, which could be affected by extensive plantation.		High
Mitigation issues			
Views in and out of this area are the most sensitive feature of the landscape, and should be considered in terms of preserving broad views from recognised viewpoints, and in terms of maintaining the integrity of Halidon Hill as a landmark. The setting of the battlefield should also be considered, as well as views from the key transport routes.			

Landscape Character Area:	16b Duddo and Lowick		
LCT	Open Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	A landscape of varied topography, intensively farmed, and including the broad slopes along the Tweed. Localised estate influences are important around Ford and Etal.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies to the northern-central part of this area. This section of medium-large scale, and has fewer significant landmarks. However, it is a well settled landscape with large numbers of receptors. It is generally quiet, though not tranquil. There are significant historic features, including the stone circle near Duddo.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the southern edge of this area, on the fringe of the Till basin. This area is generally smaller in scale, and has greater woodland and estate influences. There are some landmarks, and intervisibility with the Till basin. The area is a popular visitor destination, and historic elements are important.		High
Small-scale wind	There is some variety of landform across the area, although other factors indicate reduced sensitivity. There are some local views, and intervisibility is important, particularly views toward the Cheviot Hills. There are limited modern human influences, aside from the intensive agriculture. Historic elements and recreation are locally significant.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The landscape would be somewhat more sensitive to larger-scale proposals due to the high number of receptors, chiefly residents, and the potential effects on local views and intervisibility.		Moderate
Biomass	The indicators suggest generally lower sensitivity to this type, provided that locations with significant historic elements and recreational interest are considered.		Low
Mitigation issues			
There are issues of intervisibility within this landscape, including views to the Cheviots, which must be considered in the siting of any proposals. The dense settlement pattern suggests that care must be taken in site design. Effects on the settings of historic features and tourist attractions, which combine around Ford and Etal, should be taken account of. The existing landscape pattern and structure should be reflected where it is relatively strong, and should be strengthened where it is weaker, through mitigation screen planting, or through the design of plantations.			

Landscape Character Area:	16c East Learmouth		
LCT	Open Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	West of the Till, arable farmland occupies the area between the Tweed and the Cheviot outliers. There are localised estate influences and smaller-scale sections of the Till valley, although the landscape is generally of medium-large scale.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	There is some variety of landform across the area, although other landscape factors indicate reduced sensitivity. The area has numerous receptors including users of the A698 and A697. It is a quiet area, with localised historical and recreational value. It is also visible in views both from and to Northumberland National Park.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The landscape would be more sensitive to larger-scale proposals due to the potential effects on local views and on intervisibility with the National Park.		High
Biomass	The indicators suggest generally lower sensitivity to this type, provided that locations with significant historic elements and recreational interest are considered.		Low
Mitigation issues			
There are issues of intervisibility within this landscape, including views to the Cheviots, which must be considered in the siting of any proposals. The dense settlement pattern suggests that care must be taken in site design. Effects on the settings of historic features, including the Registered Park and Garden at Tillmouth, and tourist attractions, which combine around Etal, should be taken account of. The gorge-like sections of the River Till should also be respected for their natural heritage interest. The existing landscape pattern and structure should be reflected where it is relatively strong, and should be strengthened where it is weaker, through mitigation screen planting, or through the design of plantations.			

Landscape Character Area:	17a Horse Rigg		
LCT	Upland Fringe Ridges	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	A series of intensively farmed parallel ridges, with a strong visual relationship to the Cheviot Hills across the Bowmont Valley.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The simple, open, large-scale landscape indicates reduced sensitivity, as do most of the visual criteria, with the exception of intervisibility. Cultural factors also generally suggest reduced sensitivity, although the area is quiet. The potential for effects on views from the National Park is a key factor.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above, although the increased scale of larger projects would increase the likelihood of effects on views from the National Park.		High
Biomass	The large, open scale of the landscape indicates that biomass plantations may be prominent, as is also suggested by the high intervisibility, although there are few receptors. Away from the most visible areas, plantations may be able to fit with the pattern of existing coniferous stands.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The siting of proposals must consider the potential effects on views from within the National Park, as well as the setting of the National Park in terms of views of the Cheviots from the surrounding farmland. These hills form a part of the foreground to the Cheviot Hills when seen from the north. The landscape structure is weak in places, and could be enhanced through plantations or mitigation measures.			

Landscape Character Area:	18a Bowmont Valley		
LCT	Upland Fringe Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Narrow, flat-bottomed valley, separating the Cheviot Hills and the outlying foothills.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The varied but enclosed landscape suggests reduced sensitivity to this type. The valley is overlooked by hills to north and south, including part the Cheviots, and is well used for recreation, although there are few other receptors. The valley is also quiet and relatively tranquil.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The medium-small scale and enclosure suggest that this would not be a suitable landscape for wind power schemes. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, with recreational usage, and is overlooked in views from Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a narrow valley. High sensitivity due to landform and intervisibility with the National Park.		High
Biomass	The medium-small scale and enclosure, with the intervisibility of this landscape, suggest higher sensitivity. Similarly, there are some historic elements, and recreational usage. Small-scale plantations may sit within existing woodland pattern.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The valley is directly overlooked in views from the northern edge of the National Park, and consideration should be given to potential effects on views. Existing riparian woodland and habitats should be protected or enhanced as part of mitigation measures. Screening planting should take design cues from the existing riparian woodlands. Restoration should seek to avoid large water bodies which would be prominent in elevated views.			

Landscape Character Area:	18b Wooler Vale		
LCT	Upland Fringe Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The Wooler Water flows through this flat-bottomed valley. Settlement edge development, including commercial land uses and a caravan park, are prominent in views from the Cheviots to the west and Weetwood Moor to the east.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	The medium-small scale and variety of land cover indicate reduced sensitivity to this type. Intervisibility with the surrounding higher ground is an issue, as are views from the A697 which passes through, and from Wooler. The greater presence of modern human features suggest reduced sensitivity, although the caravan park would be a sensitive receptor.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The medium-small scale and enclosure suggest that this would not be a suitable landscape for wind power schemes. Although cultural and perceptual criteria all indicate reduced sensitivity, it is overlooked in views from Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a narrow valley. High sensitivity due to landform and intervisibility with the National Park.		High
Biomass	Although visible from surrounding higher ground, and from the A697, most other factors indicate reduced sensitivity. Plantations could marry in to existing deciduous and coniferous woodland.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The valley is directly overlooked in views from the eastern edge of the Cheviots, and consideration should be given to potential effects on views. Existing riparian woodland and habitats should be protected or enhanced as part of mitigation measures. Screening planting should take design cues from the existing riparian woodlands. Restoration should seek to avoid large water bodies which would be prominent in elevated views.			

Landscape Character Area:	18c Upper Breamish		
LCT	Upland Fringe Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad valley between Cheviot foothills and the sandstone hills, narrowing to the west where it leaves Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Landscape and visual indicators for this type suggest reduced sensitivity, with the exception of the high intervisibility, which includes views from the National Park. This is a quiet landscape, with some historic elements and recreational usage.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The mostly enclosed landscape suggests that this would not be a suitable area for wind power schemes. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, with an overhead power line being the only overt modern feature. It is overlooked in views from Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward within a valley. High sensitivity due to landform and intervisibility with the National Park.		High
Biomass	Although visible from surrounding higher ground, most other factors indicate reduced sensitivity. There are some historic elements, and the landscape is relatively tranquil. Biomass plantations could sit well with existing plantations.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The valley is directly overlooked in views from the eastern edge of the Cheviots, and consideration should be given to potential effects on views. Existing riparian woodland and habitats should be protected or enhanced as part of mitigation measures. Regard should be had to the settings of traditional hamlets. Restoration should seek to avoid large water bodies which would be prominent in elevated views.			

Landscape Character Area:	18d Upper Aln		
LCT	Upland Fringe Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, incised valley containing the Aln and tributary streams. Undulating valley sides support mixed farmland with a strong enclosure pattern of hedges.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Landscape and visual criteria for this type suggest reduced sensitivity, although there is extensive intervisibility with the edge of the Cheviots and other higher ground. This is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, with some historic features and recreational usage.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The landscape suggests somewhat reduced sensitivity to this type, although the level of enclosure in the lower valley indicates higher sensitivity. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, in which traditional villages and hamlets are important. It is overlooked in views from Northumberland National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward within a valley. High sensitivity due to landform and intervisibility with the National Park.		High
Biomass	Although visible from surrounding higher ground, most other factors indicate reduced sensitivity. There are some historic elements, and the landscape is relatively tranquil. Biomass plantations could sit well with existing plantations on the upper slopes.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The valley is directly overlooked in views from the eastern edge of the Cheviots, and consideration should be given to potential effects on views. Existing riparian woodland and habitats should be protected or enhanced as part of mitigation measures. Regard should be had to the settings of traditional villages and hamlets. Restoration should seek to avoid large water bodies which would be prominent in elevated views.			

Landscape Character Area:		19a Kielder and Redesdale Forests	
LCT	Moorland and Forest Mosaic	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Large expanses of plantation forestry and open moorland to the west of Northumberland National Park. Much forestry has been restructured, with areas of broadleaf woodland and softer plantation edges.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The open, extensive, and relatively simple landscape is indicative of reduced sensitivity, as are the limited nature of views and low numbers of receptors. There are quiet, relatively tranquil areas, with little overt human influence, which would have greater sensitivity.		Low
Large-scale wind	The scale of this landscape is large enough to accommodate more extensive schemes. Again, the quietness of the landscape and the lack of human features in some locations suggest local variations in sensitivity.		Moderate
Biomass	The landscape criteria indicate some sensitivity to this type, although the lack of prominent landmarks and views suggests lower sensitivity, as do cultural and perceptual criteria. The extensive forestry plantations suggest that biomass plantations could be easily accommodated within the landscape.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Although relatively homogenous, there are some significant hills and landforms within this area which should be considered in the siting and design of proposals. Particular attention should be given to those hills which are walking destinations, as well as to views from Kielder Reservoir and the Forest Drive. Design of plantations should reflect current good forestry practice in terms of edges and species mix. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation measures. Consideration should also be given to potential views from within the National Park.			

Landscape Character Area:		19b Kielder Reservoir	
LCT	Moorland and Forest Mosaic	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	The extensive reservoir is a popular tourist destination. Visitor facilities are clustered along the south shore, and around the village of Kielder. Much of the surrounding moorland has been planted with commercial forestry. Although views across the reservoir are an important factor, this is a heavily human-modified landscape.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The land cover and scale of this landscape indicates reduced sensitivity, although the landform is more varied. The importance of the area for tourism and recreation, and views across the reservoir, are the main factors suggesting higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. The scale of the landscape indicates similar levels of sensitivity to larger schemes.		Moderate
Biomass	The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity. The importance of the area for tourism and recreation, and views across the reservoir, are the main factors suggesting higher sensitivity. However, the extensive forestry plantations suggest that biomass plantations could be easily accommodated within the landscape.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals should take into account views from the main tourist locations, which are mostly on the south shore of the reservoir. The setting of the traditional village of Kielder should be considered. Design of plantations should reflect current good forestry practice in terms of edges and species mix. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation measures.			

Landscape Character Area:		20a Otterburn and Elsdon Valley	
LCT	Rolling Upland Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, basin-like valley which extends east and west into Northumberland National Park. The valley is surrounded by higher ground, and often has an expansive, empty feel.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Most of the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity for this type. The landform is simple, and of medium-large scale. There are few landmarks, and relatively few receptors, though the A696 passes through. There is little overt human influence, however, and the landscape is visible in views from the National Park on three sides.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward within a valley. High sensitivity mainly due to potential for effects on views from and to the National Park.		High
Biomass	Variety of landcover, medium-large scale, and relative unimportance in views suggests lower sensitivity. Biomass plantations could sit well within the coniferous and broadleaf woodland in the valley.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Consideration must be given to views from the National Park into this landscape, and also views to the National Park, particularly from the A68 and A696. Areas of medieval field patterns should be retained where possible. Design of plantations should take cues from existing woodland form and structure.			

Landscape Character Area:	20b Bellingham and Woodburn Valley		
LCT	Rolling Upland Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Incised river valley with an upland feel and evidence of historic mining activity. The area is linked to the uplands to the west, within Northumberland National Park, and to the east.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The variety and medium-small scale of the landscape indicates higher sensitivity. This area is not significant in views, although it is overlooked by land within the National Park to the west. Cultural criteria also suggest slightly higher sensitivity. The area is an access to the National Park, and the Pennine Way passes through.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley.		High
Biomass	The principal indicators of higher sensitivity to this type are the historic features within the landscape, and high recreational use. However, other factors suggest reduced sensitivity, and sensitivity may therefore vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Consideration must be given to views from the National Park into this landscape, and also views to the National Park. Views from the Pennine Way should also be taken into account. The settings of historic features, including mining heritage, should be respected. Design of plantations should take cues from existing woodland form and structure.			

Landscape Character Area:		20c Upper North Tyne Valley	
LCT	Rolling Upland Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Only the upper part of this area, below Kielder dam, is within the study area, the flat-bottomed valley containing the North Tyne extends into Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The variety and medium-small scale of the landscape indicates higher sensitivity. This area is not significant in views, although it is overlooked by land within the National Park to the west. Cultural criteria also suggest slightly higher sensitivity. The area is an access to/from the National Park, and Kielder Reservoir.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley.		High
Biomass	The principal indicators of higher sensitivity to this type are the historic features within the landscape, and high recreational use. However, other factors suggest reduced sensitivity, and sensitivity may therefore vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Consideration must be given to views from the National Park into this landscape, and also views towards the National Park, particularly from the Kielder Dam along the Tyne valley. Views from the road which follows the valley to Kielder should also be taken into account. The settings of historic features should be respected. Design of plantations should take cues from existing woodland form and structure.			

Landscape Character Area:	21a Corsenside Common		
LCT	Rolling Upland	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The fringe of a large upland area which lies mostly within Northumberland National Park. Mostly rough grazing, with the historic Corsenside Church forming a focal point.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type, as do visual criteria, although this landscape is prominent in views from the adjacent valleys, as well as from the National Park. Cultural criteria also indicate higher sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. High sensitivity due to proximity to the National Park.		High
Biomass	The open, large scale suggests increased sensitivity, as does the intervisibility of the landscape with the neighbouring valleys and National Park. There are key historic features and recreational use. Limited coniferous plantations suggest very small-scale opportunities.		High
Mitigation issues			
The visibility of this landscape from within the National Park, and its prominence in views towards the National Park, must be the main consideration in siting and design of proposals in this area. Views from the A68 should also be taken into account. The setting of the historic Corsenside Church should be respected. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	21b Ealingham Rigg		
LCT	Rolling Uplands	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The east end of a ridge which extends westward into Northumberland National Park. It offers wide views from its summit, and is widely visible. A telephone mast is located at the summit.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria reflect the high visibility of this ridge, and its relationship to the neighbouring valleys as well as the landscape of the National Park. Recreational usage, including the Pennine Way, also suggests higher sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. High sensitivity due to proximity to the National Park.		High
Biomass	The open, large scale suggests increased sensitivity, as does the landmark nature of the ridge, and its intervisibility with the neighbouring valleys and National Park.		High
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design must consider a range of views of this hill, including from Bellingham, from Redesdale and the North Tyne valley, and from locations within the National Park. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:		21c Otterburn Plateau	
LCT	Rolling Uplands	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Southern edge of a broad plateau above Otterburn. The area is influenced by the military training centre at Otterburn Camp. Extensive historic features are present.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type, as do visual criteria, although this landscape is prominent in views from the valley to the south, as well as from the A68 and locations within the National Park beyond. Cultural criteria also indicate higher sensitivity, although recreational use is curtailed by military activity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. High sensitivity due to proximity to the National Park.		High
Biomass	The large scale suggests increased sensitivity, although other landscape criteria indicate the reverse. The intervisibility of the landscape with Otterburn, Redesdale, and the National Park. Limited coniferous plantations, and the extensive military activity, suggest smaller-scale opportunities.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The visibility of this landscape from within the National Park, and its prominence in views towards the National Park from Otterburn, Redesdale, and the A68, must be the main consideration in siting and design of proposals in this area. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation. The siting of biomass plantations could be combined with the screening of military development.			

Landscape Character Area:		22a Devil's Water and Hinterland	
LCT	Farmed River Valleys	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Mixed upland fringe farming, cut by incised wooded denes. This area is connected visually to the higher moorland, and the western section is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The diversity of this landscape and its medium-small scale indicates higher sensitivity to wind turbines. Visual criteria indicate lower sensitivity, although there is some intervisibility with the adjacent moorland within the AONB. Cultural criteria indicate a mix of the two.		High
Large-scale wind	The diversity and medium-small scale suggest this landscape has higher sensitivity to larger schemes. The presence of historic features also indicates higher sensitivity.		High
Biomass	The complexity of landform and the medium-small scale suggest higher sensitivity to this type, although the diverse landcover and level of enclosure may show less sensitivity. Visual criteria also suggest reduced sensitivity, but the presence of historic features indicates locally higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design should be carried out with regard to the setting of the AONB, and views to and from this protected area. The pattern of incised denes and broadleaf woodland should also be considered in the layout of any proposals. Native woodland should be protected or enhanced through mitigation measures. Biomass plantations should take design cues from existing woodland.			

Landscape Character Area:	22b Dipton Wood and Slaley		
LCT	Farmed River Valleys	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Contrasting sub-areas of this landscape include large commercial plantation at Dipton Wood, open mixed farmland, and incised, wooded denes.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The simpler landform of this area, and medium-large scale, indicate lower sensitivity. There are few prominent modern features, and there are local landmark features. Other indicators suggest reduced sensitivity		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The variety of land cover and presence of local landmarks suggests greater sensitivity to this type, although other landscape and visual factors indicate the reverse. There are few overt modern human features, and some historic features.		High
Biomass	All the indicators for this type suggest reduced sensitivity, with the exception of historic features. There are likely to be local sensitivities, but plantations could be suited to parts of this area.		Low
Mitigation issues			
There is limited visibility of this area from the AONB due to the screening properties of Slaley Forest. Consideration should be given to the settings of the incised wooded denes which are characteristic of this area. Native woodland should be protected or enhanced through mitigation measures. Biomass plantations should take design cues from existing woodland.			

Landscape Character Area:		23a Lower South Tyne	
LCT	Lower Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Valley landscape with incised, wooded denes, small hamlets, and evidence of past mining activity. Featherstone Hall is a prominent building in the valley. The area is adjacent to the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies to the southern part of the area. The varied topography indicates some sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria suggest greater sensitivity, arising from the A68 and local landmarks within the area. This is a relatively tranquil landscape, with prominent historic elements, and high levels of recreational use.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied valley landform suggests higher sensitivity to this type. There are landmark features in the form of waterfalls and prominent historic buildings, and the area is well used for recreation. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and valley context.		High
Biomass	The main indicators of increased sensitivity are the varied landform, relative tranquillity, historic features and recreational use. Other factors suggest reduced sensitivity, which may vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals close to the North Pennines AONB should be closely related to the valley landscape. Consideration must be given to views experienced by visitors to the AONB, and in particular the approach into the valley, which acts as a gateway. The settings of historic buildings, villages, and parkland should be respected in the design of any proposals. Similarly, they should take account of natural features such as incised denes, and their settings. Biomass plantations and screening woodland should be designed to marry in to existing woodlands and estate patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:	23b Lower Allenheads		
LCT	Lower Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Incised valley of the Allen Water is well wooded, as are tributary denes. Beyond the confluence of the East and West Allen the landscape is more open with upland fringe pasture and a strong enclosure pattern. Almost all of this area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied valley landform and medium-small scale suggests higher sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria indicate less sensitivity, although the area is very tranquil with little overt modern influence, and is well used for recreation.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	The main indicators of increased sensitivity are the varied landform, medium-small scale, and tranquillity. Other factors suggest reduced sensitivity, which may vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the landscape. As part of the AONB, consideration must be given to views from visitor locations. In particular, the approach into the valley, which acts as an important gateway to the AONB, should be carefully considered. The settings of historic buildings, estate villages, and parkland should be respected in the design of any proposals. Consideration should also be given to natural features such as incised denes, and their settings. Biomass plantations should be designed to marry in to existing patterns of estate and riparian woodland. Riparian woodland and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:		23c Lower Derwent	
LCT	Lower Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	The northern half of this deep, winding incised valley is within Northumberland, with the south side in County Durham. The Derwent gorge is well wooded, with pasture and old field patterns on higher slopes. Most of this area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied valley landform, land cover, and medium-small scale all indicate higher sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria indicate less sensitivity, as the area is self contained, although it is overlooked from the A68. There is little overt human influence, though tranquillity is more limited by visitor activity.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	The main indicators of increased sensitivity are the varied valley landform and medium-small scale. Other factors suggest reduced sensitivity, which may vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the landscape. As part of the AONB, consideration must be given to views from visitor locations, including the Derwent Reservoir to the west. Views from the A68 should also be taken into account. Consideration should be given to the incised gorge of the Derwent, and the setting of its ancient woodlands. Biomass plantations should be designed to marry in to existing patterns of riparian woodland. Ancient woodland and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	24a Middle South Tyne		
LCT	Middle Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Narrow, incised valley, with a complex mix of woodland and pasture. Dispersed settlement pattern along the valley floor. This area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied valley landform, land cover, and medium-small scale all indicate higher sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria indicate less sensitivity, although the area is occasionally overlooked from adjacent moorland. There is little overt human influence, and the area is relatively tranquil. It is well used for recreation.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	The main indicators of increased sensitivity are the varied valley landform and medium-small scale, and the high recreational usage. Other factors suggest reduced sensitivity, which may vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the landscape. As part of the AONB, consideration must be given to views from visitor locations, including views from the A698 which forms a principal access for residents and visitors. Views from the Pennine Way should be taken into account when determining siting and design. The settings of historic buildings and villages, as well as industrial heritage, should be respected. Biomass plantations should be designed to marry in to existing patterns of riparian woodland. Ancient woodland, unimproved grasslands, and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	24b Middle West Allen		
LCT	Middle Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Steep-sided dale, with field boundary trees and wooded cleughs. Limited woodland along the narrow valley floor. The area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied medium-small scale and enclosed valley landform indicate higher sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria indicate less sensitivity, although the area is overlooked from the A686 and from adjacent moorland. This is a quiet, tranquil landscape, with limited provision of visitor or recreation facilities.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the landscape. As part of the AONB, consideration must be given to views, including those from the A696, which forms a principal access for residents and visitors. The settings of historic buildings and villages, as well as industrial heritage, should be respected. Ancient woodland, unimproved grasslands, and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	24c Middle East Allen		
LCT	Middle Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Broad, relatively open valley, narrowing to the south. Woodland occurs along the river, with shelterbelts and pasture on upper slopes. It is a well settled landscape, with villages and farmsteads along the valley floor. The area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The moderate variety of landform and land cover, and the medium scale, indicate some reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria also indicate reduced sensitivity, although the area is occasionally overlooked from adjacent moorland. There are some historic features, and the area is well used by visitors to the AONB.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	Most indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, with the presence of historic features and visitor attractions indicating locally higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the landscape form. As part of an AONB, consideration must be given to views from visitor locations, particularly Allendale Town which serves as a regional centre. The settings of historic buildings and settlements, as well as industrial heritage, should be respected. Biomass plantations should be designed to marry in to existing patterns of riparian woodland. Ancient woodland, unimproved grasslands, and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	24d Middle Devil's Water		
LCT	Middle Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Shallow valley, with the Devil's Water flowing in an incised wooded course. Upper slopes have a strong enclosure pattern, with small Scots pine woodlands. The area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The variety of landform and land cover, and the small, enclosed scale, indicate increased sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity, due to the contained landform and lack of receptors. This is a tranquil, remote landscape which receives relatively few visitors.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	The small scale and level of enclosure suggest higher sensitivity to this type, although there is likely to be less visual sensitivity. This is a remote landscape with little overt human influence. Limited plantations could relate to existing conifer woodlands.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the valley landscape. There are few viewpoints within this area, although views from the surrounding uplands should be considered in the siting and design of proposals. The strong pattern of stone walls and the character of Scots pine woodlands should be respected. Unimproved grassland and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	24e Middle Derwent		
LCT	Middle Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, shallow valley, with the Derwent Reservoir occupying the eastern half. The western part of the valley is narrower and more wooded, with estate woodland influences. The southern side of the valley is within County Durham, and the area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The limited variety of landform and land cover, and the medium scale, indicate some reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria indicate higher sensitivity, due to the views around the reservoir. Aside from the reservoir itself, there are few overt modern human features. This is a well used and commonly visited landscape.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	Many indicators, particularly landscape and perceptual criteria, suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. There are important views around the reservoir, prominent historic features, and the landscape is well used for recreation. On the other hand, existing plantations occur across the western section of the valley. Sensitivity is therefore likely to vary locally.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the valley landscape. There are key viewpoints relating to the Derwent Reservoir, and views from other visitor locations should also be considered. The settings of historic buildings, settlements, and estate landscapes should be respected in the siting and design of any proposals. The design of biomass plantations should take cues from existing native woodlands within the valley, and should marry in to the woodland structure.			

Landscape Character Area:	25a Blenkinsopp Common		
LCT	Moorland Ridges	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Low, broad ridge above the Tyne Gap. It is crossed by the A69 and the Pennine Way, and contains Roman remains associated with Hadrian's Wall. It acts as a backdrop to, and viewpoint along, the Tyne Gap.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies to a small area in the south of this landscape. The simplicity of its landscape suggests reduced sensitivity, although it is open and exposed. Visually, the landscape contains landmarks, and is intervisible with neighbouring valleys, including the South Tyne to the south-east. There is limited modern human influence in this part of the area. Recreational usage includes the Pennine Way, and the area is visible from within the North Pennines AONB.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The simple, large scale landscape indicates reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria suggest more sensitivity, arising from the intervisibility of this landscape, and its presence in views from the A69, Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland National Park, and the Tyne Gap. There are overt human features in the A69 and the adjacent overhead power line. The area is important for recreation as the Pennine Way passes through.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The indicators for landscape suggest higher sensitivity, due to the large, exposed scale of this landscape. The area is important in views, particularly from the A69 and Hadrian's Wall. There are important recreational opportunities, and significant historic elements.		High
Mitigation issues			
Visual issues must be considered in the siting and design of proposals in this area. Key viewpoints and receptors include travellers on the A69, visitors to Hadrian's Wall and nearby parts of the National Park, walkers on the Pennine Way, and viewpoints within the AONB to the south. Proposals should seek to minimise effects on historic features. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation. Screening woodland or biomass plantations should relate to the landscape, and could potentially be designed to marry in to the forestry at Denton Fell in Cumbria.			

Landscape Character Area:	25b Hartleyburn and Knarsdale Commons		
LCT	Moorland Ridges	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad upland ridge, heavily dissected by small burns, resulting in a series of elevated hills and ridges. Evidence of past mining activity on Knarsdale Common. This area forms an important backdrop to the South Tyne valley. The area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The strong topographic variety suggests higher sensitivity, although the scale and simplicity of land cover is indicative of the reverse. The landscape has important landmarks and is prominent in views from the South Tyne valley. It is a quiet, tranquil landscape, with little evidence of human influence, and with the Pennine Way passing through.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals should relate to the landscape form. Views are a key issue, as the hills are visible from the Pennine Way, the South Tyne Valley, and from other parts of the AONB in Northumberland and Cumbria. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	25c Whitfield Moor		
LCT	Moorland Ridges	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	An expansive plateau of open moorland, with extensive recent opencast mineral workings at its northern end. The remote southern and central parts are within the North Pennines AONB, and comprise large areas of grass and heather moorland.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies to the north-western part of the area, mostly outside the AONB. The relative simplicity and large scale of the landscape indicates reduced sensitivity. There is intervisibility with the South Tyne valley to the west, and with the AONB to the south. Aside from past mining, which has now been restored, there is no prominent modern human influence, and the landscape is tranquil, offering opportunities for hill walking and other outdoor recreation.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The topography, simplicity of land cover, and scale is indicative of reduced sensitivity. The landscape has few landmarks, but is prominent in views from the adjacent valleys and from nearby moorland. It is a quiet, tranquil landscape, with little evidence of human influence, although there are disturbed areas of former extraction in the north.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals should relate to the landscape form. Views are a key issue, as the hills are visible from the South Tyne and Allen valleys, and more distantly from Hadrian's Wall. Consideration should be given to the settings of the few elevated features, and to views from popular walking routes. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	25d Allen Common and Mohope/Acton Moors		
LCT	Moorland Ridges	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Narrow open ridge wrapping around the Allendales and forming the setting for the dale landscapes. Extensive and sometimes prominent evidence of past mining activity. Footpaths, tracks and minor roads link the dales. The landscape is within the North Pennines AONB, and extends south over the ridge into Cumbria and County Durham.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria are all indicative of reduced sensitivity to this type. However, this landscape has locally important landmarks and is extensively intervisible across neighbouring valleys in Northumberland and beyond. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, with little evidence of human influence, aside from the historic evidence of mining activity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals should relate to the landscape form. Views are a key issue, as the hills are visible from the Allen valleys, including Allendale Town and Allenheads, as well as from Nenthead and upper Weardale to the south. The settings of prominent historic mining heritage, such as the chimney on Dryburn Moor. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	25e Hexhamshire and Bulbeck Commons		
LCT	Moorland Ridges	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad plateau divided by the upper Devil's Water, and extending south into County Durham. Open extent of grass and heather moorland, with incised gullies. There are several small coniferous shelterbelts, and the extensive plantation of Slaley Wood. With the exception of this forestry, the area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria are all indicative of reduced sensitivity to this type. However, this elevated landscape is extensively intervisible across neighbouring valleys in Northumberland and beyond. It is a quiet, tranquil landscape, with plantation forestry being almost the only evidence of human influence.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals should relate to the landscape form. Views are a key issue, as the hills are visible from the East Allen valley, the Derwent valley, and other elevated areas of the AONB. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:		26a Healey	
LCT	Upland Farmland and Plantations	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	A transitional area between the Pennines and the Tyne Gap, with extensive coniferous plantations. Few settlements, though there are several country houses and estates. It is outside, but adjacent to, the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity for this type, as do most of the visual criteria. The landscape is intervisible with the Tyne Gap and with the AONB, although the forestry reduces the extent of this. There are few human features, aside from the forestry, although there are several historic houses and estates. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The indicators for this type suggest somewhat higher sensitivity due to the varied landform and landcover, as well as the presence of estate landscapes. Larger schemes would have more potential visibility from within the AONB.		Moderate
Biomass	Most indicators for this type suggest reduced sensitivity. There is intervisibility with the Tyne Gap and AONB, although biomass plantations could fit within the existing forestry plantations. There are estate influences, suggesting locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within this area should have regard to views from the AONB, and from locations within the Tyne Gap. Siting could take advantage of screening provided by the existing woodland plantations. Biomass plantations should marry in to existing patterns, particularly around estate landscapes. The settings of country houses, and their designed landscapes, should be respected.			

Landscape Character Area:		27a Upper West Allen	
LCT	Upper Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Remote upper valley with little woodland or settlement. Asymmetrical form, with steeper slopes to the east. There is extensive evidence of mining heritage. The area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied topography and level of enclosure suggest increased sensitivity to this type, although there is more simplicity of land cover. Visual indicators also suggest reduced sensitivity. However, this is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, used for outdoor recreation by visitors to the AONB. There are few modern human features, and some historic elements including mining heritage.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the underlying landscape. Views from popular walking routes within the valley and adjacent moorland, should be considered. Unimproved grassland and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	27b Upper East Allen		
LCT	Upper Dale	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Incised valley with few trees and relatively dense settlement. Village of Allenheads is surrounded by coniferous plantations. Extensive evidence of past mining activity. The area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied topography and level of enclosure suggest increased sensitivity to this type, although there is more simplicity of land cover. Visual indicators also suggest reduced sensitivity, although there are relatively high numbers of receptors. The landscape is well used for outdoor recreation by visitors to the AONB. There are few modern human features, and some historic elements including mining heritage.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform and AONB location.		High
Biomass	Not assessed		Not assessed
Mitigation issues			
Proposals within the AONB should be closely related to the underlying landscape. Views from the local centre at Allenheads, as well as from popular walking routes within the valley and adjacent moorland, should be considered. Unimproved grassland and other habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	28a River Irthing		
LCT	Basin Valley and Fringes	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Watershed at the head of the Tyne Gap, extending into Cumbria. Steep-sided wooded valley, gorge-like to the north, but more open to the east. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site passes through the area, which is adjacent to Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The varied, medium-scale landscape suggests some sensitivity to this type. Greater sensitivity is indicated by the landmarks within the landscape, and views from transport routes and walking routes (the Pennine Way and Hadrian's Wall Path). The importance of historic features, including Hadrian's Wall, and the proximity to the National Park, indicates high sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to World Heritage Site and National Park.		High
Biomass	The landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity for this type, with the exception of landmarks, as the area contains key views of Hadrian's Wall. It is well used for recreation, and has important historic features. Although self-contained, there are some views from the National Park.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site runs through this area, and must be the main consideration in the siting and design of any proposals. The setting of the wall and ancillary structures must be respected. Views to and from these and other historic features within the landscape should also be protected. Design of biomass plantations should reflect existing landscape patterns and avoid masking historic features.			

Landscape Character Area:	29a North Tyne Valley		
LCT	Broad Wooded Valley	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, rounded valley with meandering river in floodplain. Frequent woodland, including much native woodland, and mixed farmland. Villages and farmsteads give a settled character. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site passes through the area, which is close to Northumberland National Park to the west.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the southern part of this area. The landscape and visual criteria indicate some reduced sensitivity to this type. However, the visibility of the landscape and the importance of landmarks suggests higher sensitivity. This applies particularly to the southern part of the area, where Hadrian's Wall is located. In addition, settlements including Walwick and Humshaugh are clustered at this location.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the floodplain below Wark. The landscape and visual criteria indicate some reduced sensitivity to this type. However, the visibility of the landscape and the importance of landmarks suggests higher sensitivity. There is relatively frequent movement, although some sense of remoteness away from roads. Cultural factors, including limited modern human influences, and the high recreational value, suggest increased sensitivity.		High
Small-scale wind	The diversity of landform and landcover suggest higher sensitivity to this type. This is also indicated by the importance of landmarks and views within the landscape, although other visual criteria may suggest reduced sensitivity. Cultural factors, including limited modern human influences, and the high recreational value, suggest increased sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	Larger proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to proximity of National Park and World Heritage Site.		High
Biomass	The indicators for this type suggest reduced sensitivity. The importance of historic features and the high recreational value of the landscape suggests that sensitivity may vary locally, although biomass plantations could relate well to the pattern of woodland.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site runs through this area, and must be the main consideration in the siting and design of any proposals. The setting of the wall and ancillary structures, as well as of other historic features, should be respected. Views to and from the National Park should also be taken into consideration. Design of biomass plantations should reflect existing woodland patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:	30a Haltwhistle to Newbrough		
LCT	Glacial trough valley floor	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Narrow pastoral floodplain with meandering river and sections of wooded gorge. Moderate level of settlement and transport routes. The North Pennines AONB extends into the area at the confluence of the Allen Water.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the eastern part of this area, around Haydon Bridge. The landscape indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although the high visibility of the landscape from transport routes (A69 and Newcastle to Carlisle railway) suggests some sensitivity. The presence of some historic features, and the recreational value of the landscape, also indicates locally higher sensitivity.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the whole area. The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity, due to the enclosure and simpler landform. Visual criteria suggest greater sensitivity due to the importance of views, and the higher number of receptors. The importance of recreation and historic features, as well as the lack of industrial influence, also indicates high sensitivity.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The medium-small scale and enclosure suggest sensitivity to this type. The importance of views and the number of receptors in this landscape also indicate sensitivity. Cultural and perceptual criteria suggest generally lower sensitivity, although the landform is considered to be the key issue.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley. High sensitivity due to landform and number of receptors.		High
Biomass	Landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity, although the medium-small scale and the higher number of receptors indicate some sensitivity. Historic features may also indicate local sensitivity, although other cultural and perceptual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Visual issues relate to the key transport routes and the higher number of residential receptors within this populated valley, as well as the adjacent AONB. Views from these receptors should be considered in siting and design. The settings of natural and cultural heritage features, such as woodland, gorges, or country houses, should be respected. Existing field patterns on floodplains should be maintained or restored in the long term. Riverside woodland and other riparian habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation. Screening, restoration, or biomass plantations should relate to the pattern and structure of existing woodland.			

Landscape Character Area:	30b Newbrough to Corbridge		
LCT	Glacial trough valley floor	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Floodplain with meandering river and mixed farmland extending onto valley sides. Prominent commercial development around Bridge End and Hexham, and transport routes.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the western part of this area, around Newbrough. The landscape indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although the high visibility of the landscape from transport routes (A69 and Newcastle to Carlisle railway) suggests some sensitivity. The presence of some historic features also indicates locally higher sensitivity, although there are prominent modern human influences.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the whole area. The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity, due to the enclosure and simpler landform. Visual criteria suggest locally greater sensitivity due to the high number of receptors. The importance of historic features also indicates locally higher sensitivity, and there are prominent industrial elements.		Low
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria suggest some reduced sensitivity to this type. The importance of views and the high number of receptors in this landscape also indicate sensitivity. Cultural and perceptual criteria suggest generally lower sensitivity, due to the presence of prominent commercial and industrial development.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley. High sensitivity due to landform and number of receptors.		High
Biomass	Landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity, although the high number of receptors indicate some sensitivity. There are few significant historic features, and some prominent human features. Cultural and perceptual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Visual issues relate to the key transport routes and the higher number of residential receptors within this populated valley. Views from these receptors should be considered in siting and design. Existing field patterns on floodplains should be maintained or restored in the long term. Riverside woodland and other riparian habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation. Screening, restoration, or biomass plantations should relate to the pattern and structure of existing woodland.			

Landscape Character Area:	30c Corbridge to Wylam		
LCT	Glacial trough valley floor	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, meandering river in wooded floodplain with mixed farmland. Human influence includes settlement and commercial development, as well as transport routes.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the western third of this area, above the A68 crossing. The landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity, due to the enclosure and simpler landform. Visual criteria suggest locally greater sensitivity due to the high number of receptors. The importance of historic features also indicates locally higher sensitivity, and there are modern human features, including past gravel extraction.		Low
Small-scale wind	The landscape criteria suggest some reduced sensitivity to this type. The importance of views and the high number of receptors in this landscape indicate greater sensitivity. Cultural and perceptual criteria suggest generally lower sensitivity, due to the presence of commercial and industrial development, although there are also prominent historical features.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley. High sensitivity due to landform and number of receptors.		High
Biomass	Landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity, although the high number of receptors indicate some sensitivity. There are some significant historic features, and prominent human features, suggesting sensitivity may vary locally.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Visual issues relate to the key transport routes and the higher number of residential receptors within this populated valley. Views from these receptors should be considered in siting and design. Existing field patterns on floodplains should be maintained or restored in the long term. Riverside woodland and other riparian habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation. Screening, restoration, or biomass plantations should relate to the pattern and structure of existing woodland.			

Landscape Character Area:	31a Tipalt Burn		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Shallow burn valley at the edge of adjacent moorland. Semi-natural and coniferous woodland within tributary valleys. Transport routes are prominent. Past mining activity and overhead power lines. Adjacent to Northumberland National Park, but limited intervisibility.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the eastern part of this area. The landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria mostly indicate the same, although there is high visibility of this area from transport routes (A69 and Newcastle to Carlisle railway). There are some prominent historical features. There is a moderate level of recreational use, and little industry, although the area is not especially tranquil.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The enclosure of the landform suggests some sensitivity to this type, although other landscape and visual criteria do not. There are prominent historical features, including buildings and parkland, and very little industry. Otherwise the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The medium scale of the landscape, and the enclosure, suggest higher sensitivity to this type. There is also high visibility of the area from transport routes, and the prominence of historic features. Views from the National Park and Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site would be more likely with larger proposals.		High
Biomass	All the indicators suggest the area has reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of historic features. There may therefore be locally higher sensitivity around Blenkinsopp and other locations.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views to and from the National Park and World Heritage Site should be considered in the siting and design of any larger proposals. Views from transport routes should also be considered. The settings of historic features, including Blenkinsopp Hall and its estates, should be respected. Plantations for biomass and screen woodland should marry in to existing woodland patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:	31b Haltwhistle to Bridge End		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Pastoral valley sides, with extensive settlement on lower slopes. Strong field boundary pattern and deep gullies with native woodland. Prominent overhead power lines follow the valley west of Haydon Bridge. The area is close to, but not greatly visible from, Northumberland National Park and Hadrian's Wall.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the eastern part of the area, around Haydon Bridge and Newbrough. The landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria mostly indicate the same, although there is high visibility of this area from transport routes (A69 and Newcastle to Carlisle railway) and settlements. There are some prominent historical features, and a moderate level of recreational use. The area is not especially tranquil; there is evidence of past mineral extraction and overhead power lines.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the lower valley slopes in this area. The landscape and visual criteria largely suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although there is high visibility of this area from key transport routes and settlements, which tend to be clustered on the lower slopes. There are some historical features, and a moderate level of recreational use. There is little overt industrial development.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The enclosure of the landscape suggests some sensitivity, as do the high numbers of receptors. Other landscape and visual indicators do suggest reduced sensitivity. There are few industrial features, although there are prominent vertical elements in the form of electricity pylons.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The enclosure and diversity of landform, as well as the medium scale, suggest greater sensitivity to large-scale schemes. There are also historic features which indicate greater sensitivity.		High
Biomass	All the indicators suggest the area has reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of historic features and receptors. There may therefore be locally higher sensitivity around settlement, transport routes and historic estates.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views to and from the National Park and World Heritage Site should be considered in the siting and design of any larger proposals. Views from transport routes should also be considered. The settings of historic features should be respected. Plantations for biomass and screen woodland should marry in to existing woodland patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:	31c North Plenmeller Common		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Narrow pastoral band below upland common. Pattern of woodland in gullies and coniferous shelterbelts. The area is adjacent to the North Pennines AONB but has limited intervisibility.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the lower valley slopes in this area. The landscape and visual criteria largely suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although there is high visibility of this area from key transport routes and settlements within the Tyne valley. There are few overt human features in this landscape. There are also no significant historic features and relatively low recreational use.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual indicators suggest relatively little sensitivity, although there are high numbers of receptors, and views into the area from the AONB. There are few industrial features, and no vertical elements. The landscape has some movement and reduced tranquillity, but is not greatly used for recreation.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The medium scale and moderate diversity of landform and land cover suggest greater sensitivity to large-scale schemes. There are relatively large numbers of receptors, and larger schemes may have more visibility from the AONB, and more distantly, from Hadrian's Wall within Northumberland National Park.		High
Biomass	All the indicators suggest the area has reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of the higher number of receptors. There may therefore be locally higher sensitivity relating to views from settlements and transport routes.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from the Tyne valley settlements, including Haltwhistle, will be an important consideration in siting and design. Proposals must consider views to and from the National Park, Hadrian's Wall, and the AONB. Views from transport routes (A69 and Newcastle to Carlisle railway) should also be considered. Plantations for biomass and screen woodland should marry in to existing woodland patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:	31d Langley to Stocksfield		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Long section of south valley side, which includes the town of Hexham. Extensive broadleaved and mixed woodland, including large commercial plantations around Hexham. The North Pennines AONB overlaps the western edge of this area.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies only to a small area of this landscape, close to Newbrough. Most of the landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity. The high number of receptors indicates higher sensitivity, and the A69 passes through the limestone area. There are limited historic features and few prominent modern human elements.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the lower valley slopes in this area. The landscape and visual criteria largely suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although there is high visibility of this area from key transport routes, including the A69 which passes along this area, and settlements which are generally located on lower slopes. There are few overt human features in this landscape aside from larger settlements at Hexham and Riding Mill.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The variety of landform, and the high numbers of receptors,, including some views from the AONB, suggest higher sensitivity. Other landscape and visual indicators suggest relatively little sensitivity, although the density of receptors would indicate high sensitivity around Hexham. There are few prominent vertical elements. The landscape has movement and limited tranquillity, and is not well used for recreation.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The medium scale and diversity of landform and land cover suggest greater sensitivity to large-scale schemes. To the west, larger schemes may have more visibility from the AONB, Hadrian's Wall, and the National Park.		High
Biomass	Most of the indicators suggest the area has reduced sensitivity to this type, although there are high numbers of receptors, some historic features, and a varied landform. There may therefore be locally higher sensitivity, particularly around Hexham, although here there are already extensive plantations.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from Hexham, Riding Mill, and other receptors in the Tyne valley, will be an important consideration in siting and design. Proposals must consider views to and from the National Park, Hadrian's Wall, and the AONB. The settings of settlements should be respected in the siting of proposals. Plantations for biomass and screen woodland should marry in to existing woodland patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:	31e Stocksfield to Prudhoe		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Southern slopes including large built up area of Prudhoe, and other mining settlements. Away from urban influence, this is an open pastoral landscape.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Most of the indicators for this type suggest reduced sensitivity, although there are few vertical features within the landscape. However, the density of settlement, and the high number of receptors, indicate high sensitivity for this type.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. In terms of visual criteria, the landscape is open, resulting in simple skylines, and there are high numbers of receptors. Cultural and perceptual criteria all suggest reduced sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Proposals should respect the settings of settlements, particularly historic colliery villages such as Mickley. Views from settlements within this landscape and the wider Tyne valley should also be considered in the siting and design of proposals, as well as views from transport routes.			

Landscape Character Area:	31f Acomb to Ovington		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Gentler valley slopes with extensive parkland and network of woodland including much semi-natural woodland. Includes the town of Corbridge and Acomb village.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for sand and gravel extraction applies to the lower valley slopes and the area south-west of Corbridge. The landscape criteria largely suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. There are locally important views, and high visibility of this area from the A69 and A68. Receptors are also represented by settlements, which are generally located on lower slopes. There are prominent historic estates.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The variety of landform suggests higher sensitivity, as do the importance of views and the high numbers of receptors. Some landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, and the landscape has movement and limited tranquillity. There are extensive historic influences.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	Most of the indicators suggest the area has reduced sensitivity to this type, although there are high numbers of receptors, some historic features, and a varied landform. There may therefore be locally higher sensitivity, particularly at Corbridge and around designed landscapes.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from Corbridge, the A68 and A69, and other receptors in the Tyne valley will be an important consideration in siting and design. Larger proposals must consider views to and from Hadrian's Wall, located on the ridge to the north. The settings of settlements should be respected in the siting of proposals. Designed landscapes and estates, and the settings of historic buildings, should also be considered. Plantations for biomass and screen woodland should marry in to existing woodland patterns, particularly within estate landscapes.			

Landscape Character Area:	31g Ovington to Wylam		
LCT	Glacial trough valley sides	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Gentler valley slopes with small settlements. Generally open, more intensive farming. Evidence of new housing and further development pressure.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual indicators generally suggest reduced sensitivity, although the density of receptors in adjacent areas would indicate high sensitivity opposite Prudhoe. There are some prominent modern human elements. The landscape has movement and limited tranquillity, and is not well used for recreation.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The medium scale and diversity of landform and land cover suggest greater sensitivity to large-scale schemes. Higher visibility from the A69, and the setting of historic features, also indicate greater sensitivity.		High
Biomass	Most of the indicators suggest the area has reduced sensitivity to this type, although there are some historic features and a higher numbers of receptors. There may therefore be locally higher sensitivity, particularly along the A69.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from Prudhoe, the A69, and other receptors in the Tyne valley, will be an important consideration in siting and design. Larger proposals must consider views to and from Hadrian's Wall, located on the ridge to the north. The settings of settlements and historic features should be respected in the siting of proposals. Plantations for biomass and screen woodland should marry in to existing woodlands. Consideration should be given to effects on potential future development sites.			

Landscape Character Area:	32a Howden Hill		
LCT	Parallel Ridges and Commons	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Open moorland of east-west ridges, extending north into Northumberland National Park. Open landscape which forms part of the setting for Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The majority of landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of the higher intervisibility. The landscape is very quiet and tranquil, but has little recreational use. There are few historic features within the area, but development would potentially affect views from within the National Park and from Hadrian's Wall.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The simplicity of landcover and openness of the landscape suggest higher sensitivity, as does the tranquillity of the area. Although there are few recreational resources within the area, it extends north to Hadrian's Wall.		High
Mitigation issues			
Views to and from the National Park and the World Heritage Site would be the key issues for any proposals in this area. Similarly, biomass plantations would be unlikely to suit the open moorland of the area, and siting and design must have regard to the setting of Hadrian's Wall and the National Park.			

Landscape Character Area:		32b Haltwhistle, Melkridge and Ridley Commons	
LCT	Parallel Ridges and Commons	Guiding principle	Protect
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Open moorland of east-west stepped terraces, extending north to the Whin Sill in Northumberland National Park. An open landscape which forms part of the setting for Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, and includes historic features and visitor facilities.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although visual indicators suggest the reverse, with high visibility from local roads, and significant views and landmarks. The landscape is relatively tranquil, and has extensive recreational use. There are important historic features within the area, and development would potentially affect views from within the National Park and from Hadrian's Wall.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The openness of the landscape suggests higher sensitivity, as does the tranquillity of the area. The area has historic features, and is well used for recreation as an access to Hadrian's Wall.		High
Mitigation issues			
Views to and from the National Park and the World Heritage Site would be the key issues for any proposals in this area. Similarly, biomass plantations would be unlikely to suit the open moorland of the area, and siting and design must have regard to the setting of Hadrian's Wall and the National Park.			

Landscape Character Area:	33a Erring Burn		
LCT	Tributary Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Shallow bowl-like valley with regular field pattern and relatively intense cultivation. The A68 passes through, and there are several historic features.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the south and west parts of this area. The simplicity of this landscape suggests higher sensitivity, although it is locally more undulating. Other landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity, although there is high visibility from the A68. The area is generally relatively tranquil, and has some prominent historic features, although limited recreational use.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Most of the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although the valley landform may render it less suitable, particularly in the lower areas. The area is relatively tranquil, and has few overt modern human features. Historic features are occasionally prominent.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The valley landform suggests greater sensitivity to this type. Larger schemes would potentially be more visible from Hadrian's Wall on the ridge to the south.		High
Biomass	The simplicity of this landscape and its skylines suggest higher sensitivity, although it is locally more undulating. Most other indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, although there are historic features which may indicate locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The siting and design of proposals should consider views from the A68, and for larger proposals, views from Hadrian's Wall to the south. Screen planting and biomass plantations should relate to the pattern of field boundaries within the landscape. The settings of historic features should be respected.			

Landscape Character Area:	34a Acomb Ridge		
LCT	Upland Commons and Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Upland ridge of rough and improved pasture. The course of Hadrian's Wall runs on the ridge, though the wall does not survive. Some areas of woodland and plantations, occasional long views over Tyne valley and to north.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the northern half of this area. The simplicity of the landscape, and to an extent its openness, suggest some sensitivity to this type. There are important views and the landscape is very intervisible, with receptors on the 'Military Road' and A68. Hadrian's Wall lies partly within the identified pressure area, and is important historically and as a recreational resource.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. This is not backed up by visual criteria, as the high intervisibility and importance of views suggests higher sensitivity. There are some prominent vertical features, in the form of an overhead power line, but historic features are also prominent in the form of a World Heritage Site. Hadrian's Wall footpath is a well-used long distance route.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The simplicity of the landscape, and to an extent its openness, suggest some sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria generally indicate reduced sensitivity. There is high intervisibility, prominent historical features, and important recreational resources.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The presence of the World Heritage Site within this landscape is the key issue for the siting and design of any proposals. Views from the Hadrian's Wall path and the 'Military Road' must be carefully considered, and the setting of the remains respected. Biomass plantations and screening woodland should relate to existing woodlands where these exist, and to field boundary patterns. Long views out of the landscape should be retained. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	34b Broadpool Common		
LCT	Upland Commons and Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Gently sloping transitional area between the North Tyne valley and large-scale forestry. Generally pastoral, with open rough pasture to the west, and deeply incised burns. The area lies on the edge of Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, with few overt human features. There are few historic features, but the area is well used of recreation, with the Pennine Way and views from the National Park.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. Larger schemes would potentially be more visible from within the National Park, and in views to the National Park from the Tyne Valley.		High
Biomass	Landscape and visual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type. There are few indicators suggesting higher sensitivity, although the higher recreational use and views from the National Park suggest locally higher sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
The proximity of the National Park suggests that views both to and from this area must be carefully considered. Larger schemes in particular may affect the setting of the National Park as seen from the east. Biomass plantations should relate to the existing pattern of woodland in the eastern part of the area, and would be less intrusive here than in the open areas to the west. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:		34c Grindon Common	
LCT	Upland Commons and Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Relatively flat upland fringe, with strong pattern of stone walls and forestry blocks. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site passes through, and the area has an important role in the setting of the North Tyne and South Tyne valleys. The area is on the edge of Northumberland National Park.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the central and southern parts of this area. The simple landform and openness suggest some sensitivity to this type, as does the simplicity of skylines. Other landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, although the area is important in views from the Tyne valley. It is a quiet landscape, though with limited remoteness. The setting of Hadrian's Wall is important, and the area has associated recreational use.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, although the area is important in views from the Tyne valley, and potentially from Hadrian's Wall and the National Park. There are overhead power lines in the landscape, but historic and recreational elements are also important.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above. Larger proposals would be likely to have greater potential effects on the World Heritage Site and National Park.		High
Biomass	The simple landform and openness suggest some sensitivity to this type, as does the simplicity of skylines. Other landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity. Cultural and perceptual criteria also indicate reduced sensitivity, although there are some historic features suggesting this may be locally higher.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals must consider first the setting of Hadrian's Wall and the National Park. Views from the North Tyne and South Tyne valleys towards the National Park, as well as views out, should be considered. Biomass plantations and screening woodland should relate to the pattern of the landscape, and should avoid masking historic features. Seek to maintain stone walls as a characteristic feature. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:		34d Featherstone Common	
LCT	Upland Commons and Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Small transitional upland on the edge of the North Pennines. Strong field pattern with hawthorn hedges, but little woodland and an open feel. Patchy scrub and subtle historical evidence.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for extraction applies only to the lower-lying eastern edge of this area. Landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity, and the area of pressure is likely to be further enclosed. It is a relatively tranquil landscape, with little or no modern human influence.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The landscape and visual criteria all suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, as do most of the cultural criteria, although there are very limited modern human influences. It is a quiet, relatively tranquil landscape, with some intervisibility with the North Pennines AONB to the south.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The relative variety of land cover, and the medium scale, suggest increased sensitivity to this type, as does the presence of historic features in the landscape. Only the visual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity, including intervisibility with the AONB.		High
Biomass	Generally, landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. Cultural criteria also indicate reduced sensitivity, although there are significant historic features in the form of earthworks.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting and design of proposals should seek to avoid effects on historic earthworks. Views from the Tyne valley should be considered, as well as any potential views from Northumberland National Park which lies across the Tyne Gap to the north, and the AONB to the south. Screening or biomass plantations should reflect the distinctive field pattern, and avoid masking historic earthworks. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	34e Lowes and Nubbock Fells		
LCT	Upland Commons and Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Elevated plateau with strong geometric field pattern. Occasional coniferous woodlands and pine shelterbelts. The southern half of the area is within the North Pennines AONB.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Pressure for extraction applies to the northern extent, around Lowes Fell. Landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity, although the pressure area is likely to be more open. Visual criteria suggest higher sensitivity due to intervisibility, which will be an issue for the northern area in relation to the Tyne valley, and receptors. There is some tranquillity, and few human features.		High
Small-scale wind	There is some localised variety of landform, and intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, including the AONB to the south. Other landscape and visual criteria indicate some reduced sensitivity. There are few modern human influences, and the area has some sense of remoteness. There is relatively little recreational use, although this increases to the south in the AONB.		High
Large-scale wind	The proximity of the AONB, and the scale of the landscape, suggest higher sensitivity to larger schemes, which may also be more visible from the Tyne Gap.		High
Biomass	Several indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although there is some landform variety, simple skylines, and higher intervisibility. Sensitivity may increase to the south, due to greater recreational use in the AONB.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The AONB is a key consideration for proposals in this area, both in terms of direct effects, and indirect effects on views and on setting. Screening or biomass plantations should reflect the distinctive field pattern, and marry in to the network of woodland and shelterbelts. Upland habitats should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	35a Coquet Valley		
LCT	Broad Lowland Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Gently incised valley, occasionally steeper and rocky. Extensive parkland and historic settlements, as well as ancient woodland, amongst mixed farmland.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landform, land cover, scale and enclosure all suggest higher sensitivity to this type. There are very few modern human influences, and several historic features, and the landscape is relatively tranquil. Only visual criteria demonstrate some reduced sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform.		High
Biomass	Most indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although the scale is relatively small. There are some historic features, indicating locally higher sensitivity, and it is a relatively tranquil landscape.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting should relate to the valley landform, and to the relatively small scale of the valley. Biomass plantations should marry in to the existing woodland pattern, and could take design cues from riparian and other native woodlands. Riparian woodland and habitat should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	35b Font and Wansbeck Valleys		
LCT	Broad Lowland Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Gently incised valley, with steeper tributary valleys. Riparian woodland and historic parkland, including registered park and garden at Wallington and settlements amongst mixed farmland.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the western ends of the valleys, around Wallington and below Fontburn Reservoir. Landscape and visual indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although there are higher numbers of receptors, particularly around Wallington. There are few overt human features, and prominent historic features, again mainly around Wallington.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Land cover and a medium-small scale suggest higher sensitivity to this type, and the valley landform is unlikely to be suitable. There are very few modern human influences, and several historic features. Visual criteria demonstrate some reduced sensitivity, although there are locally higher numbers of receptors.		High
Large-scale wind	Large-scale proposals are unlikely to come forward in a valley landscape. High sensitivity due to landform.		High
Biomass	Most indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although the scale is relatively small. Historic features indicate locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Siting should relate to the valley landform, and to the relatively small scale of the valley. Mineral extraction would require to be well screened, with woodland tying into existing patterns. The estate landscape at Wallington, as well as other historic features, should be carefully considered and its setting respected. Biomass plantations should marry in to the existing woodland pattern, and could take design cues from riparian and other native woodlands. Riparian woodland and habitat should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	36a Ingoe Moor		
LCT	Lowland Farmed Moor	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Open rolling plateau, with occasional craggy outcrops. Mixed farmland with some remnant moorland and few trees. Past and ongoing mineral quarrying is evident. A small wind farm at Kirkheaton.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to a band running north-south through the centre of this area. Landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity, although the area is open and exposed. The skylines are simple, but otherwise visual criteria also suggest reduced sensitivity. There is limited industrial influence, aside from existing quarrying, and some significant historic features. It is a quiet landscape, but with limited tranquillity.		Low
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Generally, the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. The landform, land cover and scale, as well as the lack of landmarks and limited intervisibility, all support this. Although quiet, the area has limited tranquillity, and there are modern human elements in the landscape. The area is little used for recreation, and there are few receptors.		Low
Large-scale wind	Again, the indicators suggest reduced sensitivity to larger wind schemes. The presence of historic features suggests some increased sensitivity in certain locations.		Moderate
Biomass	Landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, although the area is open and exposed, and the skylines are simple. There is limited intervisibility and relatively few receptors. There are some important historic elements, which suggests locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
A key consideration should be the settings of historic features, including the estate landscapes around Capheaton Hall and Belsay Hall, for example, as well as historic hamlets and the Roman road which crosses the area. Settings of natural features should also be respected, such as the craggy outcrops. Screening and biomass should avoid introducing prominent woodland in to the open landscape, should tie into existing patterns of plantation, and may help to introduce structure which is lacking in certain areas. Restoration proposals should also address this lack of structure. Remnant habitats associated with unimproved grassland should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	37a Wingates Ridge		
LCT	Lowland Farmed Ridge	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Upland fringe ridge with steep slopes to the River Font in the south. Pastoral landscape, with small-scale coniferous plantations and broadleaf woodland. Adjoins Northumberland National Park at its north-west corner.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the western end of this area. Landscape criteria generally suggest reduced sensitivity. Visual criteria suggest higher sensitivity, as the area is visible from the National Park, and has higher numbers of receptors. There are few significant historic features, but also little industry, and the area is relatively tranquil.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The variety of landform suggests some sensitivity, and this is backed up by intervisibility and views. Other landscape and visual factors indicate reduced sensitivity. There are few modern human features, but also few historic features and limited recreational use.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The variety of landform and land cover indicates some heightened sensitivity to this type. The proximity to the National Park also suggests some increase in sensitivity to larger schemes.		Moderate
Biomass	The variety of landform, and the high intervisibility of this landscape, including with the National Park, suggest some increase in sensitivity, but the other landscape and visual factors indicate reduced sensitivity. Cultural and perceptual criteria also generally indicate reduced sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from the National Park would be the key issue for proposals in this area, and must be addressed through siting and design. Views to the National Park from adjacent landscapes, and the setting of the prominent Simonside Hill, should also be considered. Screening or biomass plantations should marry in with existing woodland patterns and species. Restoration proposals should similarly consider the National Park, as well as the landscape's relationship with the adjacent valley. Habitats associated with unimproved grassland should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	37b Longwitton Ridge		
LCT	Lowland Farmed Ridge	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, gentle, upland fringe ridge between the Rivers Font and Wansbeck. Extensive areas of open pasture with stone walls. Treeless areas interspersed with substantial conifer plantations as at Broomfield Fell. Some areas of ancient woodland, estate influence, and prominent historic features such as Rothley Castle.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies to the western part of this area. Landscape criteria generally suggest reduced sensitivity. Visual criteria suggest higher sensitivity, as the area is visible from Northumberland National Park, and has higher numbers of receptors. There are several prominent historic features. There is little industry, and the area is relatively tranquil.		Moderate
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The variety of landform suggests some sensitivity, and this is backed up by intervisibility and views. Other landscape and visual factors indicate reduced sensitivity. There are few modern human features, but also limited recreational use. There are prominent historic features on hill tops.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The variety of landform and land cover indicates greater sensitivity to this type. The proximity to the National Park, and the prominence of historic buildings, also suggests higher sensitivity to larger schemes.		High
Biomass	The variety of landform, and the high intervisibility of this landscape suggest some increase in sensitivity, but the other landscape and visual factors indicate reduced sensitivity. Cultural and perceptual criteria also generally indicate the same, although the prominence of historic features suggests locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Potential effects on views from and to the National Park should be considered, especially for proposals within the western part of the area. The setting of Simonside Hill should be considered. The settings of historic and natural features within this landscape, such as Rothley Castle and the crag on which it sits, should also be respected. Restoration proposals should aim to reintroduce structure in the landscape, and where appropriate to enhance the settings of prominent features. Screening woodland and biomass plantations should marry in to existing woodland patterns, and avoid masking historic features. Habitats associated with unimproved grassland should be protected or enhanced through mitigation.			

Landscape Character Area:	38a Longframlington		
LCT	Lowland Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Undulating farmland bordering the coastal plain, and elevated in some locations. Arable farmland and large conifer plantations. Limited evidence of past mining activity. The Northumberland Coast AONB lies directly to the east of this area.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for whin extraction applies to the north-west part of the area. The landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. Visual criteria are more mixed, as the landscape has few landmarks. The pressure area has little intervisibility with the AONB, but is potentially visible from Alnwick. The western part has less intervisibility, but also has high numbers of receptors on A roads. The area has little remoteness, with many human features, although there are a few historic features suggesting locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	There is some variety to landform, but other landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity. The area has few landmarks, and intervisibility with the AONB, although there are few landmarks. There are some prominent vertical features and relatively little historic or recreational interest.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The variety of land cover and the visibility from transport routes, including the A1, indicate greater sensitivity to this type. The intervisibility also suggests greater sensitivity.		High
Biomass	Aside from a degree of variety in landform, the landscape and visual criteria generally indicate reduced sensitivity. There is intervisibility with the coastal plain, but the extensive conifer plantations could offer some screening in this direction. Historic features suggest locally higher sensitivity.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from Alnwick and the main transport routes, the A1 and A697, should be considered when siting proposals. Views from the coastal strip should also be considered, particularly in relation to views from within the AONB. Siting and design of biomass and extraction sites could use existing woodland and forestry as screening. New screening should marry in to these features, and biomass could take design cues from existing native woodland.			

Landscape Character Area:	38b Longhorsley		
LCT	Lowland Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Undulating farmland, with occasional medieval pattern of field boundaries Areas of more intensive arable farmland among hamlets, minor roads, and woodlands. Cut by the A1 and A697.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies to the eastern edge of this area. The landscape and visual criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type, with the exception of the high number of receptors who view this landscape from the A1, which overlooks the pressure area. There are some prominent features, including estate influences in the pressure area, although it is less well used for recreation.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual criteria all suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. There is relatively limited intervisibility and few landmarks in this medium-large scale landscape. Cultural criteria indicate some higher sensitivity, particularly around historic features.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The relative diversity of landform and land cover, and the visibility of this area from A roads, suggests greater sensitivity to this type. However, the majority of landscape and visual criteria indicate reduced sensitivity.		Moderate
Biomass	Only the prominence of historic features within this landscape suggests some sensitivity to this type. Other indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, although it may vary locally.		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from the two A roads should be considered in siting and design of proposals in this landscape. Views from the northern edge of Morpeth should also be considered. Regard should be had to the settings of historic features within the landscape. Estate landscapes may be particularly sensitive to plantations. Extraction should avoid these, and screening restoration proposals should reflect existing patterns where appropriate.			

Landscape Character Area:	38c Whalton and Belsay		
LCT	Lowland Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Medium to large scale mixed farmland, with several traditional villages, associated with country estates, as at Belsay near Belsay Hall. Estates are well wooded, though intensive arable occurs elsewhere. Urban fringe of Morpeth beyond the A1, and a disused airfield, indicate pockets of lower sensitivity.		
Opencast coal	Pressure for coal extraction applies only to the westernmost edge of the area, south of Morpeth. Landscape and visual criteria indicate generally reduced sensitivity to this type, although there are large numbers of receptors in the pressure area, which is close to the A1 and to Morpeth. Historic features, and recreational use are less of an issue in the pressure area.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Landscape and visual criteria all indicate reduced sensitivity to this type, although there are large numbers of receptors in this settled landscape. Away from the main roads, it is relatively tranquil. Cultural factors, including historic features, recreational use, and the lack of industry, all point to greater sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The relative variety of landcover, higher number of receptors, and importance of historic elements, all suggest greater sensitivity to large proposals.		Moderate
Biomass	Only recreational use, and the prominence of historic features within the landscape, suggests some sensitivity to this type. Other indicators suggest reduced sensitivity, although it may vary locally, being higher		Low
Mitigation issues			
Views from the A1, and from the A696, should be considered in siting and design of proposals in this landscape. Views from the southern edge of Morpeth should also be considered, along with the setting of settlements, particularly estate villages. Regard should be had to the settings of estates, particularly those on the Register of Parks and Gardens. Plantations should reflect existing patterns of woodland where appropriate, particularly around estate landscapes.			

Landscape Character Area:	38d Pont Valley		
LCT	Lowland Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Medium-small scale shallow valley, strongly influenced by historic estates, associated settlement and land uses.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Medium-small scale, landscape, with prominent historic features and few settlements. Views are contained within the valley, which has few man-made features.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The medium-small scale and open character suggest increased sensitivity, although biomass plantations could potentially relate well to the simple pattern of field enclosures.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should take account of the scale and historic character of this landscape. Site design should relate to the pattern of the landscape, and should seek to replace landscape element which have been lost. However, consideration should be given to intervisibility with residential receptors and potential effects the setting of historic features.			

Landscape Character Area:	38e North Tyne Ridge		
LCT	Lowland Rolling Farmland	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Medium-scale undulating agricultural landscape, strongly associated with the Tyne Valley. Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site runs through the area, although there are few visible remains.		
Opencast coal	Not assessed		Not assessed
Hard rock	Pressure for limestone extraction applies only to the north-western extremity of this area. Landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this type. There is intervisibility, although the pressure area is away from the Tyne Gap. It is visible from the 'Military Road', and from the Hadrian's Wall path, which follows the World heritage Site.		High
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	Medium-large scale, simple landscape, with few settlements and localised vertical features. There are important views over the Tyne Gap and significant historic features, which attract large numbers of recreational receptors, suggesting increased sensitivity.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The medium-large scale and the existing presence of woodland blocks, suggest this landscape could potentially accommodate medium-sized plantations. Care must be taken to avoid interrupting significant views to the Tyne Gap and Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should take account of intervisibility and strong visual links with neighbouring landscapes, with key views over the Tyne Valley and from Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. Site design should relate to the pattern of this landscape, in terms of existing woodland and field patterns.			

Landscape Character Area:		39a Coastal Coalfields	
LCT	Coalfield farmland	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	This landscape has been heavily affected by past mineral extraction. There are surviving remnants of woodland and historic buildings among large-scale reclaimed landscapes.		
Opencast coal	Coal mining has been the main activity across much of this landscape in the past. The landscape is simple, medium-large scale, and open, and has limited views although some intervisibility. There are higher numbers of receptors, but fewer recreational users. Human features are common and there are higher levels of movement. Any extraction would need to be sensitively sited in relation to this settled landscape, with detailed consideration of restoration.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Former extraction sites may provide opportunities for landfill sites. The larger scale and simplicity of this landscape may indicate reduced sensitivity, although there are relatively large numbers of potential receptors and settlements. Any development would need to be sensitively sited in relation to this settled landscape, with detailed consideration of restoration.		Moderate
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a simple, medium-large scale landscape, with limited views although some intervisibility. There is much evidence of human activity, including vertical features. Small, sensitively sited wind power developments could relate well to this landscape.		Low
Large-scale wind	As noted above, there is some capacity for wind power development, although larger schemes would potentially impact on the relatively large number of receptors in this landscape, as well as on views from or along the coast.		Moderate
Biomass	The medium-large scale of the landscape, and the existing woodland blocks, suggest reduced sensitivity. Although there are higher numbers of receptors, this is a less visually important landscape, and biomass plantations could relate well, introducing structure and potentially enhancing areas of former workings.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The open, simplified character of this area would allow suitably designed large-scale development to fit into the landscape. There is greater scope for measures such as screening to be effective due to the lack of key views. A focus for mitigation measures will be site restoration proposals, which should aim to strengthen local landscape character, and replace elements which have been lost.			

Landscape Character Area:	39b Seaton Delaval		
LCT	Coalfield Farmland	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Gently sloping agricultural landscape with localised estate features associated to the historic Seaton Delaval Hall. Settlement edges and main roads are key influences, localised views are available of the coast.		
Opencast coal	This is a medium-scale landscape with frequent man-made features. However, the settled character, prominent historic features and frequent visitors to the area suggest an increased sensitivity.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	This is a medium-scale landscape with frequent man-made features. However, the settled character, prominent historic features and frequent visitors to the area suggest an increased sensitivity.		High
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a settled, fairly open landscape of medium-scale with locally significant views. Prominent vertical features are common, but the presence of frequent sensitive receptors and prominent historic features suggest some increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	The medium scale of the landscape and existing variety in land cover may provide scope for biomass development in more fragmented agricultural areas and areas of existing development.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should aim to direct new development to the more fragmented areas of within this landscape, in association with existing man-made features. Site design should relate to the pattern of the landscape, and should seek to replace landscape element which have been lost. However, consideration should be given to intervisibility with residential receptors and potential effects on key views and historic features.			

Landscape Character Area:	39c Stannington		
LCT	Coalfield Farmland	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Significantly modified agricultural landscape, incised by the wooded valleys of the Blyth and Wansbeck rivers, and influenced by frequent settlement and infrastructure corridors. Land cover is varied and comprises agricultural fields, areas of reclaimed land and localised woodland cover.		
Opencast coal	The medium-large scale, frequent man-made features and limited intervisibility suggest a reduced sensitivity across this landscape. There are frequent settlements and localised views of the distant Cheviot Hills. Any extraction would need to be sensitively sited in relation to this settled landscape, with detailed consideration of restoration.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a fairly self-contained, medium-large scale landscape, with restricted intervisibility. There are frequent areas of man-made influence, which include vertical features and infrastructure corridors. Small, sensitively sited wind power developments could relate well to this landscape.		Low
Large-scale wind	As noted above, there is capacity for wind power development, although larger schemes would need to be considered in terms of their potential impacts on the relatively large number of receptors in this landscape.		Moderate
Biomass	The medium-large scale of the landscape, fragmentation of farmland and existing variety in land cover, suggest reduced sensitivity to biomass development		Low
Mitigation issues			
The existing developed character of this area would allow suitably designed large-scale development to fit into the landscape. Mitigation measures should aim to enhance the local landscape character and seek to replace elements which have been lost.			

Landscape Character Area:	40a Druridge Bay		
LCT	Broad Bays and Dunes	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Distinctive narrow coastal strip, comprising sandy beaches and mature sand dunes, backed by a variety of landscapes in which the influence of former industry is locally visible. Settlement is limited to occasional villages, lending a quiet character that is popular with recreational visitors.		
Opencast coal	This is a large-scale, simple landscape, with open views and a high degree of intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes. There are some important landscape features and recreational attractions, but fewer man-made influences.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The landscape is relatively open and undeveloped, contains no vertical features and maintains strong visual links with neighbouring landscapes. High numbers of visitors are attracted to the sandy beaches and areas of wildlife interest.		High
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		High
Biomass	This is a relatively open and exposed landscape with limited tree cover. Restored parts of the landscape south of Hauxley are characterised by mixed plantations and coniferous shelterbelts, and provide some scope for medium-scale biomass development.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should aim to direct new development to areas of lower sensitivity within this landscape (i.e. areas influenced by former workings). Site design should relate to the pattern of the landscape, in terms of woodland and field patterns. However, consideration should be given to intervisibility with adjacent landscapes and potential effects on key views.			

Landscape Character Area:	40b Seaton Dunes		
LCT	Broad Bays and Dunes	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Distinctive narrow coastal strip, comprising broad sandy bays, backed by dunes, and of visitor interest. The proximity of industrial features at Blyth Harbour, extends an urban fringe feel to this landscape.		
Opencast coal	This is a medium-large scale, simple landscape, influenced by man-made features and nearby settlement. However there are important ecological features, locally significant views and recreational attractions which suggest increased sensitivity.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	The medium-large scale, simple landform and prominent views of nearby industrial features suggest this landscape is of lower sensitivity. However, the relative higher visibility of this landscape from residential receptors, and the popularity of the coastal strip for recreational access, suggests increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	The coastal edge nature of this landscape means that it is unlikely to be suitable for larger-scale developments. High sensitivity due to recreational use and coastal landform.		High
Biomass	This is an open and exposed landscape with very few trees. There are locally significant views and intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes which suggest increased sensitivity.		High
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should aim to direct new development to areas of lower sensitivity within this landscape (i.e. areas influenced by industry/ settlement). However, consideration should be given to intervisibility with adjacent landscapes and potential effects on key views.			

Landscape Character Area:	41a Blyth and Wansbeck Estuaries		
LCT	Developed Coast	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Intensively developed landscape, comprising a coastal urban edge at the river estuaries. The landscape is heavily influenced by urban and industrial developments and is interwoven with pockets of fragmented farmland.		
Opencast coal	Large scale industries and former mining operations have dominated much of this landscape. The landscape is simple, medium-large scale, and contains features which are locally significant in views. There are higher numbers of receptors, and localised recreational users. Industrial and brownfield land are frequent and there are higher levels of movement. Any extraction would need to be sensitively sited in relation to this settled landscape, with detailed consideration of restoration.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a simple, medium-large scale landscape, with occasional views to adjacent landscapes. There are frequent areas of man-made influence, including vertical features and large scale industrial development. Small, sensitively sited wind power developments could relate well to this landscape.		Low
Large-scale wind	As noted above, there is some capacity for wind power development, although larger schemes would potentially impact on the relatively large number of receptors in this landscape, as well as on views from or along the coast. A precedent has been set for off-shore wind development at Blyth and opportunities for large-scale schemes may be explored further off-shore.		Moderate
Biomass	The medium-large scale of the landscape, and the existing fragmentation of farmland, suggest reduced sensitivity. Although there are higher numbers of receptors, this is a less visually important landscape, and biomass plantations could relate well to the landscape, introducing structure and potentially enhancing areas of former workings.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The existing developed character of this area would allow suitably designed large-scale development to fit into the landscape. Mitigation measures should aim to enhance the local landscape character and existing green network, and replace elements which have been lost.			

Landscape Character Area:	42a Ashington, Blyth and Cramlington		
LCT	Urban and Urban Fringe	Guiding principle	Plan
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	This is an area of relatively flat, coastal fringe landscape, underlain by coal measures and incised by the valleys of the River Wansbeck and River Blyth. The landscape is heavily influenced by urban and industrial developments and former mining activity and is interwoven with pockets of fragmented farmland.		
Opencast coal	Large scale industries and former mining operations have dominated much of this landscape. The landscape is simple, medium-scale, and has limited views although some intervisibility. Human features are common and there are higher levels of movement. However, the densely settled nature of the landscape indicates high sensitivity, as any extraction would potentially affect large numbers of residents.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Not assessed		Not assessed
Small-scale wind	This is a varied, medium scale landscape, with limited views although some intervisibility. There is much evidence of human activity, including vertical features and large scale industrial development. Small, sensitively sited wind power developments could relate well to this landscape.		Low
Large-scale wind	The landscape criteria indicate some reduced sensitivity to this type, but larger schemes would potentially impact on the large number of receptors in this landscape, as well as on views from or along the coast.		High
Biomass	The medium scale of the landscape, and the existing fragmentation of farmland, suggest reduced sensitivity. Although there are higher numbers of receptors, this is a less visually important landscape, and biomass plantations could relate well to the landscape, introducing structure and potentially enhancing areas of former workings.		Low
Mitigation issues			
The existing developed character of this area would allow suitably designed large-scale development to fit into the landscape, although siting would need to be carefully considered with respect to the high number of potential receptors. There is greater scope for measures such as screening to be effective due to the lack of key views. A focus for mitigation measures will be site restoration proposals, which should aim to enhance the local landscape character and existing green network, and replace elements which have been lost.			

Landscape Character Area:	43a Kiln Pit Hill Hinterland		
LCT	Coalfield Upland Fringe	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	**Assessment**		**Sensitivity**
General	Broad, gently rounded upland landscape, characterised by a regular pattern of field enclosures and small coniferous plantations. Expansive views can be obtained from elevated ground into Derwentdale. Man-made influences are localised to areas of settlement, but away from these the landscape is relatively tranquil. The area is adjacent to the North Pennines AONB to the south.		
Opencast coal	This is a relatively open upland fringe landscape, comprising a medium-sized field pattern and localised areas of former workings. Extraction would potentially be visible in key views from areas of higher ground.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. The importance of views and landmarks, and the intervisibility of the ridges with the North Pennines AONB, indicate that sensitivity may be higher, although this type of development will be limited to lower-lying parts of the area. Cultural criteria also suggest some reduced sensitivity, though the relative tranquillity indicates that development should be carefully sited and screened.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The medium-scale, simple landform and regular patterns in this landscape suggest lower sensitivity. However, the highly visible nature of this landscape, including in views from the AONB, and relative absence of vertical elements is likely to limit scope for small-scale wind power developments.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		Moderate
Biomass	This is a relatively open landscape with a characteristic pattern of plantation woodlands. There are significant views and intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes which suggest increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should aim to direct new development to areas of lower sensitivity within this landscape (i.e. areas of former workings). Site design should relate to the pattern of the landscape, in terms of woodland and field patterns. However, consideration should be given to intervisibility with adjacent landscapes, including the AONB around Derwent Reservoir and elsewhere, and potential effects on key views.			

Landscape Character Area:	43b Prudhoe Hinterland		
LCT	Coalfield Upland Fringe	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Broad, gently rounded upland landscape, characterised by pastoral land-use and a regular pattern of field enclosures. Expansive views can be obtained from elevated ground across adjacent valleys to distant ridges. Man-made influences are localised to areas of settlement, but away from these the landscape is relatively tranquil.		
Opencast coal	This is a relatively open upland fringe landscape, comprising a medium-sized field pattern and limited man-made influences. Extraction would potentially be visible in key views from areas of higher ground.		High
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Landscape criteria suggest reduced sensitivity to this type. The importance of views and landmarks, and the intervisibility of the main ridge with the Tyne valley, indicate that sensitivity may be higher, although this type of development will be limited to lower-lying parts of the area. Cultural criteria also suggest some reduced sensitivity, though the relative tranquillity indicates that development should be carefully sited and screened.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	The medium-scale, simple landform and regular patterns in this landscape suggest lower sensitivity. However, the highly visible nature of this landscape and relative absence of vertical elements is likely to limit scope for small-scale wind power developments.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As for small-scale wind, above.		Moderate
Biomass	This is a relatively open landscape with limited woodland cover. There are significant views and intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes which suggest increased sensitivity.		Moderate
Mitigation issues			
Mitigation measures should take account of significant views and intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes and should, where suitable, aim to direct new schemes to existing areas of development.			

Landscape Character Area:	44a Derwent Valley		
LCT	Coalfield Valley	Guiding principle	Manage
Land use	Assessment		Sensitivity
General	Relatively broad, open valley, locally heavily influenced by the former coal mining industry. Less affected areas retain a strong rural quality. Ancient oak woods and plantation woodland give a locally intimate character.		
Opencast coal	Coal mining has been the main activity across much of this landscape in the past. The landscape is relatively simple, medium-large scale, and enclosed by ridgelines which allow a high degree of intervisibility with neighbouring valleys. There are relatively few settlements, but locally significant recreational use and landmark features. There are higher levels of movement, but industrial features are relatively few. Any extraction would potentially be highly visible and seen by numerous sensitive receptors, including visitors to the North Pennines AONB to the south.		Moderate
Hard rock	Not assessed		Not assessed
Waste landfill	Not assessed		Not assessed
Sand and gravel	Landscape criteria indicate reduced sensitivity to this development type. However, the area is considered to be of higher intervisibility, with views from around Consett. There are relatively few settlements, but locally significant recreational use and historic features suggest some sensitivity.		Moderate
Small-scale wind	This is a simple, medium-large scale landscape, which is significantly man-modified in places, potentially allowing some scope for small-scale wind development. Small, sensitively sited wind power developments could relate well to this landscape. However, consideration should be given to the potential effects on sensitive receptors, including visitors to the North Pennines AONB to the south.		Moderate
Large-scale wind	As noted above, there is some capacity for wind power development, although the scale of larger schemes would be much limited by the valley topography. Such development would also likely to be highly visible across the valley and affect views from higher ground and neighbouring landscapes, including the AONB.		High
Biomass	The medium-large scale of the landscape, and the existing woodland blocks, suggest reduced sensitivity. Although there are relatively high numbers of receptors in places, biomass plantations could relate well to areas of former workings, introducing structure to relatively featureless areas.		Low

Landscape Character Area:	**44a Derwent Valley**
Mitigation issues	
Mitigation measures should take account of the overlooked nature of this landscape, with key views from surrounding higher ground, and should aim to strengthen local landscape character, and replace elements which have been lost. Site design should relate to the pattern of the landscape, in terms of woodland and field patterns. However, consideration should be given to potential effects on views from sensitive locations, including those that are of recreational importance.	