

Landscape Character Type E: Farmed and Settled Vale



A typical view from within the Vale. Selworthy Church is visible on the valley side, in its wooded setting

Summary Description

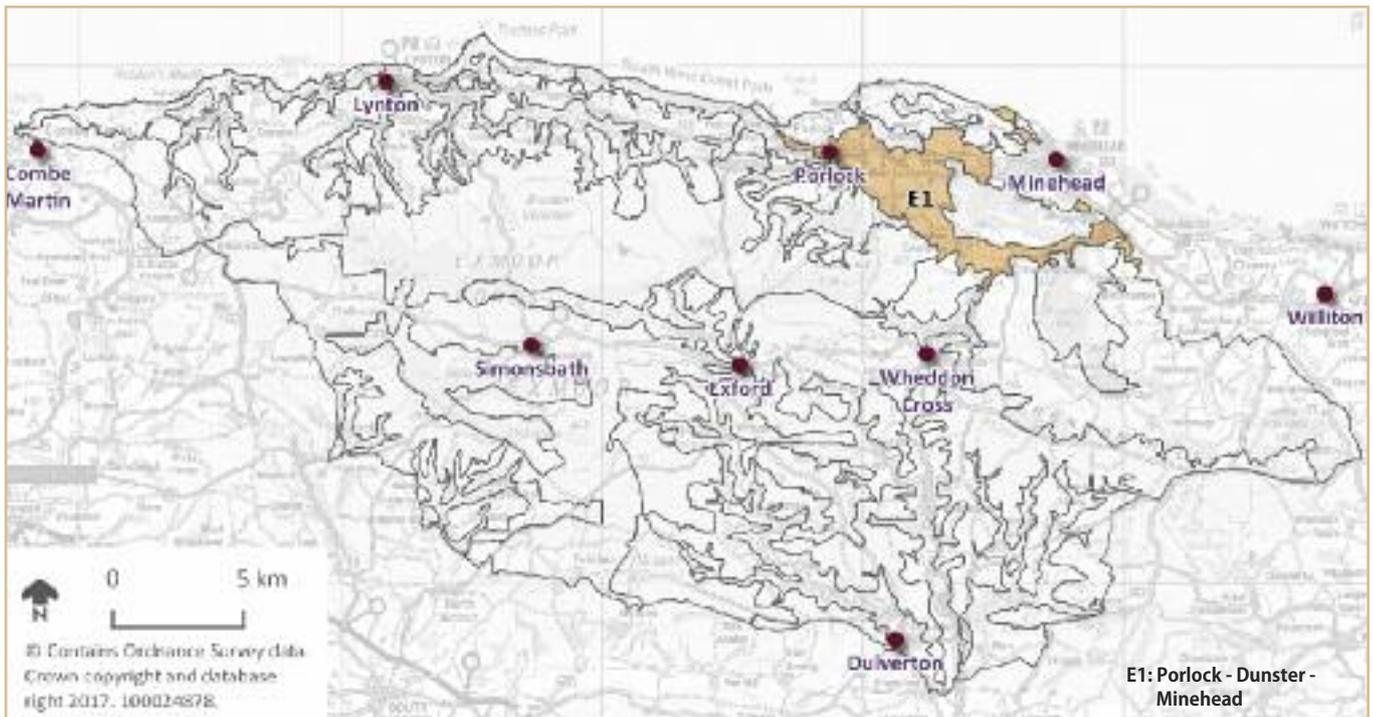
This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located in the north-eastern part of the National Park, and comprises the valley floors and lower sides of the valleys of the Rivers Avill and Horner Water. From Porlock it stretches south-east, branching to the north and south of the Plantation (with Heathland) Hills. To the east of Selworthy, the vale extends from Combeshead into Bratton, and then north-east to Minehead (moving beyond the National Park boundary). To the south of the Plantation (with Heathland) Hills, the Vale stretches east of Wootton Courtenay, encompassing and terminating at the ancient wool town of Dunster. Here, the vale landscape merges and changes into the distinctly open, flat and low coastal landscape that flanks Blue Anchor Bay.

The largest settlements within the **Farmed and Settled Vale** LCT are Porlock and Dunster. Smaller settlements include Timberscombe, Allerford,

Selworthy (partly within LCA B5), Wootton Courtenay, West Porlock and Luccombe, as well as several hamlets and scattered farms.

The **Farmed and Settled Vale** is a gentle, enclosed and settled landscape, with an irregular patchwork of hedged fields, woodlands and villages nestling in the sheltered valley below the high moors and enclosing woodlands. It is a rich historic landscape, with medieval farms, bridges, churches, lanes and paths still in daily use. Historic estates (particularly Holnicote and Dunster) continue to have a strong influence on the landscape through their distinctive buildings, landscaped parkland and woodland. Dunster Castle and Selworthy Church (within the adjoining LCT) are prominent landmarks.

There is only one Landscape Character Area (LCA) within this LCT.



Key Characteristics of the Farmed and Settled Vale

- Varied underlying geology, of mainly Triassic mudstones, overlain by river deposits in the valley floor.
- A variable landform from flat floodplain to undulating high vale, with occasional small hills or hummocks.
- Drained by a network of small streams forming tributaries of the larger rivers Avill and Horner Water.
- Agriculture is the predominant land use, mostly pasture but with fodder crops and some arable.
- Semi-natural habitats include small woodlands, copses, mature hedgerows and streamside vegetation, which combine to create a well-treed landscape. There are also meadow and grassland habitats.
- A distinctive pattern of small, irregular fields bounded by hedgebanks (predominantly field maple and wych elm) and hedgerow trees, which create a strong sense of enclosure.
- Main settlements are Porlock and Dunster, plus smaller nucleated villages (including distinctive estate villages), hamlets and farms.
- Numerous historic features, e.g. farms, houses, bridges, churches and lanes creating a strong sense of time-depth.
- Estates continue to have a strong influence on buildings and land management.
- Selworthy church (technically within LCT B) and Dunster Castle are prominent landmarks from within the vale.
- A strong visual connection and contrast with the surrounding landscapes that enclose the vale, particularly moorland and woodland.
- A gentle, pastoral quality to the landscape, which feels settled and sheltered.
- Cultural associations with the Romantic poets, and local gentry families, such as the Luttrells of Dunster Castle

Natural Landscape Features

The LCT occurs between 20m-250m AOD. The relatively low-lying landscape has been carved out by rivers and streams, and is contained by an interconnected series of surrounding hills. The vale can be broken down into three distinct parts- the 'floodplain', the 'low vale' and the 'high vale'. Its underlying geology is relatively recent compared to other parts of the National Park, including post-glacial deposits on valley floors.

The floodplain comprises the flattest and lowest-lying parts of the vale - the areas which flank the main streams and rivers flowing through the landscape, e.g. the River Avill and Horner Water. There are extensive deposits of alluvium (material deposited by rivers) which creates fertile soils. The lowest areas occur around the town of Dunster and between Porlock and Bossington, where the fresh water rivers and streams are nearing the sea and the vale is making its transition to the adjacent, lower-lying coastal landscapes. The 'low vale' occurs above the floodplain and is a transitional area which is neither as flat nor as undulating as the land on either side. It is mostly underlain by river-terrace gravels, which help to create well-drained soils. The 'high vale' occurs at the edges of the vale and forms the foothills to the more elevated surrounding landscapes. Around Luccombe and Huntscott there is a locally-distinctive geology of breccia (an ancient gravel made up of small pieces of sandstone and slate). This hard rock has created a localised landform character of interconnected knolls. Around Selworthy there is an area of Blue Lias Formation (grey mudstone and shale with fine limestones).

This is a well-treed landscape, including mature trees in woodland blocks (including ancient woodland), parklands, alongside roads and in hedgerows. Traditionally walnut trees were grown here, for use in gunstocks. The hedgebanks are locally distinctive, containing field maple and wych elm, but with relatively little beech. The fertile reddish soils support mixed agricultural land uses, including pasture for sheep and cattle, cultivation of cereal and root crops, and horse paddocks.

For much of the time, this landscape appears relatively benign. However, it is also prone to flooding, and following heavy rainfall, small streams rapidly become torrents, damaging roads and threatening to flood properties. Natural Flood Management (NFM) is one solution, and there are a number of local NFM initiatives. One example is the From Source to Sea project, where the National Trust (owners of the extensive Holnicote Estate) have been working to actively manage the land throughout the Horner and Avill water catchments to control physical processes and reduce the severity of flooding. Interventions take place within this LCT and within the adjacent LCTs, and include blocking moorland drainage channels; managing woodland alongside streams to slow water flows; creating water storage areas on the valley floor, and managing land to reduce soil erosion (for example converting arable land to pasture). The large size of the National Trust estate means that any future changes to National Trust aims or funding are likely to have consequences on the landscape of this LCT. Other local examples of NFM are described in LCT I.

Hummocky breccia topography near Luccombe





Tributary stream and parkland trees near Holnicote House



Lane with mature oaks and wych elm hedgebank

Designated Nature Conservation Sites

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Exmoor Coastal Heaths; North Exmoor (E1)
County / Local Wildlife Site (C/LWS)	Numerous farmland, woodland and wetland sites, including Holnicote Estate; Horner Water; Wootton Knowle; Knowle Brake; Wydon Allotment; Greenaleigh Plantation; River Avill (E1)

Ancient Woodland	Great Wood, Selworthy (E1)
Local Geological Site (LGS)	Greenaleigh Point and Smuggler's Cove; Luccombe Boulder Bed; Gillham's Quarry; Huntscott Grange Quarry (E1)

Historic Landscape Features and the Built Environment

This is a rich historic landscape, containing a particularly large number of surviving features from the medieval period. Many of the features which make up the historic landscape are still in use for their original purposes, such as houses, farms, bridges, lanes, tracks and churches. Others such as mills have only gone out of use in recent decades, and still remain an integral part of the landscape. This relatively sheltered area was also known for its orchards, although few of these survive.

The distinctive pattern of small, irregular fields is predominantly medieval in date, although there are pockets of post-medieval and modern fields which are often larger and more regular in shape. Fields are often smaller where the vale narrows, for example between Wootton Courtenay and Dunster. Where the floodplain is wider, the field size tends to be larger.

The large number of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas within the **Farmed and Settled Vale** reflects the settled nature of the landscape, and the concentration of historic buildings within it. Conservation Areas include the larger villages, but also several historic farmsteads. The grounds of Dunster Castle are a Registered Historic Park and Garden. Following the Norman Conquest, the strategic defensive site of Dunster Castle was granted to William de Mohun, who built a motte and bailey castle from where he administered a large estate. He also founded a Benedictine abbey adjacent to the castle, which partially survives in the fabric of the existing parish church, and in buildings surrounding it. In 1404 the estate was sold to the Luttrell family, who owned it for the next 500 years and continued to modify the house and grounds. A new deer park was laid out in the eighteenth century, and the house was embellished to its

present neo-gothic 'fairytale' appearance by the architect Salvin in the nineteenth century. The long plots and narrow frontages of Dunster High Street indicate its medieval origins, although many of the buildings have later Georgian facades. In the fourteenth century Dunster was a port, but the location of the harbour is not known. It developed as a wealthy wool town where woollen cloth was manufactured, and the Yarn Market survives.

Porlock developed as a coastal village, and was closely associated with the harbour at nearby Porlock Weir. Porlock's Conservation Area contains a mixture of vernacular houses from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, mixed with more substantial late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, shops and hotels reflecting the village's expansion as a tourist destination. Many of these later buildings are in an 'arts and crafts' style. More modern houses occur on the edges of the village, with some linear growth along surrounding roads. The shingled spire of the thirteenth century St Dubricus' Church is a focal point within the village, and Porlock's strong sense of place is enhanced by its proximity to Porlock Marsh (LCT C) which dominates views from the northern edge of the village.

The **Farmed and Settled Vale** is one of the few areas of Exmoor where there is a clear local vernacular style. Irregular-shaped red stone, prominent chimneys, small windows, dormers, thatched or tiled roofs and rendered walls are seen throughout the LCT in houses, farm buildings and mills. Most houses are constructed of local red sandstone, and beach boulders from Porlock Bay are sometimes seen in walls and as coping stones. The creamy-yellow render of houses within the National Trust Holnicote estate (for example as seen in Selworthy, Allerford and Luccombe) is also very distinctive. In addition to their distinctive built forms, the landscape settings of the settlements also contribute to their strong sense of place. Estates (particularly the Acland Estate at Holnicote and the Luttrell Estate at Dunster) had strong influence over the development of the landscape and buildings within this LCT for several hundred years. There are particularly good examples of domestic architecture for estate workers at Selworthy Green, where vernacular meets 'estate-gothic'. The estates were designed and managed both for agriculture and sport (hunting and shooting) and this estate influence on landscape and building management continues today.



Dunster Castle and main street



Medieval packhorse bridge, and Holnicote estate buildings, Allerford



Luccombe in its landscape setting. The settlement is approached along a narrow winding lane, with Dunkery Hill forming a distinctive backdrop and skyline.



Thatched farm buildings, Luccombe



Typical Holnicote Estate buildings, Luccombe



Whitewashed houses in valley-side village of Wootton Courtenay



Porlock village centre showing Victorian 'seaside' architecture



Red sandstone houses in Timberscombe Village



Linhay at Ranscombe Farm (Conservation Area).

Designated Cultural Heritage Sites

<p>Scheduled Monuments</p>	<p>Numerous, generally medieval and later, including Dunster Castle motte and bailey; Dunster Yarn Market, Butter Cross and pottery kiln; Bridges at Horner, Gallox Bridge, West Luccombe, Allerford; Dovecote at Little Blackford; St Andrew's Chapel; Churchyard crosses at Luccombe and Selworthy</p>	<p>Listed Buildings</p>	<p>Numerous, with clusters in settlements, and along roads.</p>
		<p>Conservation Areas</p>	<p>Porlock; Dunster; West Lynch; Allerford; Selworthy; Luccombe; Wootton Courtenay; Ranscombe Farm</p>
		<p>Registered Historic Park / Garden</p>	<p>Dunster Castle</p>



Beach boulders used as coping stones on a boundary wall

Landscape Perceptions and Cultural Associations

Perceptual qualities of the landscape

The perceptions of this area as a gentle, settled, small-scale landscape are enhanced by the contrast with the surrounding moorlands and forests. It feels enclosed, cosy and homely. The irregular patterns of fields, the hedgerows and small woodlands create a landscape of strong patterns and textures which contrast with the open moorland backdrop. The *'Exmoor Landscape Perceptions Study'* identified the serenity of the **Farmed and Settled Vale** landscape, with people describing it as *gentle, wide open, colourful, man-made and restful*. Emotional responses to the landscape included *peaceful, rested, serene, at ease with nature, at rest, and both happy and sad*.

This is a landscape with an extremely strong sense of time-depth, and – in many parts – of changelessness. The quiet lanes are narrow and winding, creating a sense of disorientation, particularly where views are enclosed by hedgebanks. Away from the main roads and larger settlements there are areas of tranquillity. However, much of the LCT is difficult to access on foot as there are few footpaths and little access land. Whilst this a landscape of great scenic beauty, the consistency of building materials, particularly the use of creamy-yellow render throughout the Holnicote Estate reflects the character of the Estate. There is some light pollution from Porlock and Dunster, and from street-lighting along the A396 at Timberscombe. However, but much of the central part of the LCT (especially away from the A39 and A396) has exceptionally dark skies.

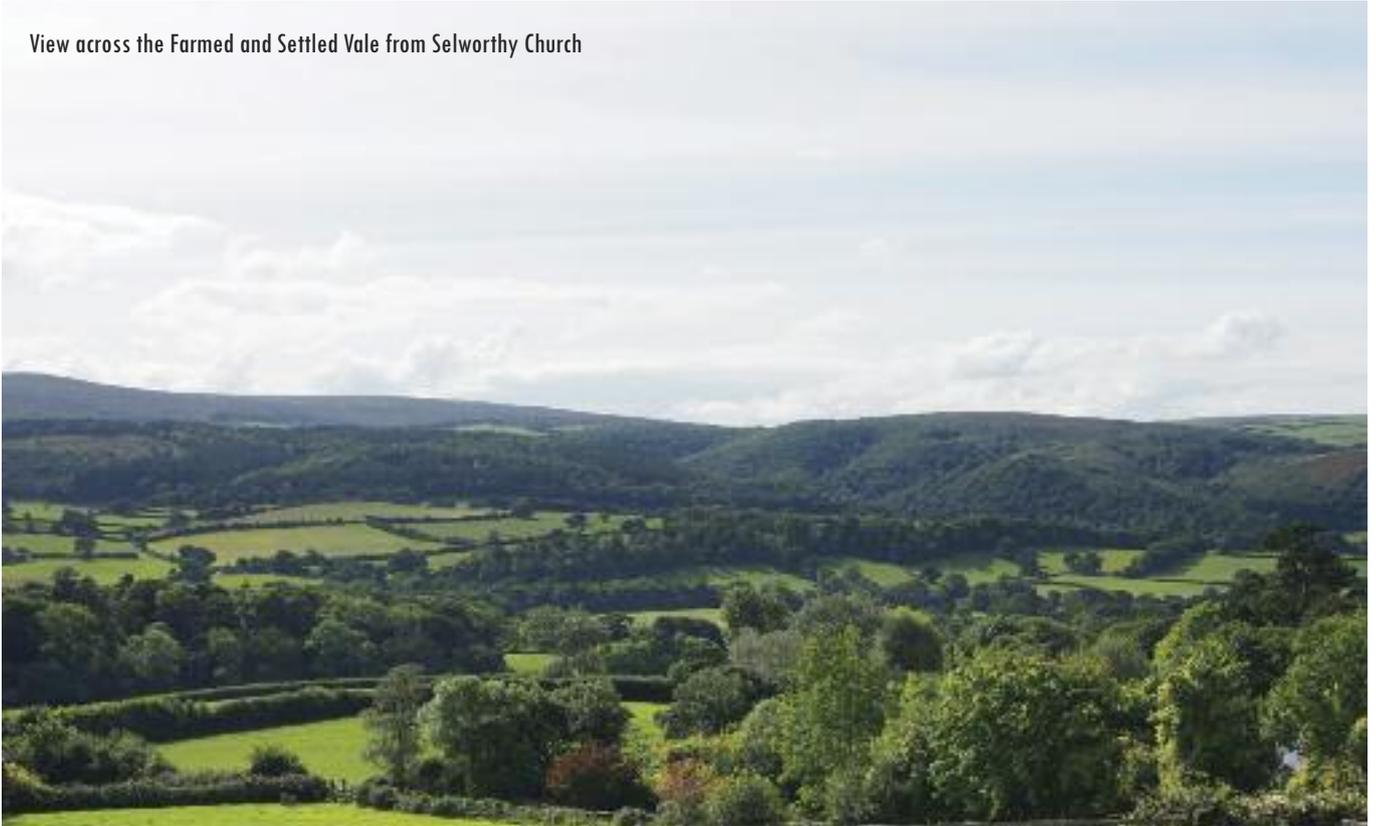
Key views, viewpoints and landmarks

Although it has a distinct and recognisable character in its own right, the **Farmed and Settled Vale** is nonetheless greatly influenced by the character of the surrounding landscapes, which emphasise the overall sense of place, and provide dramatic context. To the south-west, Dunkery Hill and Beacon (Open Moorland LCT) form a simple, smooth but very strong and distinctive moorland backdrop which contrasts with the intertwining green fields of the vale below. To the east and west, the wooded hills of the High Wooded Coastal Cliffs Combes and Cleaves also form dramatic backdrops which change with the seasons.

Views within the vale are varied and interesting. There are impressive long distance internal views, and beyond to the Bristol Channel and surrounding landscapes. The presence of, and views to, landmark buildings also make a significant contribution to character. For example, Dunster Castle makes a prominent gateway into the vale, and the white limewashed church at Selworthy (on the edge of the LCT), stands out against its wooded backdrop. The red stone and creamy-yellow render of many of the buildings also adds to the strong sense of place and identity.

The vale plays a very important role in views from several adjacent landscapes, from where there are elevated views across the fields of the vale to the moorlands, woodlands and coast beyond. These views, with their compositions of distinctive components, are some of the best-loved within the National Park.

View across the Farmed and Settled Vale from Selworthy Church



Cultural Associations

Porlock was a regular destination for several of the Romantic poets, including Wordsworth, Southey and Coleridge. Southey composed his sonnet 'To Porlock' in the Ship Inn in Porlock Weir:

*Porlock thy verdant vale so fair to sight
 Thy lofty hills which fern and furze embrown
 Thy waters that roll musically down
 Thy woody glens, the traveller with delight
 Recalls to memory, and the channel grey
 Circling its surges in thy level bay.
 Porlock, I shall forget thee not,
 Here by the summer rain confined;
 But often shall hereafter call to mind
 How here, a patient prisoner 'twas my lot
 To wear the lonely, lingering close of day,
 Making my sonnet by the ale house fire,
 Whilst Idleness and Solitude inspire
 Dull rhymes to pass the duller hours away*



Four Views from Dunster Castle: The Village of Dunster, looking west up the Avill Valley. Attributed to Robert Griffier 1688-1760. © National Trust Images/ John Hammond. Note the lack of plantations on the surrounding hills.

Natural Assets and Ecosystem Services

The soils, water supplies, woodlands and vegetation found within the **Farmed and Settled Vale** are all important Natural Capital Assets. They enable a wide range of ecosystem services, including the production of food, fibre, fuel and fresh water. Compared to other LCTs within Exmoor, the **Farmed and Settled Vale** is particularly productive farmland, supporting a range of arable crops, pasture and (traditionally) orchards and walnut trees. Traditionally, wood from cut hedgerows has been used as fuel in woodburners, and this remains an opportunity to support traditional hedgerow management. The Natural Capital Assets also support other ecosystem services through (for example) water cycling, nutrient cycling and photosynthesis.

The **Farmed and Settled Vale** provides a variety of regulatory ecosystem services, including regulation of water and soil erosion. The From Source to Sea Natural Flood Management Project on the Holnicote Estate is an excellent example of how

these regulatory services can be positively manipulated to enhance their effectiveness. For example, small projects to slow river flows (e.g. moorland drain blocking, planting of riverside trees and installing 'leaky sluices' in river channels) can reduce the speed at which water reaches the lower sections of the river system. This is achieved by slowing the water and giving it more time to soak into the ground before it runs off via watercourses. Creation of banded water storage areas on the valley floor enhance its function in storage of flood water and to help ameliorate the risk of flooding in villages.

This attractive and historic landscape provides a range of cultural ecosystem services (non-material benefits which people obtain from ecosystems) including aesthetic experiences, spiritual enrichment and education. The National Trust villages (such as Selworthy) are popular visitor destinations.

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within LCT E

LCA E1: Porlock-Dunster-Minehead

There is only one LCA within the **Farmed and Settled Vale** Landscape Character Type, as the landscape character and sense of place are considered to be broadly consistent across it.

Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) associated with LCT E

SCA 1: Minehead Harbour to Hurlstone Point

Please refer to the *North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Assessment 2015* for more detail.

Strength of Landscape Character and Landscape Condition in LCT E

When viewed individually, the landscape elements making up the **Farmed and Settled Vale** appear relatively subtle in character. However, when viewed in combination, the interplay of these elements give the landscape a strong sense of place, and a recognisable and **strong** character overall. For example, the strong hedgerow network and repeated field patterns, small woods, streams, picturesque villages and the dramatic moorland and woodland backdrop, combine to create a distinct landscape scene. The fact that houses are painted in similar colours contributes to the strong and cohesive character of the LCT. It is also a clear indication that this is an estate landscape. The strength of character of the vale is perhaps best appreciated from beyond its own boundaries, in views offered from adjacent elevated landscapes. This is a working agricultural landscape, with land within Porlock Vale largely owned by the National Trust, and the landscape and buildings are well-managed and maintained. However, continued management is vulnerable to changes in agricultural grant schemes. The condition of the **Farmed and Settled Vale** is generally **good**, although in places hedgerows are poorly managed, with gaps filled by post and wire fences. There is a

risk that this will lead to loss of the integrity and intactness of the landscape pattern, which would weaken the character of the landscape as a whole. Only very small fragments of SSSIs are within this LCT, and these have been assessed as being in 'unfavourable recovering' condition. Most listed buildings are occupied and are in good condition. However, Frackford Bridge has been identified as a building at risk. The Conservation Area Appraisals show that their condition are generally very good, with localised issues of replacement PVCu windows and doors on unlisted buildings, and occasional street clutter and signage. Overhead lines are noted as a detracting influence in Wootton Courtenay. Issues raised in the 2007 Exmoor Landscape Character Assessment remain very localised. For example, the variable condition of boundary treatments. The From Source to Sea Natural Flood Management Project is having a beneficial effect through enhancement of the landscape character of the LCT, for example through planting of wet woodland, and protecting buildings and bridges from flood damage. This is likely to become increasingly important as climate change causes flood events to become more frequent and intense.

Landscape Issues and Forces for Change in LCT E

Landscapes are dynamic and are constantly been affected by a variety of forces for change, which may be natural (e.g. coastal erosion) or man-made (e.g. development pressure and changes in farming practices). The following table illustrates the main forces for change acting on this LCT, and how they

will potentially affect the landscape. Recommendations for addressing these issues are provided in the following section. Please note that forces for change acting across the whole National Park are described in Section 2.9.

Issue/Force for Change	Landscape sensitivities and potential impacts
Uncertainty over changing agricultural and woodland grants	Potential loss of funding for maintaining the appearance of the landscape and managing it for the well-being of the environment rather than purely to maximise agricultural production. This could lead to loss of traditional features e.g. woodlands, hedgerows and field patterns.
Loss of trees, including traditional orchards, elms, and parkland trees	Past and potential future loss of trees (including distinctive walnut trees, orchards, and elm hedgebanks) within the landscape. This leads to a more open character and the loss of traditional landscape features. Mature/veteran trees have limited statutory protection, and many are now reaching maturity. Woodlands, hedgerow trees and parklands could be affected by diseases such as ash dieback and phytophthora.
Flooding	Following heavy rainfall (particularly when the ground is already saturated), flooding can lead to scouring of river banks, soil erosion, damage to historic buildings and structures including bridges, mills and properties. New flood amelioration schemes may help to reduce the severity of flooding in the future.
Urbanisation along road corridors	The A39 cuts through the north-eastern part of this LCT, with associated traffic, noise and impacts on tranquillity. Signage, lighting, road markings and urbanising influences such as kerbs affect the traditional rural appearance of the Vale, for example on the A396 around Timberscombe. Some surviving traditional signposts (e.g. at Timberscombe) are in poor condition.
Damage to walls and banks alongside roads	A number of factors (often in combination) lead to damage to walls and banks alongside roads. Unless they are carefully repaired using traditional techniques, the character of rural lanes can be lost. Problems include water damage (following flooding), damage from wide vehicles and destabilisation from tree roots.
Needs for new agricultural buildings	Modern agriculture requires larger buildings than have been traditionally used. If they are poorly designed and/ or sited, they can appear as incongruous features in the landscape.
Development pressure	There is a need for new housing, particularly in and around existing settlements. New housing development should be well designed and sited, in order to integrate into the landscape and minimise impacts on the area's undeveloped character.
New fencing, particularly in valley floor areas.	There are localised impacts from temporary fencing (for example dividing horse paddocks or alongside riverbanks) which can reduce the open quality of the pastures and add visual 'clutter' into the landscape. Lack of management of hedgerows can result in the need to patch them with post and wire fences.
Climate change	Increases in the frequency and intensity of storm events are likely to result in increased flood risk from rivers and coastal flooding, which would be exacerbated by sea level rise. Drier summers may lead to drought, with particular impacts on orchard trees and crops grown. Warmer temperatures are likely to provide suitable conditions for new pests and diseases, including tree diseases.



Damaged stone-faced bank alongside road.



Log jam on Horner Water. Photo ©Exmoor National Park Authority

Landscape Management Recommendations

Landscape Strategy

The area's distinctive gentle, enclosed, settled and historic character, and its visual unity, are safeguarded through the conservation of its landscape features. The landscape is managed in a holistic way, with understanding of the connections between different landscape features and the functions which they perform. Hedgerows are managed to ensure continuity of the area's distinctive field patterns. Trees (including woodland, parkland trees, hedgerow trees and orchards) are managed and replanted to enable continuity of the locally-distinctive treescape in the future. Land is managed in a way which is compatible with the area's historic landscape, with historic buildings/ structures and their settings protected and enhanced. Floodplains are kept open and free from clutter where possible. The quality of the views is maintained, both within the area, and from the elevated high land which surrounds it. Access into the area is improved, with new paths and circular routes along the valley floor.

LCT-Specific Management Guidelines for LCT E

Protect

- Protect historic buildings and structures and ensure that they (and their settings) are not negatively affected by poor-quality, new development, insensitive highways measures, or other detracting features.
- Protect the distinctive built form of the area, for example through the use of traditional materials such as local stone, cob, thatch and pantiles in building.
- Protect views within and across this LCT, ensuring that the visual impacts of any development proposals are adequately assessed.
- Protect the character of rural lanes, resisting urbanising influences such as unnecessary signage, and investigate opportunities to repair and strengthen banks alongside lanes.
- Restore traditional road signs where required.
- Protect dark night skies, minimising sources of light pollution.

Manage

- Manage trees and woodland, replanting parkland and field trees where necessary to ensure their continued presence in the landscape. Consider planting some specific species for example walnut trees, traditionally associated with this area. Woodlands should have a range of age and native species diversity, to make them as resilient as possible to climate change and tree disease.
- Enhance connectivity of woodlands within the Vale, for example by connecting them with hedgerow corridors.
- Support remaining traditional orchards, and promote sustainable markets for products. Encourage new orchard planting.
- Manage farmland, retaining the mixed farmland pattern, with diversity of crops and pasture.
- Manage hedgerows and hedgebanks, managing and replanting hedgerows where necessary to retain the characteristic enclosure patterns within the landscape. When filling gaps, or re-instating hedgerows, chose plants which are locally-distinctive (e.g. field maple, wych elm) and match existing species within the hedgerow.
- Manage river banks, achieving a locally-appropriate balance between fencing to prevent livestock accessing the river, and enabling people to enjoy uninterrupted views of the water from public rights of way.

Plan

- Work with landowners to promote good practice in land management and establish a positive working relationship with the National Park.
- Enhance the footpath network within the Vale, enabling better access for pedestrians and cyclists to access and enjoy the landscape, e.g. circular routes from locations with parking and/or public transport connections, such as Selworthy, Allerford, Porlock and Horner.

Specific Planning Guidelines for LCT E

This section describes the planning guidelines which are specific to the Farmed and Settled Vale Landscape Character Type. See also the general landscape planning guidelines in Part 3.

Defining qualities which need to be protected should new development occur, and which any new development should reflect:

Defining Quality to Protect	Perceived Threats and Issues	Guidance
<p>Strong estate vernacular and colours.</p>	<p>Introduction of buildings styles and details which fragment the unity otherwise apparent in estate villages.</p>	<p>Ensure new development reflects distinctive detailing in this LCT, in particular round chimney stacks often on front walls of buildings, dormer windows and beach boulder coping stones on boundary walls.</p>
<p>Settlement edges often have soft interface with surrounding woods and fields such that the settlement is part of the countryside. The wider landscape often forms a high quality historic landscape setting which reinforces settlement evolution.</p>	<p>New development which creates an abrupt urban edge and undermines the historic relationship between settlement and wider setting including relationship to burgage plots, open marsh or hillside.</p>	<p>Carefully site new buildings on the edge of a settlement so that the fringe is soft and visually broken. Land uses should avoid creating visual clutter which disrupts historic connections between settlement and setting.</p>
<p>Incidental low key character of settlement in this landscape coupled with inter-visibility and distinctive views into and across the area from adjoining landscape types.</p>	<p>Development which undermines the predominately rural character of this type particularly where it breaks the skyline in views from lower land and/or appears prominent on higher slopes in elevated views.</p>	<p>In sensitively locating development in this landscape ensure that views into and across the area are given careful consideration. Utilise the gentle undulations and folds in the landscape to successfully site development. Break up the scale and mass of large farm buildings through use of subdivided roof and wall structures and muted, recessive colours.</p>

New housing in Porlock, reflecting local materials, style and scale.

