7.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES AND AREAS

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Introduction

The landscape of Wigan has been characterised by the methods described within Chapter 2 Methodology.

After careful consideration, six distinct **landscape character types** have been discerned and are represented as follows:

Type 1	Undulating Enclosed Farmland
Type 2	Elevated Enclosed Farmland
Type 3	Steep-Sided Wooded Valleys
Type 4	Wetlands and Flashes
Type 5	Degraded and Restored Landscapes
Type 6	Mossland

Each landscape character type represents a part, or number of parts, of Wigan Borough which are readily recognisable by their homogenous character. This may be reflected in the area's topographical or geological characteristics, its ecology, land use or cultural history. In many cases it is a combination of all these factors.

Each of the landscape character types is composed of discrete **landscape character areas.** These bear all the fundamental characteristics of the landscape character type but also have a distinct recognisable local character and identity. The full list of landscape character areas is detailed below, under each landscape character type heading.

Type 1   Undulating Enclosed Farmland

Area 1.A   East Lancashire Road Corridor
Lowton Heath to Lately Common

Area 1.B   Aspull Common, Leigh to Bamfurlong

Area 1.C   Edge Green to Land Gate

Area 1.D   Boars Head, Lower Haigh and Hindley Hall

Area 1.E   Fragmented areas including Alder Farm (Hindley), Bickershaw/Crankwood, Hag Fold, Howe Bridge/Atherton Hall, Shakerley / Mosley Common, Hindsford Brook, Garrett Hall and Higher Green(Astley).

Type 2   Elevated Enclosed Farmland

Area 2.A   Billinge and Orrell Ridge

Area 2.B   Douglas/Gathurst Valley

Area 2.C   Shevington and Standish Spurs

Area 2.D   Standish Crest

Area 2.E   Aspull Ridge

Type 3   **Steep-Sided Wooded Valleys**

Area 3.A   Smithy Brook

Area 3.B   Dean Brook and Ackhurst Brook

Area 3.C   Calico Brook, Hullet Hole Brook and Worthington Brook

Area 3.D   Mill Brook and Frodsham's Brook

Area 3.E   River Douglas (Adlington Park to Bottling Wood)

Area 3.F   Borsdane Brook

Type 4   **Wetlands and Flashes**

Area 4.A   Appley Bridge to Martland Mill

Area 4.B   Wigan Flashes

Area 4.C   Hey Brook Corridor

Area 4.D   Pennington Flash

Area 4.E   Hope Carr

Type 5   **Degraded and Restored Landscapes**

Area 5.A   The Three Sisters

Area 5.B   Kirkless

Area 5.C   Ince Moss/Amberswood Common

Area 5.D   Hindley Derelict and Reclaimed Land

Area 5.E   Bickershaw

Area 5.F   Dangerous Corner

Area 5.G   Pickley Green

Area 5.H   Gin Pit

Area 5.I   Astley Green

Type I   **Mossland**

Area 6.A   Highfield Moss

Area 6.B   Bedford Moss and Moss Side, Astley

Area 6.C   Astley Moss

Landscape Character Types

Landscape Character Types comprise of one or more Landscape Character Areas of broadly similar character. Each landscape character type is dealt with in turn and is identified by a location plan illustrating both the **Landscape Type** and sub-divisions of **Landscape Areas**, followed by a description of the landscape and its setting.

This is summarised by identifying the key characteristics which contribute to make the character type distinctive. The landscape description is followed by a brief overview of cultural history for the character type as a whole.

Landscape Character Areas

These provide a more detailed landscape description of the individual areas concerned and are again summarised by their key characteristics. This is followed by a more detailed description of each area's cultural history and its relationship with the landscape – summarised by the key cultural elements in the landscape.

This section continues to discuss landscape sensitivity and change:

- Landscape sensitivity considers the physical and visual features in the landscape which, if lost or altered, would change the area's character. The key elements of landscape sensitivity are summarised.

- Landscape change discusses those elements which are in the process of changing and have changed or contain aspects of the area's landscape character. These have been observed on site and have also been considered from the data provided by the Countryside Agency's Countryside Quarterly counts (CQC).

- Recommended Management and Landscape Objectives. This section considers the existing merits and de-merits of the area's landscape in relation to its sensitivity and existing or potential change envisaged. A series of management recommendations are made to retain, alter or enhance the present landscape.

- Photographs taken as part of the field survey work have been selected to illustrate the main landscape type and character areas together with other features which may be important to the text.

Type 1 : Undulating Enclosed Farmland

Type 2 : Elevated Enclosed Farmland

Type 3 : Steep-Sided Wooded Valleys

Type 4 : Wetland and Flashes

Type 5 : Degraded and Partially Restored Landscapes

Type 6 : Mossland