- Planning and Development

Hedgerow boundaries are a primary characteristic of this landscape so it is important to secure their retention and protection by ensuring that any proposed development is designed and sited such that it will not require the removal of hedgerows or compromise the integrity of the hedgerow network (i.e. that hedgerows should link continuously across the landscape, not leaving isolated fragments of this important habitat).

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock.

The species composition of existing primary (long established) hedgerows should be noted and used to guide the composition of new hedgerow planting.

If boundary treatments are proposed in the development, these would be best in the form of hedgerows. Any existing fencing and other uncharacteristic boundary treatments could be removed and replaced by hedgerows. Funding support for such works should be promoted to landowners.

In this Landscape Type there is a moderate to high density settlement pattern of farmsteads and rural dwellings dispersed throughout the area, a pattern that is historically associated with the construction of dwellings in an ah-hoc manner over time. Consequently, uniformity or standardisation of design would be damaging to the inherent character and should be avoided. Creating clustering or settlement nuclei through new development is inappropriate to the characteristic settlement pattern, while current planning guidance precludes dispersed settlement in the landscape in general. Significant amounts of new development will therefore generally be discouraged from these landscapes, being better sited in those landscapes where settlement clusters and nuclei are appropriate.

Opportunities may arise, through Stewardship and other funding incentives to encourage an increase of pastoral land use, particularly if arable land uses appear to be dominating.

