**Cultural heritage and landscape**

### 6.1 Introduction

This section contains information relating to features of cultural heritage and landscape interest. Cultural heritage can include the following:

- **Monuments**: architectural works, elements or structures which are of value from a historic, scientific or art perspective
- **Buildings**: separate or connected buildings which because of their architecture, homogeneity of their place in the landscape are of value from a historic, scientific or artistic perspective
- **Sites**: produced by man or nature, and including archaeological sites, which are of value from a historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological perspective.

Landscapes are often areas designated for their natural beauty, but can also include townscape. Different landscapes have different characteristics. Essentially, it is the landscape character of an area that gives it its distinctive and unique feel.

### 6.2 Context Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Source</th>
<th>Key objectives and messages</th>
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| The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) | **Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment**  
Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.  
Heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.  
Proposals affecting heritage assets should be assessed in terms of their impact upon the significance of that asset. This should be based on evidence.  
Heritage makes a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. |
| The Culture and Sport Strategy for Lancashire County Council 2010 - 2014 | The Department of Culture, Media and Sport definition is that "culture should be taken to include such activities as arts, sports, libraries, museums, heritage, archaeology, archives, architecture, crafts, children’s play, reading, parks, tourism, countryside, recreation etc.”  
Developed in order for the County Council to get the maximum benefit in the most efficient way from these services and work in effective and appropriate partnerships with other public, private and third sector organisations.  
**Priorities:**  
- Modernise cultural services and implement the culture and sports strategy  
- Raise the profile of cultural and sporting opportunities  
- Contribute to health outcomes and sense of wellbeing through sport and cultural opportunities  
- Improve the understanding of Lancashire’s past by promoting and understanding of the County's heritage. |
North West Landscape Character Framework, Natural England

Project aims to map and describe diverse landscapes at a regional scale and help joined up thinking about the environment, as well as promoting the principles of the European Landscape Convention.

National Character Areas

National Character Area profiles published in 2012.
NCA Profile: 56 Lancashire Coal Measures (NE436)
NCA Profile: 57 Sefton Coast (NE531)
NCA Profile: 32 Lancashire and Amounderness Plain (NE512)

A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire – Landscape Character Assessment, Lancashire County Council

Purpose to outline how the landscape of Lancashire has evolved, to classify the landscape into distinct types, to classify the landscape into different characters and to describe the urban landscapes across the County, highlighting historical development.

Natural Areas and Area of Landscape History Importance SPG, WLBC

Provides supplementary guidance and assistance for development proposal to take account of the area’s local distinctiveness. Provides descriptive analysis of physical and cultural landscape and identified biodiversity and land use functions.

Conservation Area Character Appraisals, WLBC

The appraisals provide an understanding of the historical context for a particular area of the Borough, reaffirming the areas special character and appearance and providing a clear definition of their boundaries, key features and attributes.

6.3 Current Baseline

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled monuments are archaeological sites that are legally recognised as being of national importance. These can range in date from the prehistoric period to the 20th century and can take many different forms including buildings, earthworks or a crop mark in a field. They include ruins above ground as well as remains that lie below ground level.

There are 12 scheduled monuments in West Lancashire, mostly dating from the medieval period. They are:

- Scarisbrick Park Holy Well
- Boar’s Den Bowl Barrow
- Scarisbrick Park Wayside Cross
- Rufford Moated Site
- Halsall Rectory
- Moated site at Bickerstaffe Hall
- Burscough Augustinian Priory
- Earthworks in Spa Roughs Wood
- Moated site of Scarisbrick Hall
- Up Holland Benedictine Priory
- Wrightington Bridge
- Cross Hall Moated Site
**Historic Landscapes**

In addition, West Lancashire has many historic landscapes which are recognised for their special cultural, horticultural, historic and landscape qualities. Scarisbrick Hall Park is included on the Historic England national register of gardens and parks of special historic interest. Lathom Park and Rufford Park are also recognised as important historic landscapes and are designated as Conservation Areas. Lathom Park has previously been shortlisted for inclusion on the Historic England national register of parks and gardens.

**Listed Buildings**

West Lancashire has around 600 buildings on the statutory list of buildings of architectural or historic interest. Around 96% of these are Grade 2 Listed with 21 Grade 2* and 5 Grade 1 Listed buildings – these include three Parish Churches, the remains of Burscough Priory and Scarisbrick Hall. Chart 6.1 below shows the location of the listed buildings in West Lancashire.

*Chart 6.1 Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas within West Lancashire*

Source: WLBC 2010
Local List

Many buildings which fall outside the statutory designation system and are not identified as being ‘Listed Buildings’, still have an historical and / or social importance and make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. These locally important buildings often represent good examples of local vernacular architecture, are local landmarks or types of buildings which have played an important role in the development of a community.

West Lancashire has identified and published a list of locally important buildings (commonly known as a ‘Local List’) since 2005. It is recognised it as a valuable tool in identifying buildings and features within our local environment, which contribute to the distinctive character of the Borough.

The creation of a Local List was not intended to be a ‘one-off’ document but rather one reviewed from time to time, to ensure the list entries remain relevant, and to provide the opportunity for other buildings to be added to the list if they meet the Council’s stated criteria for designation. The Local List was fully reviewed in 2007/8 and most recently in 2014. Further buildings and structures were considered for inclusion on the list. These included those nominated by Parish Councils, Council Officers and some by local people with a specific knowledge of local history.

The Local List now contains 156 buildings, with 45 new additions resulting from the 2014 review.

Conservation Areas

There are 28 Conservation Areas in West Lancashire. These are areas of particular architectural or historic interested that are protected. The character of a Conservation Area is made up of its buildings, trees and open spaces, street pattern, landmarks and other features. Change within Conservation Areas – as elsewhere – is inevitable. The challenge in these locations is to preserve their special local character rather than detract from it.

Conservation Area Appraisals have been completed for all the Conservation Areas in West Lancashire. (An Appraisal is a document which identifies and assesses the character of a Conservation Area). However the Borough Council has an obligation under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to review, from time to time, its Conservation Area designations, and under Section 71 of this Act to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these areas. In order to satisfy this obligation, the Council is carrying out an on-going programme of updates to the existing suite of Appraisal documents. Since 2014 the Fulwood & Douglas Avenue and Junction Lane Conservation Area Appraisals have been completed and Granville Park Appraisal is in the process of being updated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Area</th>
<th>Location (nearest settlement)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashfield Terrace</td>
<td>Appley Bridge</td>
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<td>Bispham Green</td>
<td>Bispham Green village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briars Brook</td>
<td>Lathom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulwood Avenue/Douglas Avenue</td>
<td>Tarleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garnett Lees</td>
<td>Up Holland/ Skelmersdale</td>
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<td>Granville Park</td>
<td>Aughton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Altcar</td>
<td>Great Altcar village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halsall</td>
<td>Halsall village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Area</td>
<td>Location (nearest settlement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holt Green</td>
<td>Holt Green village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junction Lane</td>
<td>Burscough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancaster Lane</td>
<td>Parbold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lathom Park</td>
<td>Lathom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maltkiln Lane/ Chorley Road</td>
<td>Bispham Green</td>
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<td>Mill Lane</td>
<td>Parbold</td>
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<td>Newburgh</td>
<td>Newburgh village</td>
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<td>Ormskirk Town Centre</td>
<td>Ormskirk</td>
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<td>Pinfold</td>
<td>Scarisbrick</td>
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<td>Plox Brow</td>
<td>Tarleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roby Mill</td>
<td>Roby Mill village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruff Lane</td>
<td>Ormskirk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufford Park</td>
<td>Rufford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarisbrick Park</td>
<td>Scarisbrick</td>
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<td>Sollom</td>
<td>Tarleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Michael’s Church</td>
<td>Aughton</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Brow</td>
<td>Tarleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top Locks</td>
<td>Lathom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up Holland</td>
<td>Up Holland village</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Tower</td>
<td>Aughton</td>
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**Landscape of West Lancashire**

West Lancashire is predominately rural in nature, widely recognised as an attractive place to live, work and visit. The Borough comprises a mix of vibrant towns and villages sitting alongside tranquil countryside and covers an area of 134 square miles (34,700 hectares). The rural landscape is a mixture of mosslands in the north, west and south, a coastal plain in the centre of the Borough, farmed ridges in the east and coastal marshes in the Ribble Estuary. The Borough is generally flat, especially in the west, south east, and north; however, the east is more undulating. Two of the highest points in the Borough are Parbold Hill (c140m) and Ashurst Beacon (c150m), both of which provide spectacular views across the region to the Irish Sea and Welsh Mountains.

There are 13 parks and countryside sites across the Borough together with a network of rural footpaths. These include:

- Abbey Lakes, Up Holland
- Beacon Country Park, Up Holland
- Chequer Lane Fishing Lake, Up Holland
- Cheshire Lines Path
- Coronation Park, Ormskirk
- Dean Wood, Up Holland
- Fairy Glen, Appley Bridge
- Hunter’s Hill, Hilldale
- Platts Lane Lake, Burscough
- Richmond Park, Burscough
- Ruff Wood, Ormskirk
- Stanley Coronation Park, Skelmersdale
- Tawd Valley Park, Skelmersdale
West Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), 2000

The West Lancashire LCA identifies key local environmental features, local forces for change and strategies and recommendations for each landscape type along with background information on the areas. It identified 9 types of landscape within the West Lancashire Borough:

- Upland fringes and ridges
- Settled sandlands
- Coalfield farmlands
- Urban
- Valley meadowlands, settled mosslands
- Marine levels
- Saltmarshes
- Estuaries/Firths

In particular, it identifies the following as areas of landscape importance and Natural Areas:

- 1A The South Western Mosses
- 1B Martin Mere and Environs
- 1C The Northern Mosses
- 1D The Douglas Valley
- 1E Rufford and Holmeswood Ridge
- 2A Clieves Hill and Scarisbrick
- 2B Aughton and Bickerstaffe
- 2D Ormskirk, Burscough and Lathom
- 3 Upland Type Mosses
- 4 Wood Pasture
- 5A Coastal Zone – reclaimed marshes
- 5B Coastal Zone – Saltmarshes

Although Landscape change does occur as a result of human and physical influence, the given timescale for such processes to be considered significant to any particular landscape character area are relatively long and should prevent any characterisation assessment from becoming dated or irrelevant. It is important that the features identified be protected from future harm.
Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure describes the ‘life support’ functions provided by a network of ecosystems and their use in achieving sustainability. This network of ecosystems includes open spaces, woodlands, wildlife habitats, parks which help to sustain clean air, water and natural resources and help enrich quality of life.

Most people prefer to live and work in landscapes that are green and full of life, as opposed to heavily urbanised areas. Green infrastructure also helps to reinforce local distinctiveness and local pride, conserves biodiversity and enhances natural assets.

Within West Lancashire, these areas include natural areas, open spaces, woodlands, parks, footpaths, allotments, cemeteries (all of these are classified as green infrastructure) and canals, rivers and other waterways (classified as blue infrastructure).

The Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy for West Lancashire is currently being prepared and is in late draft stage. The Plan will list the green infrastructure assets that exist throughout the Borough and an action plan which will identify priorities for future investment and improvement.
Coastal Management

West Lancashire has approximately 13km of coastline that lies within the River Ribble Estuary. The Council is the relevant operating authority for Coastal protection and sea defences. All flood and coastal defences are managed by the Environment Agency and private land owners.

Chart 6.2 West Lancashire Coastline

Source: Lancashire County Council 2009
6.4 Likely future baseline

- The heritage and landscape of West Lancashire will inevitably face varying pressures from new development and so it is important that policies are in place to protect and retain the character of different areas.

- Climate change will likely have an impact on historic buildings, historic townscapes, archaeological sites and cherished landscapes. This includes an increased risk of flooding caused by amongst other things, more frequent intense rainfall, increased extremes of wetting and drying that accelerate decay and heighten ground subsidence, erosion of sites, changes in hydrology, changes in the distribution of pests that threaten historic buildings and landscapes and increases in the frequency or geographical range of extreme weather that can damage buildings and landscapes. Historic buildings, by their nature, are often less able to respond easily to change.

- Likewise, the landscape will be affected by increased rainfall, increased risks of flooding and flood protection measures, alteration to agricultural practices and the need to provide sources of renewable energy (e.g. wind turbines).

6.5.0 Local Plan Issues

- The number of designated assets largely remains static, although there has been a recent increase in the number of non-designated heritage assets recognised through the Local list. There is a need to continue to prioritise the ongoing protection of West Lancashire’s heritage assets.

- There are increasing development pressures that may pose a risk to local character.

- There should be an emphasis on recognising the role of local landscape character and quality in promoting local distinctiveness.

- The design of new development and how it can reflect local distinctiveness, setting and historic character of areas, is a complex issue.

- There is a need to integrate the priorities of the West Lancashire Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy (once it is adopted) into the Local Plan Review.

- There is a need to address how adaptation and resilience to climate change can be built, in order to protect the historic environment.

6.6.0 Data Limitations

Further data and assessments relating to landscape character within the Borough could be collected in the future in order to inform and support this evidence base.