These are landscapes derived from vast expanses of former open field, which have remained under intensive cultivation following their enclosure and in which the regeneration of woodland and tree cover has never re-established to any significant degree with the exception of elm, which was formerly a dominant hedgerow tree. The key elements of these open landscapes are the settlement pattern and land use, with a notable contrast between the concentrations of dwellings and farmsteads in the villages and the relatively unsettled land between them.

