

# 8: The Eastern Moors

July 2009

# Peak District

Landscape Character Assessment

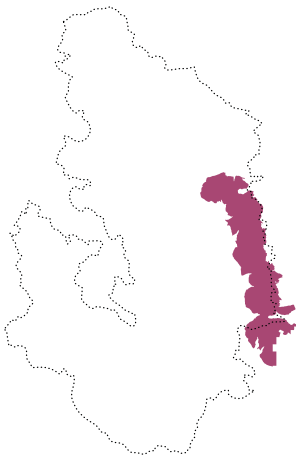




# The Eastern Moors



Higger Tor © Peak District National Park Authority



## Introduction

The Eastern Moors is a sparsely settled area of gritstone uplands lying to the south-east of the Dark Peak plateau. The area is a continuation of these Dark Peak uplands but the broad, upland plateau character associated with the Dark Peak alters to a somewhat lower landscape with a narrower moorland top and main western shelf, and a greater proportion of enclosed moorland. Edges are a characteristic of the area, mostly running along the north-south axis of the Moor's western edge. This is an elevated landscape that drops away to the Derwent Valley to the west, the Derbyshire Peak Fringe to the south and the Yorkshire Peak Fringe to the east. The Eastern Moors provides a number of vantage points over the city of Sheffield in the lower lying eastern landscape.

## Physical influences

The Eastern Moors is an area of moorland and owes much of its character to the underlying coarse sandstones from the Millstone Grit series of the Carboniferous period. As the process of sedimentation that formed the limestones of the White Peak was taking place, a land mass to the north (now Caledonia in Scotland) was shifting: uplifting, folding and tilting towards the south. This created rivers and deltas carrying sediments of fine silt, pebbles and sand into the shallow sea creating mudflats and low lying sand banks. The material that was deposited by these rivers compressed over mudstones through sedimentation to create the shales, siltstones and sandstones known as Millstone Grit. Chatsworth Grit dominates the Eastern Moors but is interspersed with other gritstone from the Millstone Grit series. To the south, and more significantly, in the eastern parts of the Eastern Moors the Coal Measures overlie the gritstone and consist of grey shales, siltstones and sandstones interspersed with thinner beds of coal and ironstone.

The hard Millstone Grit is most influential on the land form and is interspersed with beds of softer shales. The erosion of these rocks has given rise to a distinctive topography of high moors with gritstone outcrops, and 'edges', such as Stanage. These edges are thought to have developed through freeze-thaw, rock fall activity and down washing from streams during peri-glacial times.

The upland tops are covered in peaty mineral soils and occasionally blanket peat although the Eastern Moors generally has a much thinner peat layer, contrasting with the Dark Peak where blanket bog is more dominant. Hence the extensive peat gullies and hags characteristic of the Dark Peak are largely absent here. There are localised patches of thicker peat on the Eastern Moors, mainly in shallow basins such as on Totley Moss. On the Eastern Moors there is some peri-glacial head deposit formed through freeze-thaw activity on wet surface material, eroding it and ensuring that its constituent parts become intermingled before sliding down slopes over hard frozen surfaces. During tundra peri-glacial conditions wind erosion damaged the Millstone Grit, creating a dust, known as loess, which was deposited across the Peak District.

## Ecological influences

For the most part the soils of the Eastern Moors are impoverished with a mixture of damp humic gleys, humic podzols, podzolic, or at best, shallow brown soils. As a result, semi-natural vegetation is a key characteristic of many Eastern Moors landscapes, especially on the Open Moors and moorland slopes. Here the shallower peats and mineral soils mean that heather and grass moorland predominate; this is in contrast to the Dark Peak where deeper peats are far more widespread giving rise to extensive areas of blanket bog. Only on Ringinglow Bog in the north is cottongrass-dominated blanket bog extensive, and this lacks the network of drainage channels or 'grougths' so typical of the Dark Peak moors. Heather moorland was typically managed for grouse shooting in the 19th and 20th centuries but this is now much less prevalent. Other Dwarf shrubs such as bilberry and cowberry can co-dominate with heather. Areas of grass moorland

dominated by purple moor grass occur in places and may reflect past heavy grazing or even agricultural treatment. Moorland birch and willow scrub, largely absent from the more exposed Dark Peak moorlands, occur locally, and birds such as woodcock, tree pipit and redpoll favour such areas.

Gritstone rock outcrops on the moors occur either as massive gritstone edges, as at Stanage, Burbage and Birchen Edges, or as smaller outcrops and boulder strewn slopes. These can support a lichen flora of some importance locally, and also provide nesting sites for birds such as ring ouzel. Bracken is often particularly extensive on sloping ground below the edges, as well as being present elsewhere on the moors. Whinchat and, increasingly, stonechat, are found in such areas.

Moorland basins ('sitches' or 'sicks') are drained by streams which flow off gently in shallow valleys to the coal measures to the east, or to the west where they drop more rapidly as fast flowing streams where they descend into the Derwent Valley. Bogs and flushes associated with streamhead basins and streamside flushes often support a varied flora including species which are typically scarce in the Dark Peak, such as greater tussock sedge, bogbean and marsh cinquefoil, whilst rushy areas are important for reed buntings.

At the southern end of the area large blocks of enclosed pastureland and conifer plantation occur around Matlock Moor. The enclosed pastureland extends northwards along the eastern edge of the moors from Gladwin's Mark to Freebirch, interspersed with pockets of arable land and relics of heathland vegetation. These areas are of particular value for birds such as lapwing, curlew and yellowhammer.

## Human influences

The Eastern Moors is now relatively unsettled due, in part, to the altitude but also because of the setting aside of this land in the 19th century, by large estates, for grouse shooting. It has been managed for the needs of humans, mainly as rough grazing, since prehistoric times.

Well preserved archaeological remains of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements and ritual monuments are common, located extensively across the Eastern Moors; these are a nationally important resource. The moors are lower than the Dark Peak moors further north and thus were more suitable for farming in prehistory, although the soils later deteriorated due to climatic change, possibly combined with over-farming. Evidence of settlement and farming is widespread at altitudes between 250 and 350 metres: radiocarbon dating from a number of sites, combined with culturally-distinct artefacts, show that sustained activity took place over much of the last two millennia BC. The upstanding remains often comprise low heaps of stone cleared into cairns and along the courses of past field hedges and fences; these stony remains can be difficult to find where heather and bracken is high.

There are many small prehistoric ritual monuments of a variety of types on the Eastern Moors, presumably built by the local farming population. These include stone circles, ring cairns and other stone settings, all found close to the settlements and prehistoric fields.

A large number of round barrows and smaller funerary cairns are scattered more widely. There are also two small but rare funerary cairnfields on Gibbet Moor and Ravens Tor, which are very different in character to the many agricultural cairnfields.

On Gardom's Edge there is a big enclosure with a large but low stone bank. While similar in character to Neolithic sites elsewhere, radiocarbon dating shows that it is Later Bronze Age in date and contemporary with one phase of the prehistoric farming; it is not defensive and its purpose is unknown. Carl Wark, between Burbage and Stanage Edges, is a smaller but undated monument, with a high rampart suggesting it is an unusual hill fort.

Since the end of prehistory most parts of the Eastern Moors have not been used agriculturally except for rough grazing, leaving soils undisturbed, which explains why so much from prehistory has survived. Only restricted parts of the Eastern Moors were farmed more intensively in the medieval period. Important abandoned settlements survive at Lawrence Field and Sheffield Plantation, while at the southern end of the Eastern Moors, adjacent to Fallinge, Burley Fields and Farley, there are three areas of enclosed land that were farmed in medieval times and are still in use today.



Packhorse route © Peak District National Park Authority

Braided hollow-ways, often deeply eroded into the land, are visible running across the moorlands. Some of these were specifically for local traffic to commons, quarries and mines but the majority were through routes of medieval to late 18th century date, from the Peak District to the lowlands to the east. There were many such routes and they were used for exporting products such as lead, millstones and cheese, and for cross-Pennine trade in commodities such as salt, ceramics and industrial products from the iron and steel centres around Sheffield and Chesterfield. These traditional routes, many with their distinctive early 18th century waymarkers, were replaced in the 18th and 19th century by the turnpike road network, which formed the basis for the main modern routes that now cross the Eastern Moors. Not all turnpikes and similar industrial roadways are still in use, as for example the 18th century paved cartway running across Stanage Edge. In several places routes were diverted from the straight 18th century roads to more sinuous roads with lesser gradients that could be passed in winter.

Millstones were made at many sites along the main scarps of the Eastern Moors for a national market from at least the 13th century through to the 20th century. There were important production centres of domed millstones, made until the 18th century, above Baslow and Hathersage. In the 19th and 20th centuries production changed and stones of different form were used for milling animal feed, as pulpstones for paper manufacture and as grindstones. Good examples of such quarries exist at Stanage Edge and on Bole Hill above Hathersage. Other quarries, such as those above Beeley, were primarily used to supply building stone. Broken and unfinished millstones, troughs and gateposts are still visible in quarries and amongst scattered boulders below many of the escarpments.

Coal mining took place on the Eastern Moors from the 16th century, and possibly earlier, until the 19th century. Many shaft mounds for shallow mines exist around Robin Hood, close to Beeley Warren and near Owler Bar. In the medieval period and into the 16th century the Eastern Moors was extensively used for lead smelting in bole hearths. Despite their frequency, there is little to see today of these 'bonfire' sites except the occasional scatter of slag in patches of polluted poorly-vegetated ground.

The edges of the Eastern Moors are famed for their extensive rock climbing routes and are often busy with climbers. The Peak District, including the Eastern Moors, played an important role in its development as a sport accessible to all social classes. Prior to the 1950s rock climbing was a socially elite pastime with expensive gear and difficulties accessing rock faces. Climbers such as Joe Brown and other working class men from Manchester and Sheffield developed a new, less formal approach to climbing with a focus on the Dark Peak and the Eastern Moors. Eventually these climbers evolved the sport, developing gear and climbing styles that are still used.



# Sense of place

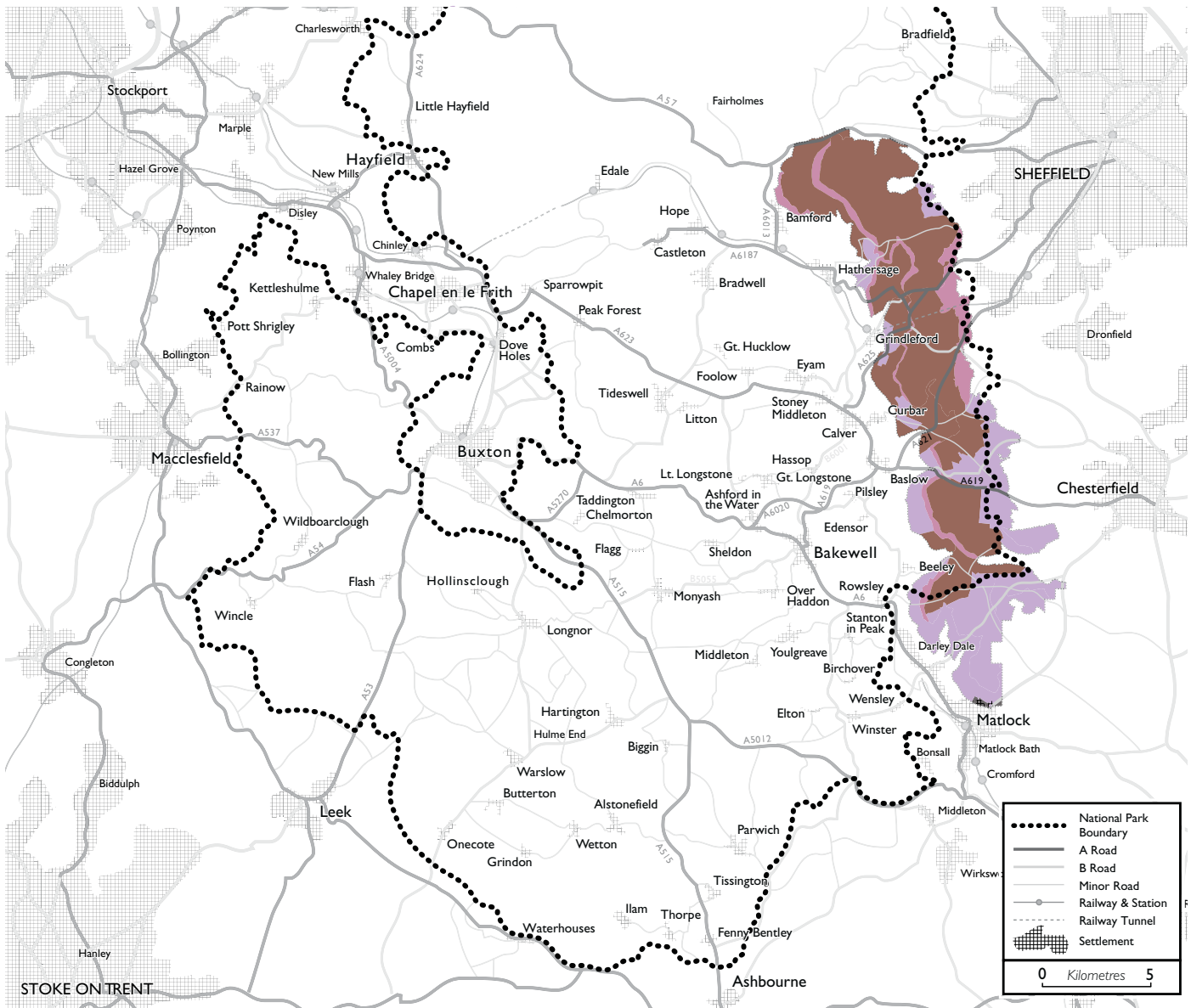
The Eastern Moors has a similar sense of place to the Dark Peak but the sense of remoteness and isolation, though sometimes present, is weaker as the moorlands here often afford wide views over the adjacent settled landscapes of the Derwent Valley to the west and the Derbyshire Peak Fringe and urban Sheffield to the east. The proximity of large urban areas, including Sheffield, Chesterfield and Matlock, and the frequent roads crossing the Eastern Moors further reduce the sense of isolation and remoteness compared with much of the Dark Peak. The edges, such as Stanage and Burbage, are celebrated climbing spots, often providing expansive vistas.

Although the landscape has a history of significant human activity, as evidenced through archaeological remains and occasional shooting infrastructure, the sense of place today on the tranquil moorland contrasts with the busy quarrying and mining landscapes that once existed across the Eastern Moors.

The moorland tops have dark hues due to the weathered gritstone bedrock, exposed in places along the edges, and the dark purples, oranges and browns of heather so important for grouse management. This creates a sense of wildness that contrasts with the brighter greens of improved land in the landscapes to either side of the moors. The lack of settlement or activity ensures that the sense of remoteness prevails in most locations, although the edges are popular destinations for climbers and walkers.

Three distinct landscape character types have been identified in the Eastern Moors. They have been defined by their broadly repeating patterns of natural elements and cultural factors:

- Open Moors
- Moorland Slopes & Cloughs
- Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

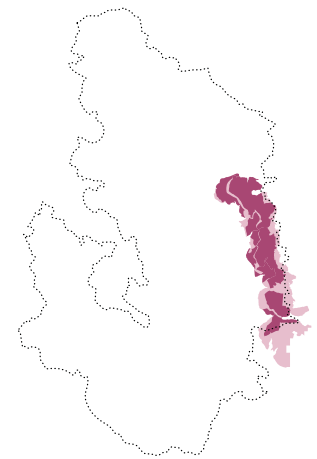


# Open Moors

An open, undulating gritstone moor and heathland landscape with mineral soils and shallow blanket peat covered by heather moorland and grass moor. This is an unsettled landscape with wide views to distant surrounding hills and valleys and a sense of remoteness and space.



Totley Moor © Peak District National Park Authority



## Key characteristics

- Undulating unsettled gritstone summits
- Thin impoverished soils with some deposits of peat
- Extensive archaeological evidence from prehistoric and later activity
- Unenclosed heather and grass moorland, with birch and willow scrub locally
- Large gritstone edges, scattered rock outcrops and tors

This is a visually prominent landscape which covers a large area of the Eastern Moors, with heather moorland and localised thick blanket peat such as at Totley Moss and Leash Fen.

## Geology and landform

The open moorland is a large scale, moderately high and exposed landscape where the underlying Millstone Grit strongly influences the landform. The gritstone bedrock is hard and slowly eroded, giving rise to the moderately undulating landform of the highland summit separated from the lower western shelves by steep edges. To the south and, more significantly, in the eastern parts of the area the Yorkshire Coal Measures overlie this gritstone bedrock. There are areas of head deposits (a mixture of clay and boulders) created during peri-glacial periods by the freeze-thaw of surface material.

## Soils and vegetation

Much of the open moorland is underlain by impoverished shallow mineral soils and thin, dark peaty soils down to an ironpan overlying podzolised sands. Deep peat has accumulated in shallow basins as at Leash Fen, Lucas Moss and Ringinglow in contrast to the Dark Peak where it occurs as extensive deep blanket peat deposits subject to gulleying and haggling as a result of erosion.

Much of this landscape is covered by dwarf shrub heath dominated by heather but including variable quantities of crowberry, cowberry and bilberry, particularly on more mineralised soils where the peat is thinner. Here, past grazing and burning management mean that heather tends to be the dominant species on the moorland. Where the peat is wetter, other species such as cottongrass and purple moor grass are more prevalent. Flushes and bogs associated with headwater basins ('sitches' or 'sicks') and moorland streamsides often support a rich flora with a number of local species typically rare or absent in the higher Dark Peak.

## Tree cover

This is generally an open, treeless landscape with expansive views over the adjacent valleys. Historic grazing pressures and climate have inhibited tree growth. There are some localised patches of birch and willow scrub on lower lying moors. There are also a number of localised plantation woodlands, possibly associated with past industrial needs. Sheffield Plantation, on the western edge of the area near to Longshaw Lodge, was planted prior to 1840 and established by the Sheffield Planting Company. Other woodland, as on Ramsley Moor, Birchen Edge and Gardom's Edge, is not planted but the result of natural regeneration from seed sources on lower adjacent ground.

## Land use

This landscape generally has a low agricultural value being used predominantly for rough grazing, and in places grouse rearing. Areas of heather moorland are maintained through regimes of cutting, burning and grazing by sheep and sometimes cattle.

Historically this landscape would have supported a range of industrial processes including coal mining, quarrying and bole hearths for smelting lead. This would have resulted in a landscape very different to that of today. There is still much evidence of these past medieval and post-medieval industries, of prehistoric settlement and monuments across the Eastern Moors. This makes the area a nationally important archaeological resource. The area is now also important for recreation on open access land. Significant areas of this landscape are owned and managed by the Peak District National Park Authority, Sheffield City Council, Chatsworth Estate and the National Trust.

## Enclosure

This is a largely unenclosed landscape where the lack of enclosure creates dramatic and expansive open views. Historically this landscape would have consisted of open wastes and commons. Some parts of the moorland, as below Harland Edge, are subdivided by 19th century walls which divide it into ownership and management units. Smaller regularly laid out enclosures of similar date are found occasionally, as for example on the western edge of Gibbet Moor and around Fox House. Occasional isolated, and now often ruined, rectangular enclosures surrounded by moorland were used for stock gathering and growing oats.

## Settlement and buildings

This is a largely unsettled landscape with built features existing only locally, often as infrastructure for shooting and stock management. Some are simple livestock barns, ruined shooting cabins and gamekeepers' lodges; but Longshaw Lodge is exceptional, built as a comfortable shooting lodge by the Duke of Rutland to offer hospitality to guests. A similar example of guest accommodation is hidden away in plantations above Redmires Reservoirs at Stanage Lodge. Another atypical building is the reservoir keeper's lodge next to the old Barbrook Reservoir. There is also a memorial to the Duke of Wellington, adjacent to Baslow Edge, matched by another to Nelson on Birchin Edge, both above Baslow, erected in 1866. There is extensive evidence of past settlement on the Open Moors dating to later prehistory and occasionally to the medieval period.

## Transport and access

Transport is a relatively limited feature of this landscape character type, although several main roads cross from east to west connecting places such as Sheffield and Chesterfield with the Peak District. A complex infrastructure of routes once crossed the moorland and can still be identified as earthworks. Much of the open moorland is open access land and only accessible on foot.

# Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

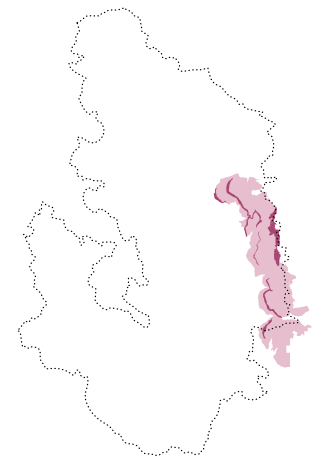
Steep slopes and dramatic gritstone edges rising to Open Moors, with widespread rough grassland, bracken and heather moor, grazed by sheep. This is a wild unsettled landscape with exposed views over lower ground.



Stanage Edge © Peak District National Park Authority

## Key characteristics

- Steep slopes rising to precipitous edges
- Prominent gritstone outcrops and spreads of boulders beneath these
- Thin soils over gritstone and coal measure bedrock with relict quarries, mining and hollow-ways
- Rough acid grassland, bracken and heather moorland grazed by sheep
- Exposed views over lower ground



This landscape occurs as a series of narrow strips around the edge of the open moorland core, on both the west and the east.



## Geology and landform

This is a sloping landscape that is strongly influenced by the underlying Millstone Grit geology and defined by steep upper slopes and edges that fringe the open moorland, such as at Burbage and Stanage Edges. The resulting landform creates a sense of elevation with distant and panoramic views over surrounding countryside. There are outcrops of gritstone, most notably where it forms distinct edges with precipitous rock faces and boulder strewn slopes. Several fast flowing streams draining the moorlands above have incised into the slopes where they descend into the Derwent Valley to the west, forming short side valleys as at Burbage Brook and Upper Hurst Brook. The Millstone Grit is interspersed with beds of softer shales which erode to leave the upstanding gritstone edges and sloping land. On the east of the moors the coal measures influence this landscape character type, particularly below Ramsley Moor and Blacka Hill.

## Soils and vegetation

Soils are coarse, loamy and very acid over the gritstone bedrock. Surface water drainage is often impeded by the formation of a thin ironpan and in less steeply sloping areas the soils can have a wet peaty surface horizon. There are areas of head deposit along some of the edges such as White Edge, Harland Edge and Birchen Edge. Because of poor soils, this is a landscape with widespread patches of semi-natural vegetation, usually comprising a mixture of heather moorland, with areas of purple moor grass and bilberry, or acid grassland. Extensive areas of bracken are often associated with the moorland slopes, and springs and flushes, important for their plant and insect life, are frequent.

## Tree cover

The wet soils, exposure and open grazing on these moorland slopes restrict tree growth. However, scattered trees and scrub sometimes occur on moorland slopes as at White Edge. Plantation woodlands can sometimes be found on the moorland slopes, such as Stanage Plantation. Bunkers Hill Wood is a plantation woodland dating from the early 18th century that was associated with Chatsworth's former deer park.

## Land use

Owing to its elevation and poor quality soils, this is a very marginal agricultural landscape used primarily as rough grazing. The slopes are of outstanding importance for a range of recreation activities including rock climbing on the gritstone edges, bouldering, paragliding and walking. Historically, quarrying would have been a major activity to the west, with coal mining on the eastern side of the moors and on some edges in the west. Quarried stone would have been used for millstones, pulpstones, grindstones, and as a building resource, both for blocks and detailing, such as lintels.

## Enclosure

Large areas of this landscape character type remain unenclosed. There are some areas where enclosure was planned but did not occur: the land was allotted but remained open and unenclosed. Where enclosure has taken place it tends to have been undertaken during the 18th century. Plantation woodland on the slopes first occurred around the time of enclosure, although this was not the case with Bunkers Hill Wood (see above). Where boundary features exist they are gritstone drystone walls.

## Settlement and buildings

This is a sparsely settled landscape with very occasional buildings, including Bolehill Lodge, and isolated gritstone farmsteads, and cottages or inns, such as the Peacock Inn above Owlbar, along historic transport routes as the only forms of settlement. Some of these date from the medieval period. There are some field barns and stock pens within the landscape, associated with sheep farming and constructed from the local Millstone Grit. Although very sparsely settled there is more settlement on the eastern than the western slopes of the Eastern Moors.

## Transport and access

Transport is a relatively limited feature of this landscape character type, although several main roads cross through it connecting to places such as Sheffield and Chesterfield. These may have medieval origins, having been improved into turnpike roads before being further formalised into the present roads. Today, most of the slopes are open access land and are only accessible on foot.



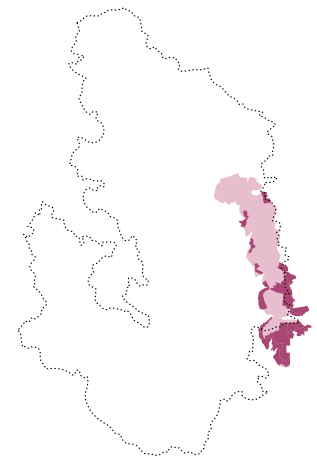
Climbers on Stanage Edge © Peak District National Park Authority

# Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

An enclosed upland pasture landscape associated with high, gently undulating moortops, sloping in places to higher ground. This is a landscape of isolated stone farmsteads, regular fields with patches of acid grassland enclosed by drystone walls, and straight roads. Boulder fields and rocky outcrops are a feature in places, often associated with patches of remnant moorland vegetation. Plantation woodland is also a localised feature.



Fields at Bole Hill © Peak District National Park Authority



## Key characteristics

- Rolling uplands with some steeper slopes
- Thin mineral soils over gritstone bedrock
- Remnant patches of rough land with bracken and heather
- Permanent pasture and rough grazing enclosed by gritstone walls
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields
- Straight roads with wide verges of grass and, in some places, heather
- Isolated gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs with tree groups for shelter
- Extensive conifer plantations around Matlock Moor

To the north this landscape occurs in discrete blocks on a similar elevation or on lower land running down from the open moorland. However, it is the dominant character type in the lower lying southern area of the Eastern Moors.

## Geology and landform

This landscape is associated with broad, gently undulating gritstone uplands in places rising steeply to higher open moorlands. The underlying bedrock is Millstone Grit, which is sometimes exposed as rock outcrops particularly on the steeper slopes where it sometimes forms small gritstone edges. The Coal Measures also outcrop in this landscape in the east particularly over Grange Hill and to the east of Hare Edge.

## Soils and vegetation

The variable nature of the geology and landform gives rise to a variety of soil types ranging from free draining podzols on steeper slopes to wetter, more peaty soils on gentler summits. All the soils are characterised by their impoverished, acidic origin and although most of the land is now improved for pasture, many patches of semi-natural vegetation still exist along verges, on steeper slopes and even as isolated patches within some fields. Heath-associated species such as heather, bilberry and gorse are a feature in many places. Where the soils are wetter species such as purple moor grass can exist. There are some patches of soft rush on the wetter soils, which often support small populations of breeding birds such as snipe. In the south, on Matlock Moor there are extensive areas of coniferous plantation woodland which can support limited plant life due to the shading created by conifers.

## Tree cover

Tree growth tends to be limited to, in places extensive, plantation woodlands around Matlock Moor (Farley Moor, Upper Moor, Bottom Moor and Flash Lane), to the south. Elsewhere grazing, poor soils and exposure restrict natural tree generation. However, there are occasional tree groups, generally adjacent to farmsteads and planted to create shelter around properties, using broadleaved species such as oak, ash and sycamore. There are also some shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous woodland. Plantation woodlands are a strong characteristic in some areas, such as at Stand Wood above Chatsworth.

## Land use

This is a landscape of mostly improved or semi-improved permanent pasture with sheep and cattle grazing and some rough grazing except in the south, on Matlock Moor where plantation woodland is the dominant land use. Soils are mostly impoverished and some fields are dominated by rushes or are reverting to moorland habitats. Historically, this landscape has supported coal mining and small scale quarrying in some areas. Baslow Colliery, near Robin Hood, was the largest mine and may have been worked from medieval times, but was at its height during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The coal is likely to have been used for local industrial and domestic markets.

## Enclosure

Land was enclosed from moorland that was often waste and commons prior to enclosure. This is a landscape where much enclosure followed Parliamentary Enclosure Awards dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Here there are medium to large regular fields enclosed by gritstone drystone walls. There are some areas of more ancient enclosure, such as around Robin Hood and to the south, around Fallinge, Burley Fields and Farley where there are areas of enclosed land that was farmed in medieval times. This type of enclosure tends to have a slightly smaller and more irregular form than land created through Parliamentary Enclosure. Some private enclosures were also created, such as the large fields above Chatsworth, that were created in about 1800 when the old deer park was enclosed, and immediately to the north when fields were re-organised in the 19th century.

## Settlement and buildings

Settlement is dispersed within this landscape. Gritstone farmsteads with stone slate roofs, often dating from the time that the landscape was enclosed from the 18th and 19th centuries, are the most frequent settlement type. Higher up, towards the open moorland, the landscape is often unsettled. In some areas, such as Fallinge, Burley and Farley, the hamlets have medieval origins but the buildings are later replacements in stone dating from the 17th century onwards.

## Transport and access

This is a remote landscape. Where roads exist they tend to be straight with even verges, often a characteristic of roads associated with Parliamentary Enclosure. In places larger, busier roads cross the landscape, which are often former turnpikes. Often little now remains of the older packhorse routes that crossed these areas before they were enclosed.



# Overall Strategy



Stanage © Peak District National Park Authority

The Eastern Moors is an upland landscape crossed by historic transport routes, with expansive views over the more settled landscapes in the lowlands and valleys, and is lower lying than the Dark Peak to the north. This lower plateau has a rich cultural heritage, with significant evidence of different periods of human activity. There is a need to ensure that this resource is maintained and also enhanced into the future. The landscape provides an important ecological and a valued recreational resource for the surrounding populations. These resources need to remain strong and valid into the future. Climate change may affect this landscape, both through damage associated with changing weather patterns and as a limited carbon sequestration resource; such use can be integrated with current land uses. The strong relationship of this landscape with surrounding urban areas means that good partnership working with neighbouring authorities is important.

The overall strategy for the Eastern Moors should therefore be to:

Protect and manage the open upland landscapes; seek opportunities to manage and enhance cultural heritage, biodiversity, recreational opportunities and tranquillity whilst maintaining the open character.

This can be achieved by ensuring that there is:

- a sustainable land management system capable of supporting existing land uses and activities whilst also enabling potential services, such as climate change mitigation measures
- a diverse ecological resource in good condition with connections between the different habitats enabling continued robustness
- celebrated cultural heritage in good condition, sustainably managed



Hathersage Moor Heather © Peak District National Park Authority

To achieve this strategy there are particular priorities for each of the different landscape character types in the Eastern Moors.

## Open Moors

This is the most open and unsettled landscape in the Eastern Moors, characterised by expansive open views, dwarf shrub heath and grass moorland. Priorities should be to protect and manage the open character and diversity of the moorland landscapes, the cultural heritage components and historic landscapes, and to protect and manage the ecological integrity of heath with an associated reduction in the area of grass moorland. These priorities should be carried out within a sustainable upland management system capable of integrating existing land uses such as agriculture and amenity with potential land uses such as carbon sequestration.

## Moorland Slopes & Cloughs

This is a steeply sloping landscape with dramatic geology including scree slopes and gritstone outcrops, which are popular as a recreational resource. The priority is to protect and manage cultural heritage components and landscapes, whilst protecting or managing biodiversity and enabling the continuation of recreational uses. These resources need to be protected and managed within a sustainable land management system.

## Enclosed Gritstone Uplands

This is pastoral upland landscape with drystone walls, straight roads and isolated farmsteads. Agricultural improvement and grazing have reduced the ecological diversity of the pastures. The priority should be to protect the historic field pattern and to protect or restore the diversity of pastoral farmland.

# Issues of change

## Conservation

The Eastern Moors is a similar but lower lying landscape to the Dark Peak. The lower altitude means that this landscape, unlike the Dark Peak, has been settled or worked for many years. The result is a landscape rich in cultural heritage such as prehistoric monuments, Medieval settlements, industrial heritage and historic parkland features. These elements are at risk from a range of current management practices. It is important that the cultural heritage resource of the Eastern Moors is conserved within any land management regime.

The Eastern Moors is an important and diverse natural landscape resource. The integrity of the natural landscape needs to be supported within any land management regime and alongside other pressures such as recreation.

## Climate change implications

The Eastern Moors may provide a resource with which to sequester carbon. However, limited blanket bog cover means the potential for this is less significant than in the Dark Peak. The upland landscapes associated with the Eastern Moors are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as prolonged dry periods. This will increase the vulnerability of soils to erosion, whilst heavy, energetic rainfall may exacerbate such problems. Climatic changes pose a threat to the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape. Drier, hotter summers may also be associated with increased fire risk, particularly from accidental fires.

## Demography, housing and employment

The Eastern Moors is a largely unsettled landscape character area, with evidence of historic settlement. However, settlement and development are now confined to occasional stone farmsteads or shooting lodges, and there are currently no significant identified pressures which may lead to changes.

## Tourism and recreation

This is a cherished and valued landscape that meets the recreational needs of large numbers of people, in particular from Sheffield. The Eastern Moors is a transition zone, providing many opportunities for accessible and affordable recreation, and is a cherished and often tranquil contrast with urban areas. Certain recreation pressures have a localised impact on tranquillity, e.g. active sports such as the use of motorised off-road vehicles.



## Farming and forestry

Like the adjoining Dark Peak, the Eastern Moors consists mainly of wild moorland landscapes, which are managed mainly for rough grazing, amenity and grouse shooting. There are also some enclosed moorland landscapes, particularly in the south of the area, where the land is managed as improved permanent pasture. The stone walls that define fields in these landscapes are often in poor condition, and in places there has been an associated degradation of historic field patterns.

The Eastern Moors are mainly open and un-wooded, but there is encroaching birch scrub and a number of medium sized conifer plantations on the Open Moors.

Grouse shooting occurs locally on the Eastern Moors. The intensity of moorland management and the density of grouse can affect the ecological integrity of the moors. The management approaches associated with moorland management can affect the archaeology, other cultural heritage features, landscapes and ecology.

## Minerals and resources

The historic remains of former quarries can be found along most of the edges, particularly those where mill stones were manufactured; these are now often important wildlife habitats, recreational resources and cultural heritage features in their own right. Although there are no modern quarries, there is a pressure to open up some old quarries to meet the needs of local, vernacular building repairs.

## Energy and infrastructure

There is an increasing demand for local and national renewable energy schemes, particularly wind power. In addition there is increasing potential for solar, water, and other renewable energy sources. The impact of inappropriate wind energy generation projects could lead to a reduction of historic landscape character, amenity value and tranquillity. There is a visual impact from existing infrastructure associated with power supply, e.g. overhead electricity cables.

Road safety is a major issue in the Eastern Moors, leading to an increased number of larger road signs. High levels of vehicular use are increasing damage to roads, walls and verges, leading to a loss of historic features and creating an increased demand for parking. Traditional road usage has altered, with increasing daily traffic on minor roads affecting the visual amenity and tranquillity of the area.

In recent years there has been an increase in the visual intrusion of communications infrastructure, particularly telecommunication masts, which can impact on landscape character and the setting of cultural heritage features, buildings and historic landscapes.



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# Landscape guidelines

Open Moors	Moorland Slopes & Cloughs	Enclosed Gritstone Uplands	

## The Eastern Moors

### Protect

Protect historic drystone walls			●
Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources	●	◐	◐

### Manage

Manage and enhance woodlands		◐	○
Manage and enhance plantation woodlands	◐	◐	
Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic	◐	○	
Manage the sparse and historic pattern of development	○	○	●
Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access			○
Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland			●
Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management	●	○	
Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape	◐	◐	○

### Plan

Create, extend and link areas of heath	●	◐	○
Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply		○	○
Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs			◐

- This is a priority throughout the landscape character type
- ◐ This is a priority in some parts of the landscape character type, often associated with particular conditions/features
- This is not a priority but may be considered in some locations
- This will generally be inappropriate in this landscape character type

## Landscape guidelines explanation

### Protect

#### Protect historic drystone walls

Enclosure is a localised feature on the Eastern Moors. However, in some places, such as the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands, the maintenance of walls, and associated fixtures such as gateposts, is declining. There is a need to enhance their maintenance in order to protect and maintain the historic field pattern. This is particularly true for the boundaries that pre-date parliamentary enclosure.

#### Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources

This is particularly important on the Eastern Moors where the cultural heritage resource is significant but not always immediately evident. Efforts should be made to ensure that the resource is considered and protected when any management decisions or new practices are being considered or carried out. Appropriate opportunities for education/interpretation should also be developed.

## Manage

### Manage and enhance woodlands

Woodland on the Eastern Moors is not widespread; where it is a landscape feature, it needs to be well managed. The wet and dry clough woods of the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs provide vital habitats for moorland birds and invertebrates, and may help reduce flood risk in lower landscapes by slowing rainwater run off from the uplands. Opportunities should be taken to extend and enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes.

### Manage and enhance plantation woodlands

Coniferous plantation woodlands form unnatural landscape features within the Open Moors and Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, such as at Burbage. These woodlands often cause damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider landscape through improved management, including felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, or complete removal where appropriate.



Higger Tor © Peak District National Park Authority



## Manage the extent of birch scrub to maintain a diverse landscape mosaic

Birch scrub is encroaching in some areas of the Open Moors, causing damage to cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There is a need to identify areas that are a priority for scrub clearance and others where it should be retained to enhance ecological and visual diversity.

## Manage the sparse and historic pattern of development

The Eastern Moors contrast with surrounding landscapes due to the very limited settlement, which plays a vital role in the character of the landscape. It is important that future development is limited and responds positively to the historic settlement pattern and density, local materials and traditions in order to protect this sense of place. Similarly, where settlement does exist, the views into and out of the settlement should be protected, as they can be important to character and sense of place. Opportunities should be sought to influence potential future development that lies outside but has an impact on the National Park, considering siting, layout, design and materials. Traditional buildings are an important feature and their renovation and maintenance should be encouraged. Locating new agricultural buildings can impact on landscape character and opportunities should be taken to guide site selection.

## Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access

The network of minor roads should be managed to maintain their local, small-scale and rural character to ensure good local access whilst discouraging inappropriate driving. Verges and cultural features should be maintained and enhanced, and the impact of signage minimised.

## Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grassland

Many grasslands have been improved and reseeded with a consequent loss of species diversity. There is a need to manage these grasslands in a more sustainable way that restores or protects species diversity, particularly wet, rushy pastures, whilst supporting productive agriculture. Opportunities to extend and enhance the management of unimproved grasslands should be taken.

## Encourage diverse approaches to moorland management

There is currently a diversity of approach to moorland management associated with the relatively high number of landowners in the area. Opportunities should be sought to further diversify the management of moors, developing varied cycles of management. This will enable a structurally diverse age range of stands of heather, thus enhancing the range of habitats which consequently may enhance the biodiversity of moorland. There is currently limited co-ordination of land management between the different owners. A co-ordinated approach could enhance the ecological, social and economic value of the moor.

## Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape

The network of tracks and footpaths should be managed to enhance capacity and provide opportunities for healthy recreation to a wide range of users. This can be achieved through landscape management measures such as surfacing and signage, and by controlling inappropriate uses to retain the character, cultural heritage and biodiversity interests. The edges of the Eastern Moors are an internationally acclaimed rock climbing resource.

## Plan

### Create, extend and link areas of heath

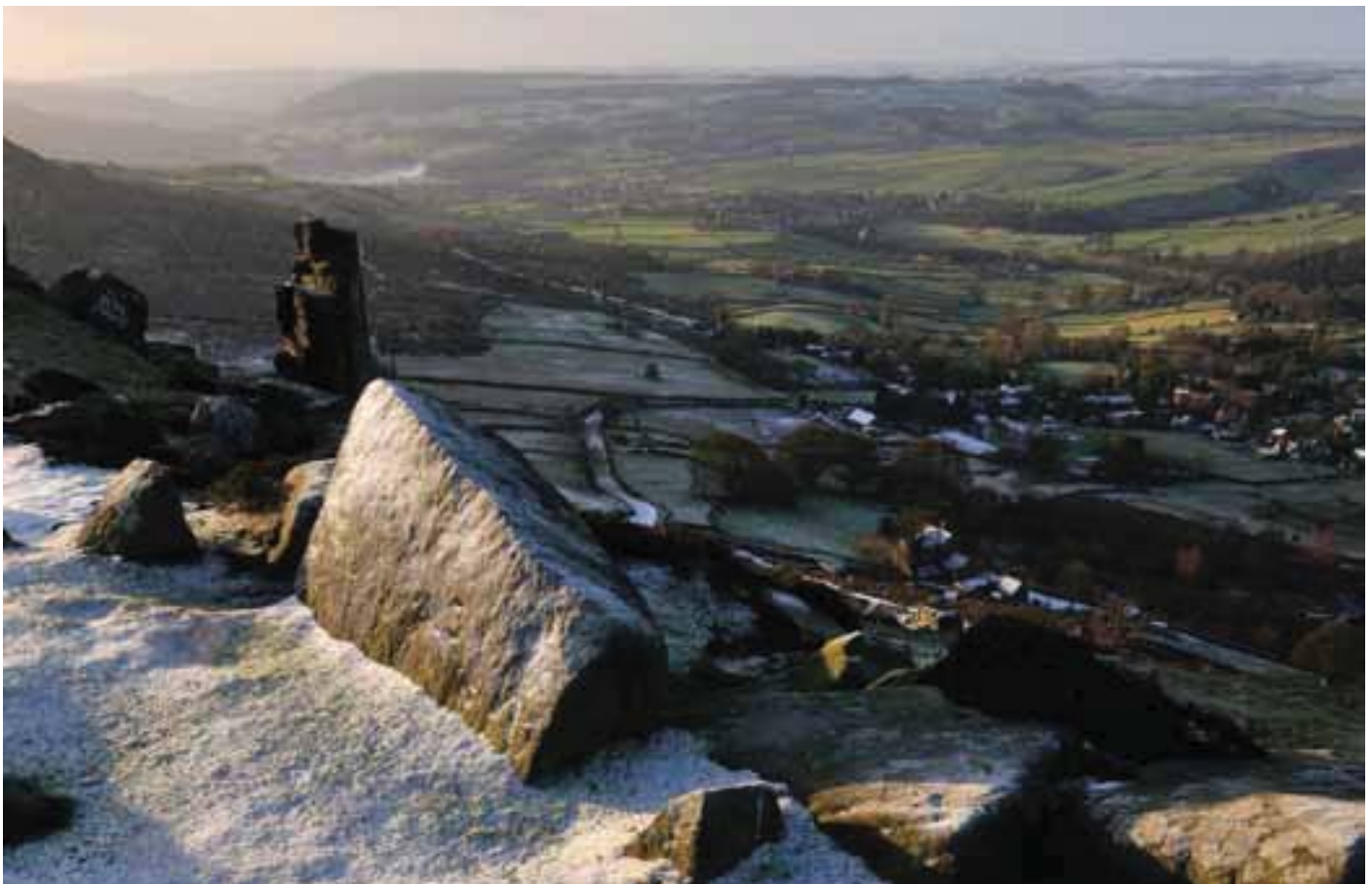
Opportunities to extend heathland within the Open Moors should be sought, whilst safeguarding cultural heritage features and historic landscapes. There may be further opportunities to create, expand and link heath patches in the Enclosed Gritstone Uplands and the Slopes and Cloughs where appropriate, within a sustainable upland management system.

### Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply

Where environmentally appropriate, and when demand can justify supply, it may be acceptable to open up some relict quarry sites over a limited extent and duration to enable restoration of local, vernacular buildings. Such decisions must be made on a site basis and consider all economic, landscape and environmental needs and issues.

### Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs

There are limited opportunities for small-scale renewable energy sources within the Eastern Moors but they should be sought as appropriate, within any new development. Management of woodland for wood fuel may increase local renewable energy supply, where it would have a neutral impact on the character of the area and its component parts, reducing reliance on traditional carbon-based energies. Where appropriate seek positive measures to reinforce the local landscape character as part of new development.



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