



Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan ***Landscape Assessment***

Final Report



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1 Introduction

1.1 Appointment

1.1.1 This report has been prepared by Alison Farmer Associates on behalf of Eglington Parish Council. The aim of the study has been to gather evidence on the special qualities and sensitivity of Eglington Parish landscape in support of the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan area extends across the whole of the Parish and has formed the study area.

1.1.2 This assessment sits alongside, and has been informed by, a wider assessment of landscape value, on behalf of the Newcastle and Northumberland Society (referred to in this report as the 'Landscape Value Assessment'). This study covers land between the existing Northumberland National Park and the A1, extending northwards to beyond Wooler and south as far as Rothbury. The findings of this study, where they relate to the Parish, can be found in Section 4 of this report.

1.2 Scope of Work

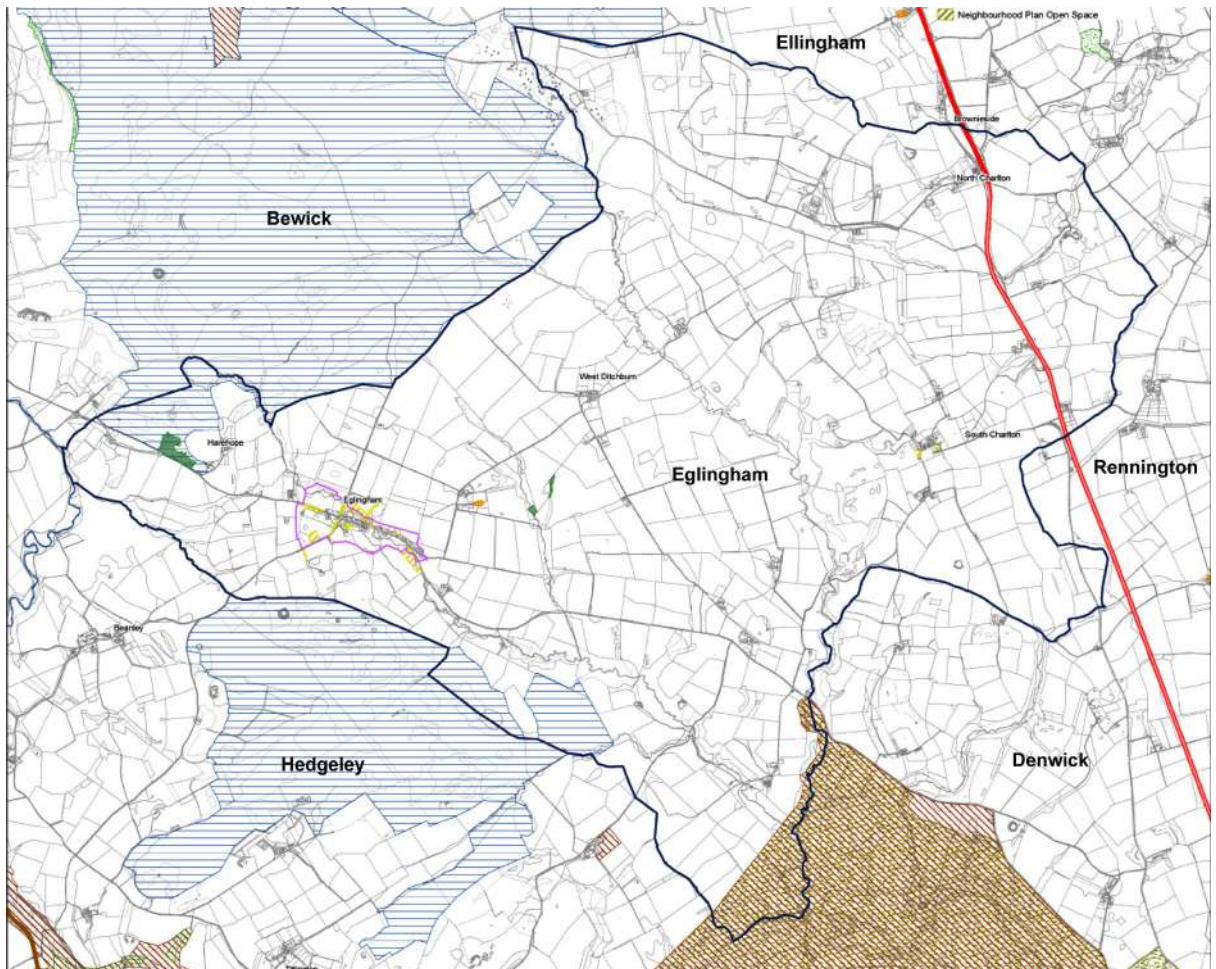
1.2.1 This report draws together existing evidence regarding the character and special qualities of the Parish's landscape. In particular, it sets out the diversity of landscape character; existing natural and cultural designations and features of interest; and the value of the landscape, as detailed in the recently completed Landscape Value Assessment. It also reviews the effects of wind farm development and other work relating to the function of land within the Parish as a setting to the Northumberland Coast AONB.

1.2.2 This information will be used as an evidence base to support the Neighbourhood Plan.

2 Landscape Character

2.1 Context

2.1.1 Eglingham Parish lies to the northwest of Alnwick and largely to the west of the A1. It comprises the small settlements of Eglingham and South Charlton, and the hamlets of Harehope and North Charlton, as well as other scattered farmsteads and dwellings such as East and West Ditchburn.



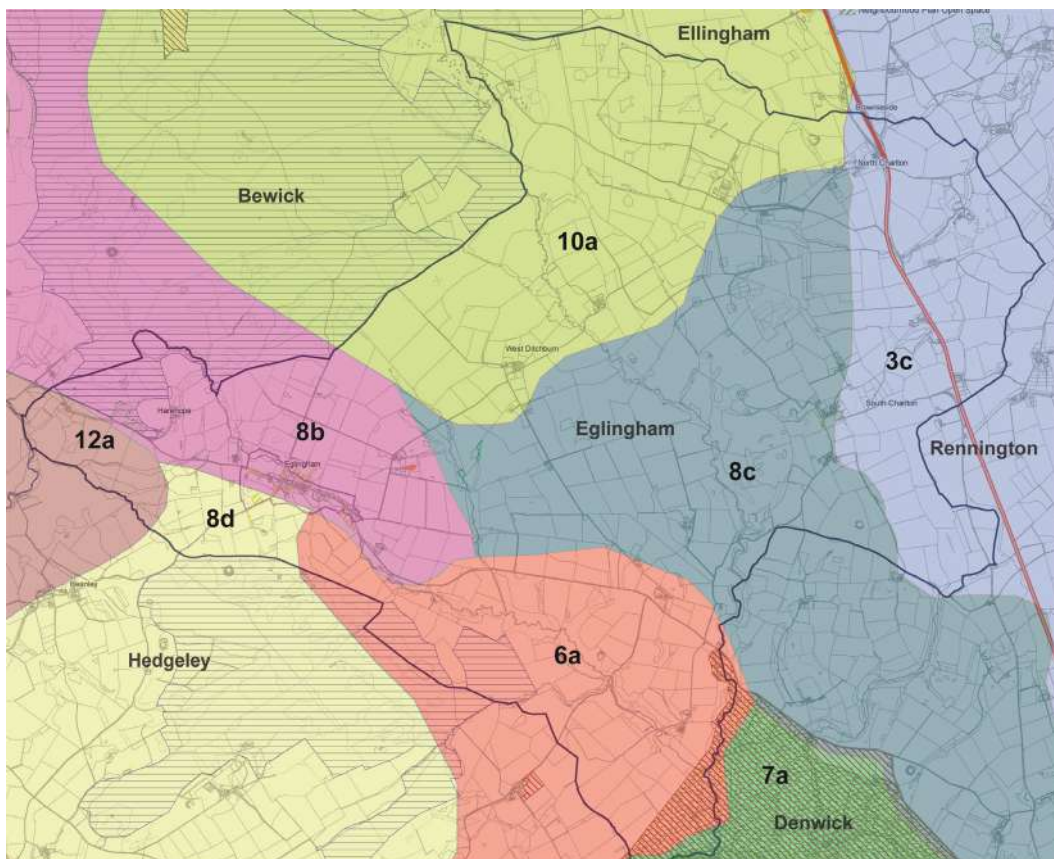
Map 1: Extent of Neighbourhood Plan Area. This map also shows natural and cultural designation with and adjacent to the Parish including Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI (blue), the Hulne Registered Park and Garden (brown), Eglingham Conservation Area (purple) and patches of ancient woodland (green).

2.2 Landscape Character Assessments

2.2.1 The landscape within the Parish has been assessed at the National and County scale. The former divides the whole of England into National Character Areas (NCAs) and classifies Eglington Parish as predominately within NCA 2: Northumberland Sandstone Hills¹. This assessment states that the area:

‘with its sparse settlement, slow change and cultural continuity, is perceived as very tranquil, valued for its open vistas and dark night skies. The largely undisturbed landscape holds significant prehistoric and medieval archaeological remains which together form some of the most interesting and nationally important archaeological landscapes in England.’

2.2.2 The Northumberland landscape character assessment (LCA) (2010)² divides the Parish of Eglington into six landscape character types³ and eight character areas⁴. Of the character areas, four form core parts of the Parish and four form peripheral areas which extend primarily beyond the Parish boundary. These character areas are illustrated on Map 2.



Map 2: Landscape Character.

3c: Rock, 6a: Whittingham Vale, 7a: Hulne Park, 8c: Charlton Ridge, 8b: Kylee and Chillingham Hills, 8d: Beanley Moor, 10a: Rosebrough Moor, 12a: Breamish Vale.

¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4600274240929792?category=587130>

² Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment, Part A Landscape Classification, LUC, 2010

³ Landscape character types are generic and can occur in different geographic locations e.g. Outcrop Hills and Escarpments.

⁴ Landscape character areas are a sub-set of character types. They are unique and geographically specific e.g. Charlton Ridge or Beanley Moor.

2.2.3 Relevant extracts from Part B of the LCA (which set out special qualities and forces for change and sensitivities), can be found within Appendix 1 of this report. The table below summarises these in the left-hand column and supplements this data with further description based on local landscape analysis, drawn from the Landscape Value Assessment, in the right-hand column.

Landscape Character Type Generic Key Qualities and Vision – per LCA 2010	Eglington Parish Additional Description of Local Landscape within Parish
Smooth Moorland	10a Roseborough Moor
<p>Key Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open, sweeping, expanses of heather moorland. • Relationship with the scarp slope to the west. • Views west to the Cheviots, and east to the coast. • Remote character with few roads and very sparse settlement. <p>The key qualities of this landscape have been affected by a number of influences, including a lack of landscape and field boundary management, unsympathetic blocky coniferous plantations, and development associated with the edge of Alnwick. Future management of this moorland and marginal agricultural land could become more directed towards environmental conservation and landscape improvement.</p>	<p>Within the Parish, this is a broad area of moorland with land around Middlemoor being almost flat. There are two wind farms (Wandylaw and Middlemoor), which comprise 28 turbines and read as a single array, extending beyond the Parish to the north. Small scale conifer blocks disrupt landscape patterns and the otherwise simple form of the landscape. Heather moorland does not extend into the Parish but occurs immediately adjacent just beyond the Parish Boundary to the west. The unfenced road across the area lends an upland, expansive feel.</p> <p>Although primarily a visually simple and open landscape, a more intimate and varied landscape can be found along the small burns which are tree-lined and form shallow valleys or incised gullies e.g. Red and Black Burn. There are also numerous archaeological landscapes, including relic patterns of ridge and furrow, reflecting earlier incursions into the moorland areas, as well as evidence of former coal working. The moorland fringe landscape is identified as a nature improvement area with potential to be restored to moorland habitat.</p> <p>East and West Ditchburn are examples of 18th century model farms.</p> <p>From the more elevated margins of this area to the west and south, there are views towards the coast, to the Cheviots, across Beanley Moor and south into the Upper Aln Valley.</p>
Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	8c Charlton Ridge
<p>Key Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive scarp hills with rocky outcrops. • Relationship with the Cheviots, across the Cheviot fringe landscapes. • Open, relatively remote, character. • Areas of uninterrupted, sweeping moorland. • Historic features, particularly 	<p>Tract of open, undulating, upland landscape with rocky outcrops and distinctive knolls. Land use is predominately extensive pasture grazed by sheep and cattle.</p> <p>The distinctive rounded hills and craggy outcrops in this landscape, namely Crag Hill, Humble Heugh, Honey Hill, and that south of White House Folly, are visually prominent and, coupled with incised wooded gullies, form a varied and complex landscape which acts as a setting to Eglington Burn and the Aln Valley. The hamlets of North and South Charlton sit on the edge of</p>

<p>concentrations of settlements, cup and ring marked rocks, etc.</p> <p>The hills are a distinctive feature of the Northumberland landscape, and have valuable landscape features which remain in good condition. The approach for this landscape should be to manage development, while maintaining the distinctive landform and moorland areas.</p>	<p>this landscape facing outwards towards the coast.</p> <p>Between South and North Charlton, enclosure is infrequent and often consists only of wire fences. Consequently, the landscape is more open, broken up only by numerous, relatively small and generally rectilinear conifer plantations, and has a predominately eastward aspect with elevated views from high points such as Crag Hill. From the southern fringes of the area, there are also views southwards into Hulne Park and east towards the distinctive domes of the Cheviots or southwest across Beanley Moor. The area is crossed by a small number of single-track roads and footpaths.</p> <p>Some farm clusters are associated with modern farm buildings which can be visually prominent e.g. around Shipley.</p>
8d Beanley Moor	
	<p>This landscape extends into the Parish immediately to the south of Eglington Village but forms a much wider area of upland moor intervisible with the Parish. Together, these intervisible areas form a high quality and scenic setting.</p> <p>The moorland just beyond the Parish boundary is highly valued for its extensive collection of archaeological sites from multiple periods in history. The smaller scale enclosures at its foot, within the Parish, form the immediate rural and small-scale setting to the village of Eglington.</p> <p>Whilst much of Beanley Moor is designated a SSSI, this designation (within this Character Area) does not extend into the Parish (though it does so under Character Area 6d – Whittingham Vale – see below).</p>
8b Kylloe and Chillingham Hills	
	<p>This long chain of hills extends into the western edge of Eglington Parish including the village of Eglington and the hamlet of Harehope. This area of upland contains the source and upper reaches of the Eglington Burn. It contains many historic and archaeological sites such as prehistoric cairns, settlements and ridge and furrow earthworks. Eglington village is a conservation area and Eglington Hall is associated with an area of parkland and broadleaved woodland ('the Secret Garden'). The moorland north of the village has an exceptionally remote and tranquil quality. Part of the area is designated a SSSI for its heathland habitat and extends into the Parish. From the B6346 west of Eglington there are elevated views across the Breamish Vale to the Cheviots in the distance.</p>
6. Broad Sandstone Valley	
<p>Key Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong enclosure pattern. • Extensive historic features such as ridge and furrow. 	<p>6a Whittingham Vale (Eglington Burn)</p> <p>Within Eglington Parish, this character type forms the tributary valley to the River Aln carrying the Eglington Burn. The valley forms a shallow depression between the rising land of Charlton Ridge to the north and Beanley Moor to the south. It is therefore visually</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed, bowl-like western valley. • Small, steep-sided valleys of tributaries, such as the Eglington Burn. <p>The underlying aim here should be to conserve the existing diversity of land use and at the same time reverse the current decline in landscape quality. There is scope for improved management and new planting of native woodlands. This area is well placed to accommodate visitors to the popular tourist destinations of Alnwick and the Northumberland National Park.</p>	<p>connected to these higher landscapes and also to the more wooded landscape of Hulne Park (7a) to the southeast.</p> <p>Much of the area has been improved for agriculture and there is evidence of some loss of field enclosure patterns. Nevertheless, this land use creates a contrasting foreground to the rising moorland associated with Beanley Moor – the contrasting colours and patterns adding to scenic quality. The fringes of the Bewick and Beanley Moor SSSI extend into this landscape within the Parish boundary.</p> <p>The route of the Eglington burn is frequently marked by lines of alder trees and, in places, it carves deep gullies. Kimmer Lough sits on the fringe of the Parish and is an important landscape and geomorphological feature comprising a kettle hole, reflecting former glacial processes.</p> <p>This landscape has an empty character and feels remote and tranquil.</p>
<p>7 Estate Valley</p>	<p>7a Hulne Park</p>
<p>Key Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed landscape of national value, with extensive parkland and estate woodland, providing the setting for a number of prominent historic buildings. • Enclosed wooded valley. • Forms a key part of the setting of Alnwick, particularly when approached from the north-west. <p>This area is a registered garden and designed landscape. The aim for this area must therefore be conservation. Change within this landscape should be carefully managed. Given the nature of the land ownership, large-scale change would appear unlikely.</p>	<p>Only the wester fringes of Hulne Park extend into the Parish, reflected by the imposing park wall which defines the area. Here the imparked landscape comprises the steep and wooded gullies of the river Aln where it passes through Catheugh and the Shipley Burn and Eglington Burn confluence, from the north. Woodland within these gullies comprises a mixture of conifer and broadleaved woodland.</p>
<p>3 Farmed Coastal Plain</p>	<p>3c Rock</p>
<p>Key Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmsteads of traditional vernacular architecture, with brick industrial farm chimneys. • Shelterbelts of mature beech and pine. • Estate landscapes and associated semi-natural and plantation woodland. • Coastal character, with views to the sea and coastal features and landmarks. 	<p>This part of the Parish forms the lowest lying landscape which stretched eastwards towards the coast and forms part of the wider coastal plan. This is a farmed landscape and is relatively well wooded with coniferous shelterbelts and deciduous woodland strips. Hedgerows are common, although their condition remains variable. Belts of Scots pine are a distinctive feature. This landscape includes the village of North Charlton and Charlton Hall which lies to the east beyond the village and A1 and is associated with a parkland landscape</p>

<p>The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to encourage improved custodianship of a landscape that has declined in quality as a result of agricultural intensification. The areas of this LCT are located between the A1 and the popular coastal strip and have scope to accommodate on-farm tourism.</p>	
<p>12 Broad Farmed Vale</p>	<p>12a Breamish Vale</p>
<p>Key Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic estates provide historical interest, recreational resources, and tree cover within this otherwise open landscape. • Dramatic views of the scarp slopes to the east, and views west to the Cheviots. <p>Outside the large country estates, this landscape has declined, with hedgerows and hedgerow trees missing or sparse. The approach should therefore be to plan for enhancements of the landscape, improving the setting of the estate parklands.</p>	<p>The south-eastern corner of this area falls within the Parish and reflects the foothill farmed slopes of the Sandstone ridge which face westwards towards the Cheviots.</p> <p>This landscape forms the setting to the rising sandstone escarpment and affords views westwards towards the Cheviots.</p>

2.2.4 The above analysis of local character demonstrates the variety of landscapes within the Parish and their intervisibility with each other and to landscapes further afield. It also highlights that areas such as 8d, 8b, 8c and 10a extend beyond the Parish, and form areas of higher land which frame and define the Parish and significantly contribute to the Parishes' special qualities and sense of place.

3 Features of Interest

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Eglington Parish contains a variety of natural and cultural heritage interest, described below and illustrated on Map 1 above.

3.2 Conservation Area Appraisal

3.2.1 The village of Eglington is a Conservation Area. The extent of the Conservation Area covers the whole of the village and a sizeable area of landscape which lies adjacent.

3.2.2 The Appraisal identifies the following valued historic features associated with the village:

- Church and pub are focal points
- Ribbon development along single road, lowered in places
- Designed landscape of Eglington Hall and associated features
- Development contained within the traditional settlement boundary
- Pillboxes, millpond

3.2.3 The Conservation Area Appraisal describes the setting of the Conservation Area as follows:

'Eglington is set in the gently rolling countryside between the rivers Breamish and AIn. The church is on a promontory between the main valley of the Eglington Burn to the north and a shallower depression on the south containing a small tributary; the village slopes down from east and west towards the Burn, with views of the church spire from the west. The surrounding hills form the backdrop to the village street, contributing to the peaceful, rural atmosphere, which is part of its special character.'

3.3 Other Heritage Interest

3.3.1 The Parish of Eglington contains a host of historic features from early prehistoric cairns and cup and ring rock art, medieval settlement patterns and ridge and furrow reflecting early infield and outfield farming practices on the edge of moorland, through to more recent activity such as coal mining and military defence. A number of the buildings in the Parish are listed while other features and patterns are undesignated heritage assets that make a visual contribution to the interest and qualities of the Parish.

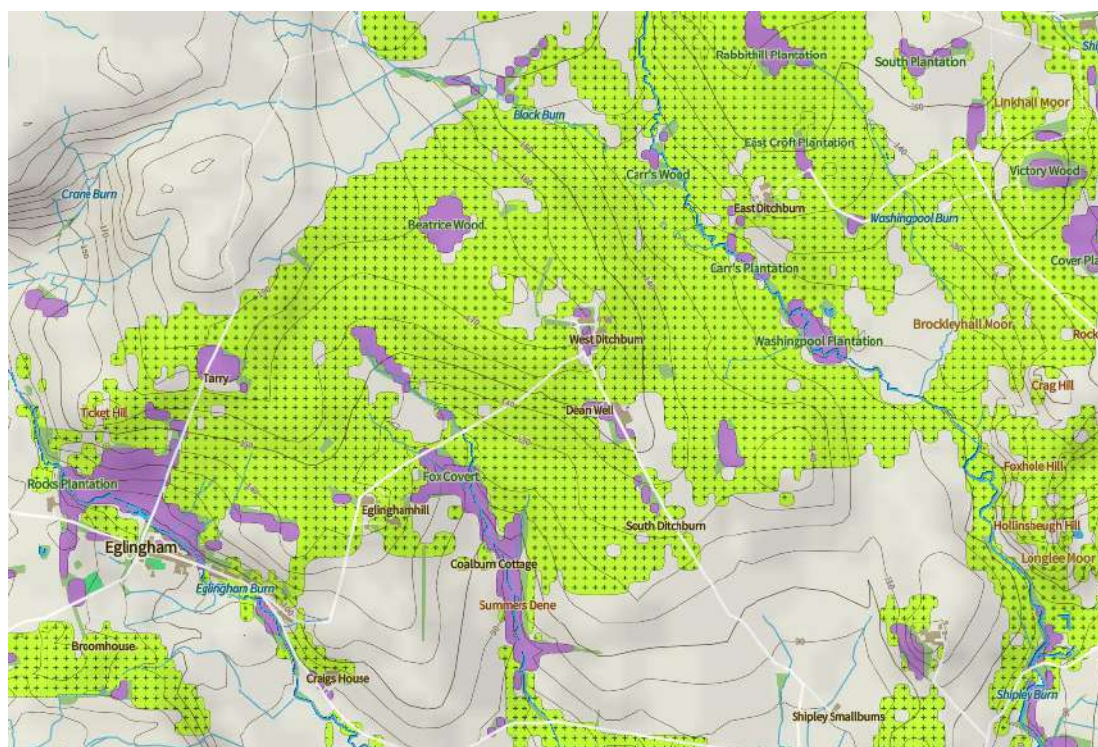
3.3.2 Of particular note are the following:

- Disused lime kilns
- Remnant bell-pits
- Listed buildings at East and West Ditchburn
- Extensive area of relic ridge and furrow associated with Black and Red Burn
- Cup and ring marked rocks, cairns and settlement enclosures on the fringes of Beanley Moor.

3.4 Nature Conservation Interest

3.4.1 The Parish of Eglingham supports a wide range of valued habitats, including patches of upland heath on the fringes of Beanley Moor and lowland heath along Eglingham Burn and Crag Hill. There are also notable linear corridors of deciduous woodland along the burns especially Red Burn, Coal Burn and Shipley Burn and an area of ancient, replanted woodland at Great Wood, ancient semi-natural woodland at Hannah's Wood and wood pasture at North Charlton Hall/Park.

3.4.2 In a number of areas, the landscape provides opportunities for the enhancement of nature conservation especially where the Parish abuts areas of more extensive heathland e.g., the northwest Parish boundary where improved pastures have potential to be restored to heather moorland, or along Eglingham Burn and other burns where there is scope to widen areas of semi-natural woodland. Recent work undertaken by Climate Action has mapped opportunities for new woodland creation based on open national datasets. Land which was identified as suitable included most of Grade 4 agricultural land i.e. poor quality agricultural land. Northumberland was ranked as number one in terms of areas with the greatest potential for woodland opportunity and in the Parish of Eglingham much of the landscape below the open moorland in the central and northern parts of the Parish was identified as suitable.



Map 3: Woodland Opportunity Mapping – extract from Climate Action (<https://takeclimateaction.uk/woodland-opportunity-mapping-england>). Green areas are those suitable for woodland planting, while purple areas are existing woodland.

3.4.3 These opportunities are relevant to the development of policy within the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.5 Views

3.5.1 From elevated moorland, ridges or knolls there are views across the Parish and to distinctive landscapes well beyond its boundary e.g. from Crag Hill looking east towards the Northumberland Coast AONB (refer to section 6 below).

3.5.2 Views within the Parish are important in contributing to the scenic qualities of the Parish as well as aiding orientation and reinforcing sense of place. Particularly striking views are afforded westwards from the B6346 across Beanley Moor and to the rounded domes of the Cheviots in the distance. South of Eglington village there are views from the edge of Beanley Moor across Chillingham Vale, while from the slopes above the village there are views south across the moorland and to the stepped sandstone scarp at Cloudy Crag.

3.5.3 There are also views across the Parish from outside of the area where the Parish forms an important foreground e.g. views from Heckley Road looking west.

3.5.4 The Photographs below reflect some of these wide views as well as the rural character of the area.





4 Landscape Value

4.1 AGLV

4.1.1 In the 1990s the Northumberland County Structure Plan gave recognition to Areas of High Landscape Value (AHLV). These were defined in more detail in relevant Local Plans.

4.1.2 *The Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (Adopted April 1997) stated in relation to Areas of High Landscape Value that:*

'The landscape of the District is recognised for its high quality and much is already given protection by national designation as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, and the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Within the Local Plan period it is likely that supplementary Registers will be formed for Historic Landscapes and Battlefields. Beyond these national designations are significant areas which are of county and local landscape value and contribute to the quality of the District. The majority of these landscape areas are associated with the upland areas, river valleys and parklands. Developments which would have an impact on the appearance of these areas require careful consideration. Landscape value is a subjective judgement. Appreciation of landscape quality cannot readily be related to specific areas. Landscape quality is however an agglomeration of landscape types and features. The Local Plan has identified the principal river valleys, the upland/moorland area, parklands and taken account of other features such as tree cover, hedgerows, water and historic features in designating the area of High Landscape Value, which is considered to be of county significance. For convenience the boundary of the area has been related to existing features such as roads and railways'.

4.1.3 The whole of the Parish of Eglingham was included in the AHLV designation.

4.1.4 In April 2009, the Northumberland Planning Authority was established and brought together the former Berwick and Alnwick District Authorities (amongst other districts). A new evidence base to support the Local Plan for the area was prepared and included the preparation of a landscape character assessment (LCA) for the whole area. Consistent with PPS7, which discouraged 'local designations' but which has since been superseded by the NPPF, the Northumberland Planning Authority chose not to continue with the AHLV designation/policy.

4.2 Northumberland LCA Part D

4.2.1 The Northumberland landscape character assessment comprised 4 parts as follows:

- Part A was purely descriptive, classifying the landscape into types and areas. It was intended as a "baseline" for the County⁵;

⁵ Para 1.7 of NLCA Part A

- In contrast to Part A, Part B was described as “...an evolving document...”⁶, and was “intended as a [county-wide] guide to the management of changes which may be the result of management or social pressures.”⁷ It classified each landscape type into one of three guiding principles - protect, manage and plan, based on landscape characteristic. This part of the LCA focused on positive management of the generic landscape types;
- Part C looked at the sensitivity of landscape types to different developments⁸; and
- Part D reviewed landscape potentially requiring additional protection and the identification of land which may be protected by local landscape designations in future.

4.2.2 Each part of the LCA relates to the other. Part D of the LCA comprises the only assessment of value, covering the Parish (and the rest of the study area). It comprised a desk-based assessment only which reviewed past Areas of High Landscape Value and developed a scoring system for each of the landscape character areas in the LCA based on a set of criteria which informed an understanding of value. The criteria included:

- Views and landmarks
- Remoteness
- Historic features
- Recreation
- Condition
- Distinctiveness
- Rarity
- Natural heritage

4.2.3 Scores were weighted based on the guiding principle attributed to the character area in Part B of the LCA i.e. a landscape with the principle of ‘protect’ would have a higher weighting than one which was attributed the principle of ‘plan’.

4.2.4 The assessment did not seek to define any geographical area which required extra protection but, importantly, concluded that there would be a need for a:

⁶ Para 1.3 of NLCA Part B

⁷ Para 1.5 of NLCA Part B

⁸ Development types included opencast coal extraction; hard rock extraction; waste landfill; sand and gravel extraction; small scale wind power (up to 5 turbines); large scale wind power (above 5 turbines) and biomass plantations. The approach of National and, indeed, local policy to some or all of these development types has significantly changed since 2010, as has guidance on the assessment of landscape sensitivity – see Natural England’s ‘An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management’ June 2019.

'more detailed, local level study of each group of character areas, including field work and consultation, in order to establish broad support for, and robust justification of, the areas chosen'. (para 4.3)

4.2.5 It also went on to state that:

'Character area boundaries may not be the most suitable basis for designated area boundaries, as landscape value may vary within character units. There may be benefit in protecting associations of different landscape types where they are closely related, so that boundaries may not be tied to one type. The definition of boundaries should consider the policy implications of designation, the coherence of the area enclosed, and the suitability of boundary features themselves. Again, boundary selection would be based on field work and consultation.' (para 4.4)

4.2.6 Of the character areas which fall within the Parish (Map 2), each was ordered in terms of value from highest to lowest. 7a and 8b were awarded the highest value followed by 8b and then 3c, 6a and 10a with area 8c receiving the lowest score. Bearing in mind that these scores were awarded for the whole of the character areas (and that a number of them extend well beyond the Parish) and that the judgements made were solely based on desk study, this grading of value cannot be relied upon to adequately reflect the special qualities and value of the Parish landscape.

4.2.7 Furthermore, since the assessment was undertaken two large scale wind farm developments have been constructed within the Parish (refer section 5 below).

4.3 Valued Landscape Assessment - 2021

4.3.1 During 2020-2021 the detailed landscape evaluation, referred to above in paragraph 1.1.2, was undertaken for an area of land broadly between Wooler and Rothbury and between the Northumberland National Park and the A1. The assessment therefore included almost all of the land within Eglington Parish.

4.3.2 It followed best practice in relation to assessing landscape value drawing on national published guidance and recently published draft Technical Guidance Document by the Landscape Institute (LI)⁹ which highlights that landscape value can be defined at the local authority or neighbourhood level and can be assessed and mapped spatially i.e. through local landscape designation. Such studies may summarise the special qualities of a tract of land which may express a variety of landscape characters. Importantly, absence of designation does not mean absence of value. The LI Guidance highlights that, where possible, the value placed on a landscape should be defined in development plan documents, adopted for that area.

4.3.3 This is in line with the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (paragraph 036) which makes clear that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscape and that this can include locally designated landscape.

4.3.4 Paragraph 170a of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

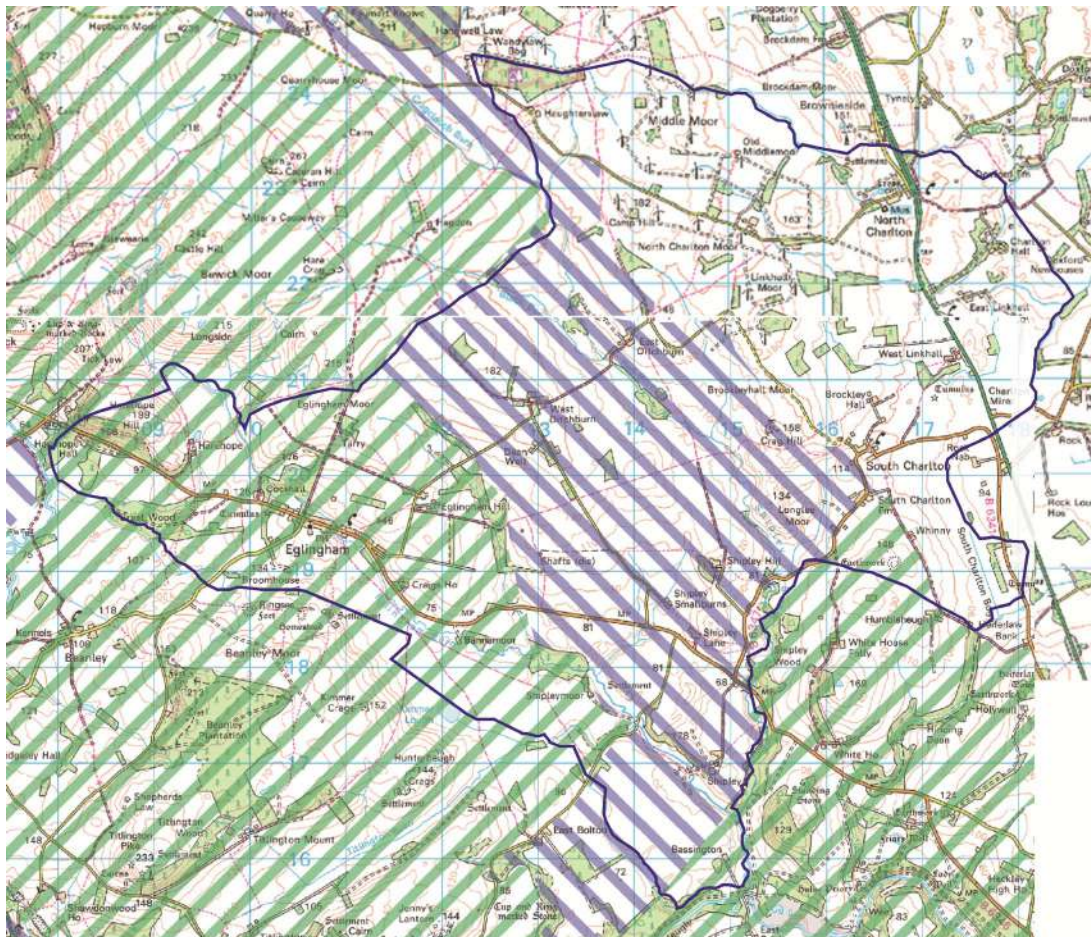
Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

⁹ Landscape Value and Valued Landscapes, Technical Guidance Note, Consultation Draft, 02/21

- a) *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan).*

4.3.5 The NPPF therefore allows for the identification of valued landscape within development plans such as a neighbourhood plan and the results of the Landscape Value Assessment are therefore relevant to Eglington Parish and the preparation of policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.3.6 The Valued Landscape Assessment for land within Eglington Parish fell within two Evaluation Areas namely Eglington Vale and Middlemore Coast. The detailed assessment of landscape value in relation to both these areas is provided in Appendix B of this report. The results of the assessment were mapped – areas comprising land which was regarded as meeting the criteria for recognition as a valued landscape were hatched green. Some areas required further scrutiny and these were hatched purple. The results for Eglington Parish are shown on Map 4 below.



Map 4: Results of Evaluation – Green hatched areas comprise land which was immediately regarded as meeting the criteria for recognition as a valued landscape. Purple hatched are those areas which required further scrutiny (refer to tables in Appendix B)

4.3.7 Following this, any areas requiring particular scrutiny were considered again in further detail, with new/additional evidence being reviewed before a final boundary was drawn to include qualifying land. Map 5 illustrates the proposed boundary to the valued landscape where it passes through the Parish.



Map 5: Valued Landscape Boundary within Eglington Parish.

- 4.3.8 The results of the Landscape Value Assessment demonstrate that the majority of the Parish is considered to be a valued landscape. Those areas which are excluded lie to the northeast and comprise land which is in transition, predominately sloping gently in an easterly direction towards the coast. Here the landscape has undergone change in terms of agricultural improvement, conifer planting and windfarm development. The effects of the windfarm development are considered further in Section 5.

5 Landscape Change

5.1 Effects of Wandylaw and Middlemoor Windfarms

5.1.1 In 2015 Northumberland County Council commissioned consultants¹⁰ to undertake a review of the effects of the constructed wind farm developments at Wandylaw and Middlemoor to determine if the judgements reached on the level of impact at the application stage, were accurate¹¹.

5.1.2 The review of Wandylaw windfarm revealed that:

'A detailed review of the assessment of landscape and visual effects in the ES was carried out for the Wandylaw sample viewpoints (see Technical Appendix). This found that in the large majority of cases assessment of sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of change or effect of the development from the viewpoint were consistently underplayed. (para 6.2.8)

5.1.3 It went on to state in para 6.2.16 that

'It became apparent during field survey that it was almost impossible to assess the effects of Wandylaw and Middlemoor Wind Farms separately, as reported in the respective ESs, due to the extent of their combined effects whereby the two wind farms effectively read as one from many viewpoints.'

5.1.4 In relation to effects on heritage it states at para 6.2.24

'In underplaying the scale of the turbines in the photomontages studied, the perceived magnitude of effect on views and on the setting of cultural heritage features has also been likely to have been underplayed. There must be reasonable confidence in assuming that a more accurate portrayal of the impacts of the Wandylaw Wind Farm in the ES would almost certainly have led to a different conclusion on the impact on some views and which may have led to the conclusion that there would be a greater effect on the setting of some local cultural heritage features where views are not screened and where there is some historical link with the site.'

5.1.5 The review of Middlemoor revealed that:

'In summary, this study shows that the Middlemoor LVIA methodology generally underplays the overall significance of potential landscape and visual effects of the wind farm in this location. A number of effects on the landscape resource and views are assigned Moderate significance (and thus 'not significant') as a result of underplaying the sensitivity of the receptor and/or the magnitude of effect. This is partly due to the criteria adopted which preclude the assessment of effects lying between the High and Medium scales which would have provided a more realistic assessment of significant effects.' (para 6.3.17)

¹⁰ Bayou Bluenvironment and The Planning and Environment Studio, Assessment of the Extent to which Existing Onshore Wind Developments in Northumberland have been Successfully Accommodated into the Landscape. Main Report and Findings, May 2015.

¹¹ It is understood that the proposed development was controversial at the time with objectors raising concerns that the effects of the development were likely to be greater than predicted in the landscape and visual impact assessments.

5.1.6 It went on to state in para 6.3.20:

'The minimum extent of cumulative assessment in the Middlemoor ES is considered a significant omission. Although the Middlemoor ES was submitted prior to the Wandylaw application, Wandylaw was at the scoping stage and thus should have been included in an assessment of cumulative effects.'

5.1.7 In relation to effects on the historic landscape it states:

'However, significant impacts of the proposals upon the settings and inter-visibility across a significant spectrum of the characteristic and unique heritage assets in this part of Northumberland are clearly evident, and the principle of being sufficiently modern in appearance – whilst distinguishing from historic assets, can only be taken so far without acknowledging harm.'

5.1.8 These findings are important not just in relation to the level of effect exerted by the windfarm currently, and the influence this has on character and special qualities, but also in relation to future decisions about repowering and/or expansion (or indeed, new wind farm development whether or not adjacent), in the context of the emerging Local Neighbourhood Plan policies.

5.1.9 The cumulative effects of new windfarm development when seen in the context of existing wind farms is well understood. It may include an intensification of development through the addition of new turbines of the same scale as existing or the replacement of turbines by higher ones. This may also have the potential to widen visual effects, extending them into landscapes which are currently unaffected or intensifying those effects. Equally it may include the introduction of turbines of a different design or size which, when seen in combination with existing turbines, may give rise to visual clutter and confusion.

5.1.10 Given the proximity and extent of existing windfarm development within and adjacent to the Parish, the landscape is clearly sensitive to both types of cumulative effect.

6 Function of the Landscape

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section considers the role/function of the landscape in relation to the Registered Park and Garden of Hulne Park (which lies immediately adjacent to the Parish) and the Northumberland Coast AONB. The role of the Parish landscape in forming a setting to other broader areas, is a reflection of the interconnectedness of landscapes in this part of Northumberland.
- 6.1.2 This section does not address the setting of the Northumberland National Park in part because no such setting study has been undertaken. Nevertheless, the Northumberland LCA makes it clear that the sandstone ridge (which extends into the Parish) is intervisible with the National Park and arguably forms part of its setting.

6.2 Setting to Hulne Park

- 6.2.1 Hulne Park is a Registered Park and Garden which sits within the Aln Valley to the west of Alnwick. A particular feature of the parkland landscape is the extent to which it borrows views from the surrounding landscape enabling the more managed verdant character of the valley parkland to contrast with the rising higher moorland and craggy outcrops which surround it and define it.
- 6.2.2 There are a number of skyline ridges and distinctive hills that provide the landscape context to the parkland and these can be said to form the visual setting of the parkland and extend beyond the registered boundary. Land falling within this area performs an important function in conserving the high scenic quality of the parkland. This wider setting includes the distinctive hills of Humble Heugh, Honey Hill and Shipley Hill as well as the rising land to West Ditchburn. It also includes the heather clad hills of Beanley Moor. The setting of the parkland landscape therefore extends some considerable distance and includes and in the southeastern and western reaches of the Parish.

6.3 Setting to the Northumberland Coast AONB

- 6.3.1 In 2013, the NC AONB commissioned a study¹² which looked at the sensitivity of the AONB and its wider setting to development which may affect its special qualities¹³. Whilst much of the focus was on change within the AONB boundary the study also defined a wider study area and considered the effects of large-scale¹⁴ wind farm development and the effects it may have on the special qualities of the AONB. The report stated that:

'The desk study exercise and initial field survey enabled definition of a wider study area beyond the AONB where there is the potential for significant impact on the special qualities of the AONB from large scale development, including commercial scale wind turbines. Views looking out from the AONB and views from viewpoints outside the AONB looking back into it, in particular from within the hills, escarpments

¹² Bayou Bluenvironment with The Planning and Environment Studio, 2013

¹³ At the time of assessment, the windfarms at Wandylaw and Middlemoor were under construction.

¹⁴ Defined as comprising one or more large-scale turbine(s) that are 100meters + tall (to the tip of the turbine blades).

and moorland beyond the coastal plain inland to the west, were analysed. These form an important backdrop to the AONB and are included within the study area...'

6.3.2 The report described the study area boundary within Eglington Parish as follows:

'The study area boundary continues southwards through open access moorland peaking to a height of 267m AOD at Cateran Hill from where there are views across the AONB and the coastline between the Farne Islands and Dunstanburgh Castle.

A 10.5km arc from Dunstanburgh Castle to Crag Hill defines the study area boundary through the Charlton Ridge (trig point 169m AOD) and along the northern edge of Hulne Park. A 12.5km arc from Warkworth Castle extends to Hulne Park including the Brizlee folly tower, Brizlee Hill and nearby Cloudy Crag trig point at 250m AOD.'

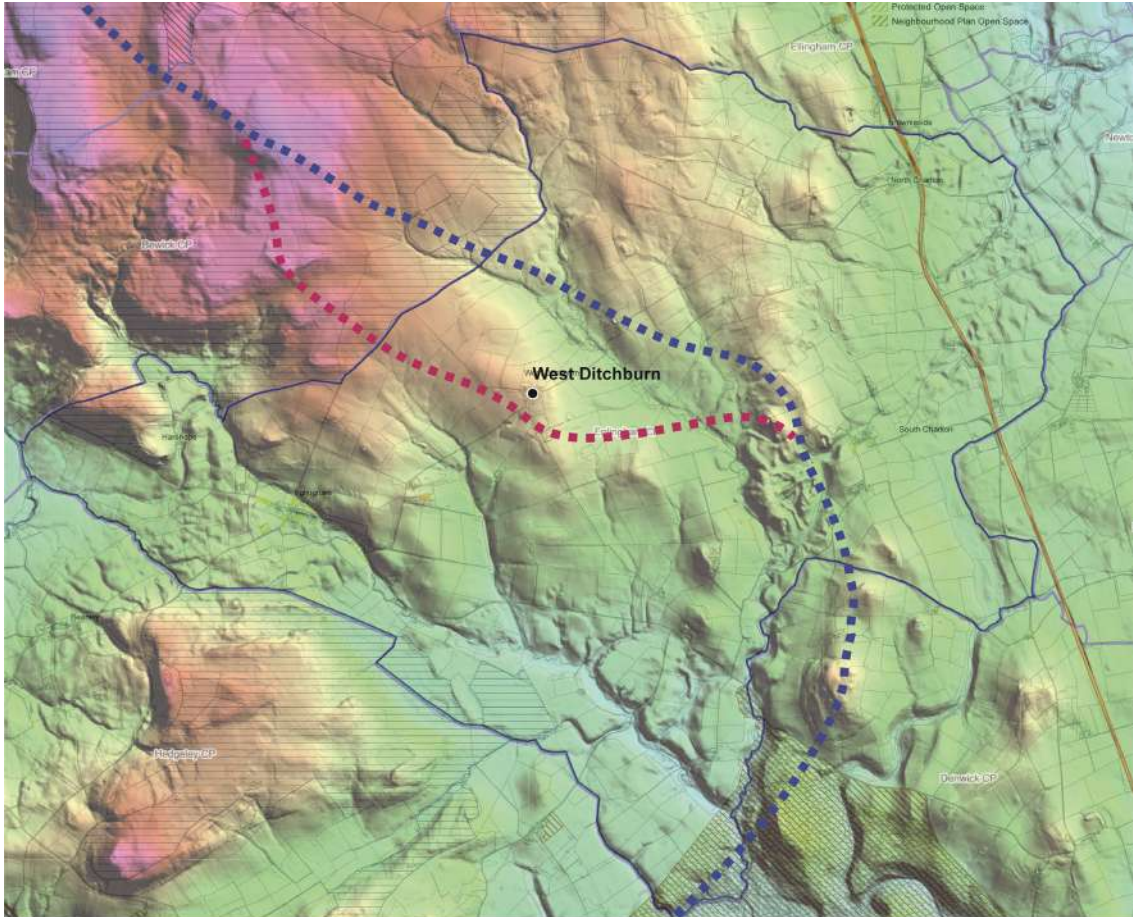
6.3.3 The study also identified key viewpoints. Viewpoint number 13 falls within the Parish. It is from Crag Hill at 155m AOD and is illustrated on Map 6 - an extract from the report - which shows the Study Area extending into Eglington Parish¹⁵.

¹⁵ Walkworth Castle is also visible from this viewpoint.



Map 6: Extract from Northumberland Coast AONB Setting Study showing Study Area and Key Views

6.3.4 The extent of the AONB Study Area was considered further as part of this study. Reference to topography mapping and field survey identified that there is a ridge of higher land close to West Ditchburn which rises to c 182m AOD. From here there are also views of the coast. The ridge of higher land above West Ditchburn could also be said to form part of the setting to the AONB and the AONB Study Area should perhaps have been drawn further west as shown on the map below.



Map 7: Topography– the orange and reds show more elevated land within and to the northwest of the Parish and to the southwest (Beanley Moor). The dashed blue line shows the approximately location of the AONB Study Area while the dashed red line shows the area also considered to form part of the setting to the AONB due to the elevated ridge at West Ditchburn.

- 6.3.5 The AONB Study and Map 7 illustrate that the northern and eastern parts of the Parish perform an important role as part of the setting to the AONB.
- 6.3.6 The AONB study concluded that all of the character types/areas within Elingham Parish have a high sensitivity to commercial scale wind turbines except 10a Roseborough Moor which was considered to have a medium sensitivity to windfarm development.
- 6.3.7 The AONB report summarised its findings on page v stating that:

*'The table [13] suggests that LCA10a Roseborough Moor and LCA 10b Alnwick Moor have the least sensitivity (i.e. low) and greatest capacity (i.e. medium) for commercial-scale wind turbines. The visual analysis identifies that this character area lies within views to the coast and the AONB from a number of important viewpoints. The landscape contains some prominent masts, and the two wind farms under construction, Middlemoor and Wandylaw, lie within this character area. **Cumulative impact of additional wind turbines is a significant concern and should be a key consideration in any wind farm proposals.**' [emphasis added]*

- 6.3.8 Section 5 above highlights that the effects of Wandylaw and Middlemoor were underestimated prior to construction and that the effects of these windfarms together has been significant both on the immediate receiving landscape but also further afield. This highlights that the concerns raised in the AONB study (as noted in the

extracts above) are all the more relevant and that any capacity Roseborough Moor (10b) was thought to have, may have already been exceeded. This finding is relevant to the development of policy within the Eglington Neighbourhood Plan, as is the role of the Parish landscape in providing a setting to the AONB.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The recent value landscape assessment has demonstrated that a significant part of Eglington Parish is regarded as a highly valued landscape forming part of a much wider area of land between the Northumberland National Park and the A1. Broadly, this landscape has special qualities that raise it well above ordinary countryside.
- 7.1.2 Furthermore, the review of landscape areas within the Parish demonstrates the visual interconnectedness of the wider landscapes with each other (including Beanley and Bewick Moors) and with landscape well beyond including the Breamish/Till Valley, Upper Aln, the Northumberland coast and the Cheviots. Furthermore, the Parish plays a pivotal role in providing a setting to Hulne Park (a nationally recognised and designated heritage asset) and the Northumberland Coast AONB.
- 7.1.3 On this basis the landscape of Eglington Parish is sensitive to development which occurs within its boundary but also beyond it, especially in the case of new tall vertical structures. The review of the impacts of the Wandylaw and Middlemoor windfarms has demonstrated that the effects of these windfarms were underestimated at the time they were proposed and now have an impact on this Parish and wider landscape which is greater than was anticipated. The AONB sensitivity assessment raised concerns regarding the cumulative impact of any further development of this kind, in this location. Certainly, the same must also apply to the valued landscape which has been defined to the southwest. Any further advancement of wind farm development (in terms of extent, number of turbines or height/design) is likely to give rise to material adverse effects on the valued landscape, setting to Hulne Park and cumulative effects on the AONB as well as potential new effects on the Upper Aln and Northumberland National Park.
- 7.1.4 It is recommended that the Eglington Parish Neighbourhood Plan highlights the pivotal role of the landscape and its recognition as a valued landscape within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan policies. It is also recommended that policy reflects the important function of the landscape in providing a setting to the valued landscape, Hulne Park, the Upper Aln, the National Park and the Northumberland Coast AONB and recognises the potential for changes within the Parish to effect landscapes over considerable distances. Furthermore, there are opportunities for land within the Parish to contribute to nature recovery networks through appropriate land management initiatives such as the restoration of heather moorland and the creation of new woodland to address climate change. Policies developed in the Neighbourhood Plan could reflect these opportunities.
- 7.1.5 Neighbourhood Plan policies associated with the AONB or National Park should seek to reflect and support existing policies contained within the relevant protected landscape Management Plans¹⁶. For example, the AONB management plan states that *'the setting of the AONB and important views into it and from it are recognised and protected'....and... 'Proposals for large scale renewable energy schemes within the AONB will be opposed. Large scale schemes outside of the AONB, but visible from it, will be carefully scrutinised to determine the extent to which they will have an adverse effect on the special qualities of the AONB.'*

¹⁶ Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan 2020-24, Objective 3 Policy 3.2, page 43 and policy 3.9 page 44 and Northumberland National Park Local Plan Adopted July 2020.

Appendix A:

Extract from Northumberland LCA 2010

Part A and Part B

Landscape Character Area Descriptions (Extract from Part A)

3c Rock

This area is similar to 3b, but is generally more wooded. The transition is gradual, but this area is characterised by coniferous shelterbelts and deciduous woodland strips. Hedgerows are more common, although their condition remains variable. Belts of Scots pine are a distinctive feature. Estate influences occur at Rock House and Howick Hall, resulting in a more intimate landscape experience.

6a Wittingham Vale

The gently undulating valley landscape has extensive glacial deposition features. The bowl like western part of the area leads into a narrow section of valley, which widens out briefly before merging into the Estate Valley (LCT 7). The River Aln follows a meandering course from west to east through the character area, and is augmented by the Eglington Burn from the north, and the Edlington Burn from the south. These tributaries flow in adjoining valleys which are smaller in scale but similar in character. The area forms a break in the chain of the sandstone hills, and is bounded by the higher ground of Beanley Moor to the north, and Rothbury Forest to the south.

Landcover is dominated by a patchwork of arable crops and pasture, but with localised parkland influences. Fields are generally enclosed by a strong pattern of hedgerows with hedgerow trees, although in many areas this is being eroded as hedgerows are removed or become dysfunctional. Small woodlands and blocky coniferous farm plantations are frequent. Estate woodlands surround small manors, such as Shawdon Hall. The surrounding uplands have larger coniferous plantations which appear on the horizon. The mainly coniferous Thrunton Wood to the south is particularly prominent from the valley.

The village of Whittingham is located at a fording point of the River Aln, and is a small village built around a medieval core, with modern extensions. Elsewhere, settlement is limited to small hamlets and farmsteads, though with a relatively dense local road network. The A697 crosses the valley, but is not a particularly busy or intrusive route. A disused railway line is present, marked by lines of trees.

The landscape is visually enclosed by the relatively steep valley sides to the north and south. Broad open views across the valley are available from these slopes, for example looking south from Glanton. The dome structure on Alnwick Moor is visible, although it is not within this LCT.

There are extensive areas of ridge and furrow, representing medieval field systems 'fossilised' within the modern enclosures. These are associated with settlements, particularly Whittingham, and the deserted villages of Barton and Abberwick. Public footpaths and permissive paths radiate from settlements, and there are small areas of access land. Edlington Castle is an English Heritage property.

7a Hulne Park

The River Aln meanders through this relatively narrow, steep sided valley, from its confluence with the Eglington Burn. The valley is at its narrowest here, as it passes between Alnwick Moor to the south, and Charlton Ridge to the north. The river meanders around smaller hills within the valley, such as Brizlee Hill (175m) and Cuthbert Heugh (129m). In places the river flows through floodplains, called haughs, and elsewhere is contained within a steep-sided gully.

Landcover reflects the estate influence of the Hulne Park designed landscape. Tree cover is extensive, generally comprising deciduous or mixed species. Some forestry plantations have been added. Arable and pastoral farmland exists within this woodland framework, but there are also areas of open parkland, such as Filbert Haugh, and the area north of the castle, with clumps of mature parkland trees. Tree cover extends along the river, and lines the steep valley sides. Heather moorland occurs at higher elevations.

The north-western edge of Alnwick is closely associated with Alnwick Castle. Traditional building forms comprise sandstone houses with slate roofs. High stone walls contribute to the estate influence. The castle itself is often hidden from view, though it stands over the Aln and is prominent from the road to the north. Within the park, settlement is limited to a few farmsteads and other estate buildings. Decorative buildings and historic ruins are sited within the park, complementing the natural landscape and estate woodland. The miles of tall stone walls enclosing the park are highly visible and define the extent of the parkland influence. The medieval origins of these extensive estates are highlighted by the presence of monastic remains at Hulne Priory (Carmelite), Alnwick Abbey (Premonstratensian) and St. Leonard's Hospital on the road north out of Alnwick.

The main perceptual characteristic of this landscape is its picturesque quality, deliberate yet naturalistic, and designed in part by Capability Brown. Ornamental buildings, such as Brizlee Tower, have been purposefully added to the landscape to enhance its visual appeal. As noted above, Alnwick Castle is prominent in only a few views, but its importance is in its status as the seat around which the park was developed. Views are determined by the landscape design, in places being limited by woodland, and elsewhere being extensive; the viewing platform of Brizlee Tower taking advantage of the latter.

Much of this area is a Registered Park and Garden, and the landscape is a historic feature in itself. It also provides the setting for a number of important buildings and structures, including Alnwick Castle, the 13th century Hulne Priory, and the 18th century Brizlee Tower. Evidence of earlier occupation includes standing stones and earthworks. Alnwick Castle, along with the Alnwick Garden, is a popular tourist destination. Hulne Priory and Alnwick Abbey are publicly accessible, as is the surrounding park.

8b Kyloe and Chillingham Hills

This long chain of hills has the characteristic outcrop escarpment on its western edge, forming relatively low but prominent hills including the Kyloe Hills (174m), Greensheen Hill (205m) and Ros Castle (315m). The latter is the site of a hill fort, and similar evidence of prehistoric use is scattered

across the area. There are also the more modern remains of coal working. There are medium-scale forestry plantations, as well as estate woodland and parkland associated with Chillingham Castle, an important tourist destination. The Kyloe Hills are a popular rock climbing venue.8c Charlton Ridge

8c Charlton Ridge

A large tract of open upland landscape. Although plateau like, the landform is never flat. It is gently rolling at the north-west and becomes more dramatically undulating towards the south-east where there is an accompanying reduction in landscape scale. Predominant land use is extensive pasture grazed by sheep and cattle. Enclosure is infrequent and often consists only of wire fences. Consequently the landscape is very open, broken up only by numerous, relatively small and generally rectilinear conifer plantations. The area is crossed by a small number of single track roads and footpaths.

8d Beanley Moor

This undulating area shows the distinctive steep slope to the west at Titlington Pike, and has outcrops at Hunterheugh Crags. There is a greater abundance of farmland; a mixture of arable and pasture, divided by hedgerows, only giving way to heather or plantation forestry at the summits or where slopes are steep. Minor roads provide access to scattered farmsteads and to the village of Glanton on the south edge of the character area. There are views to the Cheviot Hills, and to Charlton Ridge and Alnwick Moor to the east. There is a small-scale parkland landscape at Hedgeley Hall.

10a Rosebrough Moor

This is a broad area of moorlands to the east of the Kyloe and Chillingham Hills character area (8a). The central area around Middlemoor and Rosebrough Moor is almost flat. The northern section around Chatton and Sandyford Moors is more undulating, with small clumps of birch occurring in sheltered gullies. There are several prominent masts within the area, each with a cluster of small utilitarian buildings within a high-fenced compound. The uninterrupted heather moorland is most significant in the southern part of this area. The unfenced road across the area lends an upland, expansive feel.

12 Broad Farmed Vale

The landscape comprises the broad vale of the River Breamish, which lies between the foothill farmland to the west, and the sandstone hills to the east. The eastern edge is sharply defined by the scarp of the hills above Chillingham, although to the west the transition is more gradual. The vale is a depression within the wider 'cuesta' landscape of alternating scarps, formed by the sloping strata of limestones and sandstones beneath, rather than being an incised valley. The River Breamish meanders broadly across the vale, with tight meanders within the wider bends. Evidence of past river alignments is extensive, although the watercourse is not a prominent feature in itself. The river turns sharply to the east before flowing through a gap between Weetwood Moor and Doddington Moor. The river, however, is not a distinct feature within the landscape.

Land use is mostly medium-large arable fields, with significant areas of semi-improved pasture. Some older clusters of smaller, less regular fields remain. Field boundaries are commonly post and wire, with some remnant hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are occasional features. There are clumps of broadleaf woodland, some associated with farmsteads, and some with the river, although these are infrequent. Coniferous shelterbelts are more frequent to the south. More significant woodland is associated with parkland landscapes, particularly the Registered Park and Garden of Chillingham Castle, which dates from the mid 18th century. These include avenues, and estate woodlands on the hills to the east. The river is part of the River Tweed SAC.

The village of Chatton is the most substantial settlement in the area. The village has a mix of traditional and more modern buildings. Chillingham is an estate village associated with Chillingham Castle. Elsewhere are a number of large farmsteads, with traditional farmhouses often overshadowed by large utilitarian buildings. The busy A697 runs along the south-west side of the area, where a large sawmill is a prominent feature seen from the road. There is evidence of historic and ongoing sand and gravel extraction in the valley floor.

Views west take in the Cheviot Hills, although views east are often more dramatic, looking up to the scarp. Bewick Hill and Ros Castle are particularly prominent landforms. The lack of broadleaf woodland and hedgerows, and the large farmsteads, gives this area a utilitarian feel. It is less intensively farmed than the area to the north, and contains some topographic variation. Estate woodlands provide a welcome change from the open farmland.

Evidence of ancient occupation of this area is less extensive than on the surrounding hilltops, although there are standing stones and earthworks. The 'Devil's Causeway' Roman road runs north-south through the landscape. There are signs of medieval ridge and furrow, particularly around Chatton – which also retains its characteristically medieval form. Chillingham Castle dates from the 14th century, and has been altered many times since. It is a popular visitor attraction, as is the parkland, which is in separate ownership, and is home to the Chillingham white cattle.

Landscape Character Type 3: Farmed Coastal Plain

Introduction

- 5.46. A band of farmland running along the north-east Northumberland coast, the *Farmed Coastal Plain* varies in width from the narrow strip between Haggerston and Belford, to the broader areas around Rock and Lucker. It is a gently rolling landscape of mainly arable farmland, well settled, and with a coastal influence. This LCT includes the landward edge of the Northumberland Coast AONB.
- 5.47. This LCT is represented by three character areas; *3a Haggerston*, *3b Lucker* and *3c Rock*.

Forces for Change

- Potential loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, arising from climate change or further intensification of arable farming, may cause a loss of enclosure pattern.
- Lack of management of semi-natural woodland, parkland trees and roadside trees or avenues.
- Changes to traditional farmsteads, including development of large, utilitarian farm buildings which do not reflect local vernacular, and conversion of older farm buildings to residential or tourist uses.
- Increasing incentives for restoration and de-intensification and farm diversification through agri-environment schemes.

Key Qualities

- Farmsteads of traditional vernacular architecture, with brick industrial farm chimneys.
- Shelterbelts of mature beech and pine.
- Estate landscapes and associated semi-natural and plantation woodland.
- Coastal character, with views to the sea and coastal features and landmarks.

Guiding principle

Manage

Vision statement

The principal aims of landscape planning policies and initiatives should be to encourage improved custodianship of a landscape that has declined in quality as a result of agricultural intensification. The areas of this LCT are located between the AI and the popular coastal strip, and have scope to accommodate on-farm tourism.

Land Management Guidelines

- 5.48. Encourage restoration and improved management of traditional boundary features, particularly hedgerows and walls. Encourage widening of field margins and incorporation of buffer strips managed primarily for nature conservation along watercourses.
- 5.49. Promote improved management of other woodlands and habitats, including through uptake of appropriate agri-environment schemes.

- 5.50. The distinctive mature beech and pine shelterbelts found in this area generally consist of single age stock which will have a finite lifespan. Give consideration to promotion of re-planting so that a succession can be achieved.
- 5.51. Intensive farming methods have reduced the opportunities for wildlife to co-exist with agriculture. Encourage land managers to increase widths of field margins and to incorporate buffer strips managed primarily for nature conservation along watercourses.
- 5.52. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of the key qualities of the landscape and seascape, to ensure that landscape character is retained or strengthened.

Development Guidelines

- 5.53. Encourage appropriate expansion of tourist infrastructure, including accommodation, including conversions or well-designed new build developments which respect local character which respect local character.
- 5.54. Carefully consider the landscape and key coastal views when looking into siting and design of campsites, car parks and caravan parks.
- 5.55. Seek to encourage the sensitive siting of new farm buildings, particularly with regard to historic buildings and features.

Management Plans

- 5.56. Further guidance is contained in the Northumberland Coast AONB & Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS Management Plan and the Northumberland Coast HLS Target Area Statement. Other reference material helpful to understanding potential effects on landscape character and managing change may also be available.

Landscape Character Type 6: Broad Sandstone Valley

Introduction

- 5.94. This landscape comprises the broad valley of the River Aln and tributaries, as it passes through the sandstone hills.
- 5.95. This LCT is represented by one character area; *6a Whittingham Vale*.

Forces for Change

- Potential loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, arising from climate change or further intensification of arable farming, may cause a loss of enclosure pattern.
- Decline in, or alteration to, management of semi-natural woodland, parkland trees and roadside trees or avenues.
- Road upgrading or widening, and associated infrastructure such as signage and lighting.
- New development within traditional villages, either as infill or as extension to existing settlements.

Key Qualities

- Strong enclosure pattern.
- Extensive historic features such as ridge and furrow.
- Enclosed, bowl-like western valley.
- Small, steep-sided valleys of tributaries, such as the Edlingham Burn.

Guiding principle	Manage
Vision statement	
The underlying aim here should be to conserve the existing diversity of land use and at the same time reverse the current decline in landscape quality. There is scope for improved management and new planting of native woodlands. This area is well placed to accommodate visitors to the popular tourist destinations of Alnwick and the Northumberland National Park.	

Land Management Guidelines

- 5.96. Encourage landowners to improve management of existing hedgerows and woodlands through agri-environment funding schemes.
- 5.97. Encourage restoration and improved management of hedgerows and existing woodlands in sympathy with the local conditions, using suitable native species and local techniques where relevant e.g. hedge laying.
- 5.98. New woodlands should be designed with reference to the appropriate native woodland zone and the national vegetation classification.
- 5.99. In parallel with the restoration of landscape features, farmers should be encouraged to increase widths of field margins and to incorporate buffer strips managed primarily for nature conservation, particularly along water courses.

- 5.100. Watercourses could be naturalised through introduction of lower intensity land uses such as unmanaged grassland and woodland.

Development Guidelines

- 5.101. Encourage appropriate expansion of tourist infrastructure, including accommodation, including conversions or well-designed new build developments which respect local character.
- 5.102. Development within or beside traditional villages should respect local vernacular forms and materials. Other development should be carefully sited with regard to the valley landform.
- 5.103. Seek to protect significant areas of ridge and furrow, and promote awareness of the value of such features.

Management Plans

- 5.104. Other reference material helpful to understanding potential effects on landscape character and managing change may also be available.

Landscape Character Type 7: Estate Valley

Introduction

- 5.105. Incised valley, dominated by the extensive parkland in the ownership of the Duke of Northumberland, including Hulne Park, and the distinctive landscape around Alnwick Castle. The area broadly coincides with the Hulne Park registered designed landscape, although this extends beyond the area slightly to the south and west, and more extensively into the *Coastal Incised Valley* (LCT 2) to the east.
- 5.106. This LCT is represented by one character area; *7a Hulne Park*.

Forces for Change

- Pressures arising from potential increased recreational usage and tourist numbers, should the landscape change from a private parkland to a tourist resource.
- Potentially changing estate management regimes due to diversification or climate change.
- Forestry management, including the establishment new forestry plantations.

Key Qualities

- Designed landscape of national value, with extensive parkland and estate woodland, providing the setting for a number of prominent historic buildings.
- Enclosed wooded valley.
- Forms a key part of the setting of Alnwick, particularly when approached from the north-west.

Guiding principle

Protect

Vision statement

This area is a registered garden and designed landscape. The aim for this area must therefore be conservation. Change within this landscape should be carefully managed. Given the nature of the land ownership, large-scale change would appear unlikely.

Land Management Guidelines

- 5.107. Changes to the large-scale forestry plantations should be undertaken with consideration for the historic woodland pattern, and the parkland setting of historic buildings.
- 5.108. Encourage continued good management of the landscape through agri-environmental practices.
- 5.109. Seek to ensure that any moves to increase recreational usage shall have regard to the historic landscape. Seek opportunities to secure conservation and restoration measures for historic buildings and landscape.

Development Guidelines

- 5.110. Any development of a large-scale nature would be likely to have an adverse effect on the coherent nature of this landscape, and could intrude into views from and to historic features.
- 5.111. There may be scope to redevelop existing buildings and structures for new uses, providing this is done with respect for the traditional forms prevalent in the park and the wider area.

Management Plans

- 5.112. Other reference material helpful to understanding potential effects on landscape character and managing change may also be available.

Landscape Character Type 8: Outcrop Hills and Escarpments

Introduction

- 5.113. These hills form a distinctive chain of rocky uplands, running the length of the *Northumberland Sandstone Hills* (NCA 2), from the *Kyloe Hills* in the north, to *Great Wanney Crag* in the south. Their distinctive form and rich semi-natural vegetation patterns contrast with the surrounding more intensively-farmed landscape.
- 5.114. This LCT is represented by seven character areas; *8a Doddington Ridge*, *8b Kyloe and Chillingham Hills*, *8c Charlton Ridge*, *8d Beanley Moor*, *8e Rothbury Forest*, *8f Harwood Forest* and *8g Sweethope and Blackdown*.

Forces for Change

- Decline in management of stone walls, and potential loss, leading to erosion of landscape pattern.
- New coniferous plantations, and ongoing felling and restocking or restructuring of existing plantations.
- Construction of new access tracks in forestry and across moorland.
- Changes in moorland management regimes, including potential overgrazing, as well as changing patterns of heather burning and bracken management.
- Communication masts and other vertical features.

Key Qualities

- Distinctive scarp hills with rocky outcrops.
- Relationship with the Cheviots, across the Cheviot fringe landscapes.
- Open, relatively remote, character.
- Areas of uninterrupted, sweeping moorland.
- Historic features, particularly concentrations of settlements, cup and ring marked rocks, etc.

Guiding principle

Manage

Vision statement

The hills are a distinctive feature of the Northumberland landscape, and have valuable landscape features which remain in good condition. The approach for this landscape should be to manage development, while maintaining the distinctive landform and moorland areas.

Land Management Guidelines

- 5.115. Where restructuring of forestry takes place, encourage softer plantation outlines with shapes designed to integrate with local topography. Encourage greater diversity of species, including broadleaves, where this coincides with good silvicultural practice.
- 5.116. Seek to preserve the open situation of craggy outcrops and visually significant archaeological sites so that these are not visually masked by woodland.

- 5.117. Encourage a greater uptake of woodland grants to bring semi-natural woodlands back into active management where they have suffered from neglect.
- 5.118. Retention of unimproved wet pastures on lower slopes and the protection of buried archaeology and earthworks should be encouraged in order to retain the visual diversity and time-depth of this landscape.
- 5.119. The rebuilding and restoration of stone walls should be encouraged through provision of appropriate grants and development of locally-based skills to ensure walls are stockproof and reflect the distinctive enclosure pattern found in parts of this landscape, particularly where it is associated with historic sites.
- 5.120. Manage heather moorland and sustain and enhance biodiversity through appropriate stocking densities and burning regimes. Encourage the regeneration and expansion of areas of heather moorland in order to reinforce the distinctive rich colours and textures found in this landscape. Conserve areas of peat bog and wet flushes through the avoidance of gripping. Restore damaged bogs and flushes by blocking grips and drains.
- 5.121. Conservation of historic sites and their settings should be encouraged particularly where they act as local focal points and reinforce local distinctiveness. Access to key features should be sensitively managed to reduce erosion of the landscape and archaeology.

Development Guidelines

- 5.122. The north- and west-facing scarp ridge is particularly sensitive to any skyline structures because of its importance in views, especially those from Northumberland National Park.
- 5.123. Development associated with recreation provision should be sensitively designed and located, and should respect the surrounding landscape context.

Management Plans

- 5.124. Further guidance is contained in the Tweed and Till and Upper Coquet Valley HLS Target Area Statements, and Natural England's Vision for the Uplands. Particular guidance on forestry may be obtained from the Forestry Commission. Management and development in this area should have regard to the Northumberland National park Management Plan. Other reference material helpful to understanding potential effects on landscape character and managing change may also be available.

Landscape Character Type 10: Smooth Moorland

Introduction

- 5.136. This landscape occurs on the broad dip slope which lies to the east of the prominent scarp of the *Northumberland Sandstone Hills*. It is closely associated with the *Outcrop Hills and Escarpments* (LCT 8), which form the western edge of both areas of *Smooth Moorland*.
- 5.137. This LCT is represented by two character areas; *10a Rosebrough Moor* and *10b Alnwick Moor*.

Forces for Change

- Urban fringe effects around Alnwick, including equestrian land uses, affecting the upland character.
- Decline in management of stone walls, and potential loss, leading to erosion of landscape pattern.
- New coniferous plantations, and restructuring of existing plantations.
- Moorland management regimes, including heather burning and bracken management.
- Communication masts and other vertical features.

Key Qualities

- Open, sweeping, expanses of heather moorland.
- Relationship with the scarp slope to the west.
- Views west to the Cheviots, and east to the coast.
- Remote character with few roads and very sparse settlement.

Guiding principle

Manage

Vision statement

The key qualities of this landscape have been affected by a number of influences, including a lack of landscape and field boundary management, unsympathetic blocky coniferous plantations, and development associated with the edge of Alnwick. Future management of this moorland and marginal agricultural land could become more directed towards environmental conservation and landscape improvement.

Land Management Guidelines

- 5.138. Promote environmental management of moorland through uptake of HLS and other agri-environment schemes. Encourage enhancement of habitat value, and aim to reduce encroachment of single-species stands of bracken.
- 5.139. Felling and restructuring of coniferous plantations may present opportunities to soften the edges of larger plantations. Seek to retain semi-natural Scots pine copses.
- 5.140. Ensure that proposed new plantations accord with the aims of relevant forestry policy, and seek to retain the open nature of views.

- 5.141. Increase awareness of the landscape implications of equestrian use, encourage the retention and management of existing hedgerow boundaries and discourage the unnecessary subdivision of enclosures with post and rail or wire fencing.
- 5.142. The rebuilding and restoration of stone walls should be encouraged through provision of appropriate grants and development of locally-based skills to ensure walls are stockproof and reflect the distinctive enclosure pattern found in parts of this landscape.

Development Guidelines

- 5.143. Development around the edge of Alnwick may erode the upland characteristics of this landscape. Opportunities should be sought to establish improved settlement edge conditions as part of any new development.

Management Plans

- 5.144. Further guidance is contained in the Tweed and Till HLS Target Area Statement, and Natural England's Vision for the Uplands. Particular guidance on forestry may be obtained from the Forestry Commission. Other reference material helpful to understanding potential effects on landscape character and managing change may also be available.

Landscape Character Type 12: Broad Farmed Vale

Introduction

- 5.171. This landscape is a broad area of gently rolling farmland, defined by higher ground at the edges. The River Breamish flows through, becoming the Till after it merges with the Lilburn Burn, although there is not a distinct valley landform.
- 5.172. This LCT is represented by one character area; *12a Breamish Vale*.

Forces for Change

- Potential loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, arising from climate change or further intensification of arable farming, may cause a loss of enclosure pattern.
- Planting of new coniferous shelterbelts may further emphasise the utilitarian nature of the landscape.
- Development pressure for recreational infrastructure around Chillingham Castle, including signs.
- Changing estate management regimes may lead to changes in coverage and composition of parkland and woodlands.

Key Qualities

- Historic estates provide historical interest, recreational resources, and tree cover within this otherwise open landscape.
- Dramatic views of the scarp slopes to the east, and views west to the Cheviots.

Guiding principle	Plan
Vision statement	
Outside the large country estates, this landscape has declined, with hedgerows and hedgerow trees missing or sparse. The approach should therefore be to plan for enhancements of the landscape, improving the setting of the estate parklands.	

Land Management Guidelines

- 5.173. Encourage landowners to improve management and carry out replacement of hedgerows and hedgerow trees through agri-environment funding schemes.
- 5.174. Encourage a greater uptake of woodland grants to introduce new native broadleaf woodlands, enhancing the landscape and improving biodiversity. Woodland could relate particularly well to the river course.
- 5.175. Seek to encourage species diversity in any proposed coniferous plantations or shelterbelts.
- 5.176. Encourage ongoing custodianship of estate woodlands and parklands, to retain these valuable landscape assets.

Development Guidelines

- 5.177. Development within Chatton and Chillingham which is sympathetic in style, and reflects local vernacular building types, will integrate most successfully with the existing village patterns.
- 5.178. Tourist infrastructure which improves the viability of local visitor attractions should be encouraged, while being sited to minimise impacts on the designed landscapes which are the main attraction of this area. Seek to avoid an over-provision of signage.
- 5.179. Seek to encourage the sensitive siting of new farm buildings, particularly with regard to historic buildings and features.

Management Plans

- 5.180. Further guidance is contained in the Tweed and Till HLS Target Area Statement. Other reference material helpful to understanding potential effects on landscape character and managing change may also be available.

Appendix B:

Extract from Valued Landscape Assessment, 2021

Landscape Evaluation Area 4 – Middlemoor Coast



Landscape Evaluation Area 5 – Eglington Vale and Hulne



EA 4: Middlemoor Coast

Evaluation Area 4: Middlemoor Coast	
Landscape Context	<p>This landscape comprises the broad dip slope of the sandstone hills and gently slopes in an easterly direction towards the coast. The western areas form undulating moorland without significant rocky outcrops, although there are some notable high points such as Cateran Hill and Crag Hill. On the eastern fringes the moorland gives way to improved fringe farmland.</p> <p>This area forms part of the chain of sandstone hills and is included in the Northumberland Sandstone Hills NCA. It also falls within the Smooth Moorland (Rosebrough Moor) character type/area as defined in the NLCA.</p> <p>All of this area was previously including in the AHLV for Alnwick and Berwick Districts.</p>
Natural Beauty Factors	Evaluation
Landscape condition	<p>This area forms remnant areas of open moorland including heather moor, rough grassland and peat bog and areas of elevated fringe farmland defined by post and wire and hedgerows with conifer plantation and windfarms. The conifer plantations form either extensive areas e.g. Foumart Knowe or a scattered pattern of small rectangular blocks (e.g. on North Charlton Moor) which bear little relation to the natural landscape patterns and visually disrupt the otherwise simple landscape form and subtle pattern of alder lined burns which drain the moor. Two large scale windfarm developments – Wandylaw in the north (10 turbines) and Middlemore in the south (18 turbines) - and telephone masts at Cuddy's Knowe and Sandford Moor add strong vertical elements which draw the eye and again disrupt the otherwise simple patterns of open elevated moorland.</p> <p>The eastern half of this landscape has undergone significant agricultural improvement in the second half of the 20th century where open moorland has been enclosed, drained and improved to form fringe pastures. The visual contrast between the muted colours of remaining moorland and the bright green improved pastures enclosed by post and wire fencing is stark.</p> <p>In the west of the area, the moorland associated with Bewick Moor, Quarryhouse Moor and Roseborough Moor remains relatively intact although moorland within the Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI is recovering from an unfavourable condition and remains at high risk.</p> <p>There are elevated views across moorland towards the coast e.g. from Crag Hill and Cateran Hill.</p>
Scenic quality	<p>The scenic qualities of this landscape are derived from its simple topography and semi-natural vegetation which gives rise to a strong horizontal emphasis, texture and colour and a sense of openness and remoteness. The heather moorland has seasonal interest becoming a mass of purple in summer and early autumn</p> <p>Whilst this sense of openness is retained in areas of improved pasture, the bright smooth fringe farmland on the margins to the east lacks visual interest and contrasts strongly with areas of semi-natural vegetation. Around East and West Ditchburn, the landscape forms a shallow valley/depression. Here the landscape is also improved but there are subtle patterns of ridge and furrow which provide greater visual interest, along with alder lined incised burns which flow south and east, draining the moorland.</p> <p>The open expansiveness of this landscape means that, in the central and western areas, views are across moorland with little appreciation of landscape</p>

	<p>beyond, while further east (due to the shelving gradient of eastward slope) views focus towards the coast and to landmarks such as Dunstanburgh Castle. In the western fringes, views can often be panoramic, extending north to Ros Castle as well as inland to the Cheviots and south into the Upper Aln.</p> <p>The visual presence of turbines exerts a strong influence on scenic quality both within the windfarms and on land adjacent. Nevertheless, this influence decreases with distance and/or where topography helps to screen views or provide an outward facing aspect away from the development. This is evident to the west and in areas where other landscape components such as extensive areas of semi natural vegetation remain intact and dominant and there are expansive scenic views into and across adjoining vales.</p>
Distinctiveness	<p>This landscape has a bleak remoteness derived from its large scale, simple topography and semi-natural habitat, coupled with little settlement. As a result, it imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity often giving rise to a sense of being 'on top of the world', despite relatively low elevation.</p>
Natural and cultural Interest	<p>Natural heritage interest includes the Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI which is nationally important for the extent, quality and diversity of its mosaic of upland habitats, including mires (blanket bogs), heaths, fens, flushes and wet grassland. The presence of several examples of large bogs, all within a heathland context, is highly unusual and some of the transitions between bog and other vegetation are especially noteworthy.</p> <p>Cultural heritage interest includes notable concentrations of upstanding prehistoric archaeological sites on Wandylaw Moor and Longstone Hill, including cairns, field systems and cup and ring marked stones. There is also an outstanding collection of cairn cemeteries on Sandyford Moor which are scheduled monuments. Of unknown date is the Cateran Hole - a mysterious 'hole' and 'tunnel' in a fault in the rock with a series of man-made steps cut into the rock at its entrance. It is thought that the hole provided a hiding place for loot with 'cateran' meaning thief in border dialect.</p> <p>The historic ruin of Blawearie House, in the west of this area, reflects the desertion of marginal settlement within the moorland fringe. The name means 'high burial mounds' evident in the nearby archaeological sites which include prehistoric burial mounds but also cairns and Iron Age hillfort and cup and ring marked rocks. Stan Beckensall in his book on Northumberland's Hidden History described Blawearie as <i>'one of the most powerful of these abandoned buildings for here the atmosphere is unique in my experience. Simply as a deserted house in the middle of unpopulated moorland, with a long track leading to it from the village of Old Berwick, it is visually stunning'</i>.</p> <p>Elsewhere the farmsteads of East and West Ditchburn are good examples of the 'new farms' which established in the late 18th and 19th centuries in response to new farming methods. They are associated relatively intact and upstanding pattern of ridge and furrow, which is most evident when the angle of the sun is low. There is also evidence of 18th century coal mining pits around Haughterslaw. Here remnants of open shafts are visible as shallow depressions amongst the heath and acid grassland.</p>
Perceptual aspects	<p>This landscape has a strong sense of remoteness as a result of its elevation, open emptiness and lack of access and settlement. This is reinforced by the sight of hen harriers and the sound of curlew. The textured semi-natural moorland habitats give the area a remote feel. However, looking east and south within the area, the proliferation of wind turbines gives rise to a busier and cluttered character which is active. When coupled with the improved pastures</p>

	and conifer block planting, these features and elements feel alien and discordant.
Associations	<p>The special qualities of this area have been captured by local artists and the area contains many sites that are linked to folklore and legend.</p> <p>Stan Beckensall in his book on Northumberland's Hidden History, described Blawearie as '<i>one of the most powerful of these abandoned buildings....for here the atmosphere is unique in my experience. Simply as a deserted house in the middle of unpopulated moorland, with a long track leading to it from the village of Old Bewick, it is visually stunning</i>'.</p>
 <p><i>Landscape at Blawearie - Rachel Tweddell</i> This painting captures the open expanse of moorland</p>	 <p>The Cateran Hole is associated with local legends and folklore including elves and a secret hiding place for stolen goods</p>
Recreation and enjoyment	<p>The remnant areas of open moorland form extensive areas of open access land and also include a good network of public rights of way, bridleways and historic tracks (many of which relate to areas of former mining or traditional grazing patterns).</p> <p>From raised craggy areas there are extensive views across open moorland which add to enjoyment e.g. Crag Hill and Cateran Hill.</p>
Spatial function	<p>The land between Red and Black Burn and Coal Burn to the south of Middlemoor Wind farm forms an important wider upland setting to Eglington Vale and village.</p> <p>The east facing slopes of this landscape are visually prominent from the coast and form an important skyline setting to the Northumberland Coast AONB.</p>
Recommendation	<p><i>There is a strong weight of evidence to support the inclusion of the western half of this area within a valued landscape in association with Chillingham Vale to the west and Eglington Vale to the south. Although all of this area was previously included in the AHLV for Alnwick and Berwick Districts, there is a transition in landscape quality beyond the areas of intact moorland due to the effects of land management (including wind farm development). The eastern half of the area is not considered to comprise a valued landscape. The area around East and West Ditchburn lies within the higher quality end of the transition and although visually affected by the close proximity of the turbines, it is noted that these</i></p>

	<p>structures are temporary, although may be repowered in future. Care will be needed to define a suitable boundary to the Valued Landscape in this transitional landscape.</p>
<p>Summary of issues to be addressed when defining extent</p>	<p>Transition: This landscape is in transition from west to east due to changes in topography and land use patterns. In particular, the area around East and West Ditchburn, though transitional, includes features of cultural heritage. Care will be needed to draw a boundary within the transition area.</p> <p>Fragmentation: This landscape has suffered physical and visual fragmentation such that the eastern half of the area is regarded as not qualifying. Care will be needed when drawing the boundary line in order to exclude areas which are fragmented or include those which continue to form part of a wider tract of qualifying land e.g. around Quarry House.</p> <p>Incongruous Features: The current windfarms, telephone masts and blocks of conifer plantation all form incongruous features in this landscape. Care will be needed in drawing a boundary which excludes incongruous features where feasible. Around Longlee Moor distinctive rocky outcrops and hills occur on the fringes of the wider moorland. The elevation and position of these hills, set back from Hulne Park, along with views to wind turbines at close proximity means that particular scrutiny will be required at the boundary setting stage when deciding the extent of the valued landscape.</p>



EA 5: Eglington Vale and Hulne

Evaluation Area 5: Eglington Vale and Hulne	
Landscape Context	<p>This area is associated with Eglington Burn and Hulne Park on the River Aln and has a predominately east-west grain, comprising a shallow upland basin through which the Eglington Burn and minor tributaries drain the surrounding moorland. Indeed, its western boundary largely equates to the water shed between the Aln and the Tweed. The lower River Aln valley is cloaked in the extensive Hulne Park flanked by Cloudy Craggs to the south (c. 250m AOD) and distinctive conical hills to the north e.g. Humble Heugh.</p> <p>The village of Eglington lies in the west in a gentle valley of Eglington Burn, between Bewick Moor (c. 240m AOD) to the north and Beanley Moor (c. 180m AOD) to the south. To the west, land falls away quickly into the Chillingham Vale. Similarly, land opens out into the Aln Vale to the south while to the north land rises onto the moorland dip slope that looks east towards the coast.</p> <p>This area forms part of the chain of sandstone hills and is included in the Northumberland Sandstone Hills NCA. It also falls within the Outcrop Hills and Escarpments (Charlton Ridge, Kyloe and Chillingham Hills and Beanley Moor), Broad Sandstone Valley (Whittingham Vale) and Estate Valley (Hulne Park) character types/areas as defined in the NLCA.</p> <p>All of this area was previously including in the AHLV for Alnwick District.</p>
Value Factors	Evaluation
Landscape condition	<p>Much of this landscape is intact and in good condition. The open expansive areas of enclosed lowland moorland on Beanley Moor and Bewick Moor along with the higher land around Cloudy Craggs above Brizelee Wood, visually define the area. These moorlands (the majority of which fall within the Beanley and Bewick SSSI) are in recovering condition and under good management. The moorland gives way to enclosed farmland comprising former medieval open fields now enclosed with wavy edges and straight edged enclosures dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. There has been some loss of former moorland/rough ground to agriculture in the central part of the area around East Botton.</p> <p>Across these land use patterns, the natural drainage system of incised tributary burns which feed the River Aln is intact, and many are alder lined. Around Eglington Village and Hulne Park the landscape is more wooded. Parkland trees and woodland belts associated with Hulne Park and Eglington Hall are intact, their pattern of mature trees making a particularly striking contribution to landscape quality and often emphasising landform e.g. Cuthbert Heugh.</p> <p>The village of Eglington (a conservation area) forms the main settlement in the area. It contains a variety of building types, but its predominately linear character and unity of building materials (buff sandstone), ensures a strong visual cohesiveness.</p> <p>In the central part of the area, north and south of the B6346, the enclosure patterns have been disrupted through field enlargement and agricultural improvement in the 19th century. Where this is coupled with large scale farm development on prominent hillsides (e.g. Shipley Lane) there is some loss of landscape quality. There are also a number of straight sided conifer plantations dating to the 20th century e.g. Fox Covert but their small scale and limited number means they have little overall effect on landscape quality.</p>
Scenic quality	<p>The scenic qualities of this landscape relate to the juxtaposition of land use patterns, textures and muted colours which reflect the underlying geology and topography of the area, forming highly attractive landscape compositions. Views across the area, in all directions, serve to contrast the rough textures and colours of the moorland on open upper slopes with the enclosed agriculture on lower slopes and with the extensive areas of parkland which the moorland frames.</p>

	<p>This landscape has a broad expansive character, especially on the higher moorland slopes. On lower lying areas, views predominately focus inward defined by higher land and by extensive woodland cover around Eglington and Hulne Park. Alder lined ravines carry fast running burns while the form of conical hills is emphasised woodlands. Other natural features include rocky crags in open moorland e.g. Hunterheugh Crags, Corbie Crags and Kimmer Crags, and Kimmer Lough which forms an eye-catching expanse of water on the edge of the moor above the Eglington Burn. This landscape also includes numerous historic visual landmarks e.g. Hulne Abbey and Brizlee Tower which add to scenic compositions.</p> <p>Where there are longer distant views southwards e.g. from Hinding Lane west of Heckley High House, they are framed by Beanley Moor and Cloudy Crags and look across the Aln Vale to the flat topped sandstone scarps above Edlington. There are also long-distance views when travelling west along the B6346 which look towards the distance domes of the Cheviots. These views form quintessential Northumberland vistas and add to the overall high levels of scenic quality.</p>
Distinctiveness	<p>Hulne Park exerts a significant influence on local sense of place due to the extent and intactness of the park landscape and its high-quality landscape context. The wall enclosing Hulne Park (built by the Dukes of Northumberland) marks an impressive, roadside feature between Alnwick and just south of Shipley. The incised tributary burns are also a key feature of this evaluation area. Eglington village has a strong character and local distinctiveness and is set within a high-quality landscape which is sheltered along the burn and parkland and yet rapidly becomes exposed on the adjacent moorland, which lies within easy reach.</p>
Natural and cultural Interest	<p>This landscape has a wealth of natural and cultural interest which contributes to an appreciation of the landscape. Beanley Moor is one of the most important prehistoric landscapes in Northumberland with a profusion of upstanding archaeological sites including domestic sites, fortified enclosures and Iron Age and Romano British sites.</p> <p>The area also has a unique coal mining history with a well worked seam running in an arc in the north of the area transcending the Bewick Moor SSSI and the middle section of this evaluation area. Notably the remnants of the 18th century Tarry Colliery, located north above Eglington and which extended east as far as Shipley, comprised a number of bell mine shafts. The colliery closed in 1910 and, in places, shallow depressions in the landscape reflect former activity. Remnants of lime kilns at Tarry and at Shipley West Field (north of the B6346) are also visible. More recent historic features include three pillboxes dating from WW II, sited in Eglington village, important as part of the national Stop-Line defences which locally ran from the coast inland to Wooler and back to the coast via Alnwick.</p> <p>Hulne Park is a Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden, originally emparked in the 13th century within the Forest of Alnwick. It comprises areas designed by Lancelot Brown and includes parkland, pleasure grounds including extensive rides, follies and the enhancement of natural features. A key feature of the parkland is the incorporation of antiquarian sites and creation of focal points within the landscape e.g. Hulne Priory. Between 1806 and 1811 the perimeter wall was constructed defining the extent of the park and marking key gateways with lodges. The heather moorland and rough grass on the sandstone hills to the south of the park make a particular contribution to the wooded Aln Valley as do the conical hills and rolling farmland to the north. Within the valley the steep wooded gullies and meanders of the River Aln are embraced within the parkland design.</p> <p>Eglington is thought to originate in the medieval period and its development reflects its association with the Eglington Estate and also coal mining activity in the area. The village comprises a hall, church and former mill (now rebuilt as the village hall). It has a</p>

	<p>linear arrangement of traditional stone buildings along the main road which provide a visual unity and strong character. It is a conservation area containing numerous listed buildings and notable areas of landscape associated with the hall to the west. Remains of ridge and furrow cultivation are also evident in parts of the conservation area.</p> <p>In terms of natural heritage the majority of the open moorland is included within the Bewick and Beanley Moor SSSI and is nationally important for the extent, quality and diversity of its mosaic of upland habitats, with mires (including blanket bogs), heaths, fens, flushes and wet grassland. Beanley Moss, though partially planted with conifers, retains good bog vegetation beneath its canopy. The presence of several examples of large bogs, all within a heathland context is highly unusual, and some of the transitions between bog and other vegetation are especially noteworthy.</p> <p>The area is also important for its geomorphological interest - Kimmer Lough is a kettle-lake while the River Aln comprises some excellent examples of ox bow lakes and meanders through Hulne Park. At Hunterheugh Crag, sandstone rock outcrops reflect the underlying geology and provide landmarks within the wider moor. These natural heritage features add to the scenic compositions of the area.</p>
Perceptual aspects	<p>This landscape has a strong sense of emptiness and remoteness especially in the upland valley above Harehope and Eglington and on Beanley Moor. In the moorland areas, there is little to no intrusion from man-made built form and thus the area imparts a remote character. Even in the lower lying and wooded landscape of Hulne Park, where there is greater enclosure and sheltered character, there is still a strong sense of wild grandeur.</p>
Associations	<p>Local folklore is associated with Jenny's Lantern. Hulne Parkland is associated with Lancelot Brown and William Turner.</p> <p>Eglington is also associated with a number of prominent individuals including the poet PJ Grant (1898-1973) who wrote about the landscape.</p>



Summer Fields Near Eglington Village - Judith Appleby.
This image captures the patchwork of agricultural land with open moorland beyond.

Copyright original acrylic paintings by Dr. Judith Appleby
www.jaarti.co.uk

The landscape of Hulne parkland was painted by William Turner in his painting titled A View of the Brizlee Tower in Hulne Park. This painting captured the enclosure created by the rising sandstone hills which flank the Aln valley and illustrates how the wider landscape is 'borrowed' to create picturesque views within the park.



Views west from Eglington Road - Judith Appleby. This painting captures views over Beanley Moor to the snow-covered peaks of the Cheviots which, appear oddly close, just over the brow.

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Recreation and enjoyment	Substantial areas of land within or adjacent to the Parish are access areas under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (notably Beanley Moor, Shephard's Law and the area west of Haughterslaw). There are many publicised local walks and rides across Beanley Moor and Blawearie/Bewick Moor as well as more lowland recreational experiences through Hulne Park within the Aln Valley. Many of the local footpaths reflect the historic importance of communication between farms and settlements.
Spatial function	The surrounding hills form the backdrop to Eglingham village street, contributing to the peaceful, rural atmosphere, which is part of its village's special character. Similarly, the surrounding hills form an important backdrop to Hulne Park, the designed landscape borrowing views from the wider rugged moorland to the south and unfettered rolling farmland and hills to the north. From the high ground at Heckley, dropping down towards Shipley, the road, when it joins the B6346, acts as one of the two 'gateways' to the eastern Cheviots and the Cheviot itself (the other is the A697). Likewise, the area has a number of surprising long views such as from Friarswell, in Hulne Park and from just below Heckley. In addition, the area forms an impressive and scenic break between the high ground to the north and south.
Recommendation	<i>This is a landscape of contrasts from upland moorland to upland fringe farmland and river valley parkland. The combination of landscapes and views gives rise to a high scenic quality over much of the area and this coupled with the local interest of physiographical features such as craggy outcrops and natural and cultural interest raises this area above ordinary countryside. When considering the northern and central extent of the valued landscape, it is recommended that attention be given to the issues set out below.</i>
Summary of issues to be addressed when defining extent	<p>Transition: The northern fringes of this area transition into the Middlemore Coast Evaluation Area where the land rises and focuses away from the Eglingham Burn and, over to the east, across open moorland affected by wind farm development. These northern fringes also show signs of agricultural improvement and the expansion of farms including some large-scale modern farm buildings. Nevertheless, this area also contains features of interest including evidence of former coal mining which was historically associated with Eglingham village.</p> <p>Fragmentation: The central part of the area between the East Ditchburn and East Bolton has suffered some loss of landscape quality as a result of more intensive agriculture, field boundary loss, larger farm buildings and small-scale conifer plantations.</p> <p>Incongruous Features: The wind farm development to the north of this area causes some visual intrusion from the fringes of Beanley Moor, where elevation affords views northwards across the Eglingham Burn, and from the B6346 beside Shipley Lane. Nevertheless, viewed from these various vantages, the turbines appear some distance away, and are only partially visible.</p>