

LANCASHIRE
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER TYPE

POST-MEDIEVAL
ENCLOSURE
UPLAND MOOR

Definition

This type comprises a variety of field forms, size tends to be medium (4 to 16 hectares) but with a significant percentage of small enclosures. Two thirds of the type has an irregular layout while the remainder has a more planned pattern. This is a reflection of the piecemeal private enclosure of land in Lancashire in the period between AD 1600 – 1850 rather than the widespread planned enclosure much more prevalent in other parts of England such as the Midlands. Twice the area enclosed from upland moor prior to c AD1600 was enclosed in the post medieval period c 1600 – 1850. Some of this enclosure from moorland can be associated with single farmsteads established on the poorer soils in these marginal areas.

Typical historical and archaeological components

As with **Ancient Enclosure** the typical historical and archaeological components of the **Post-Medieval Enclosure** type are the boundaries which define the fields, the ditches used to drain them, the roads and tracks which traverse them and the buildings of those living and working within the area. Boundaries include water-filled ditches, quickset hedges, stone walls and fences.

Attributes of the former mossland areas include drainage ditches, causeways, windmills and bridges. There is a possibility of well-preserved archaeological deposits existing under the ground surface where the **Post-Medieval Enclosure** type covers peaty or former wetland soils.

Some of the main ditches are potentially related to an earlier enclosure period, being left in place as they were too large to contemplate changing and because they functioned effectively.

Enhancing and safeguarding the type

Strategies for conserving or enhancing the **Enclosure** types will vary according to the historic processes of landuse, land management and land gain within each chronological type (i.e. within **Ancient Enclosure**, **Post-Medieval Enclosure** and **Modern Enclosure**). Consequently the measures for enhancement and safeguarding recommended in this section are first described generally, where they apply across the chronological type, and then specifically where they apply to a subtype (for example to enclosed land brought into agricultural production from upland moor or from lowland moss).

- *Conserve* the character of the **Post-Medieval Enclosure** type giving priority to enclosures from lowland moss and upland moor. The type is broadly characterised by three processes of agricultural improvement: the drainage and enclosure of the mosslands of West Lancashire and the Fylde, the enclosure of upland moor on Bowland and the South Pennines and the more general improvement and reorganisation of much of the earlier ancient landscape. Whilst the latter is important it is the former two processes that provide the most significant contribution of the period to the landscape character of the county – consequently, it is the attributes and timedepth provided by these that should be afforded the greatest priority for conservation and enhancement. In addition, opportunities should be sought for the enhancement and interpretation of post-medieval reclaimed landscapes.
- Enclosed from upland moor. *Conserve* the distinctive pattern of post-medieval enclosure of upland moor as typified by subdivision of common upland grazing land and by the continuing presence of

regular and irregular intakes, bounded by stone walling with stock funnels. Further attributes relating to the subtype include new (17th-19th century) isolated stone-built farmsteads, improved and new roads (sometimes, but not always, identified as turnpike or toll roads), attributes related to the emergence of the dual economy (purpose-built loomshops, the subdivision of early farmsteads into weaving cottages, and packhorse trails) and the increasing quantity of industrial features (particularly quarries, limekilns and mills). Priority should be given to those features according to rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity and potential. Where stabilisation or restoration is not feasible the base courses and foundation stones at least of enclosure walls and buildings should be maintained as evidence of former activity.