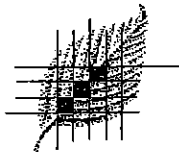


# Landscape Assessment of Selby District

January 1999

Prepared for Selby District Council  
by



**WOOLERTON DODWELL ASSOCIATES**

Chartered Landscape Architects and Environmental Planning Consultants

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**ERRATUM** - PAGES 9 and 10

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PAGE 10 COMMENCES WITH PARA 3.17 TO 3.23

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## APPENDICES

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 In April 1998 Woolerton Dodwell Associates were appointed by Selby District Council to undertake a landscape assessment of Selby District, in support of the emerging District-wide Local Plan. The study brief indicates that the assessment is necessary in order to:
- a) help review Local Plan landscape policies, in response to objections and other comments submitted at the Deposit stage;*
  - b) provide the context for the production of a Countryside Design Summary;*
  - c) help in both monitoring and influencing landscape change;*
  - d) help target resources and future countryside initiatives, such as improving degraded countryside.'*
- 1.2 This landscape assessment responds to items 3.1 a) to d) of the study brief, which is included in Appendix 1. It was prepared by Woolerton Dodwell Associates, with assistance in nature conservation and cultural heritage matters by MRB Ecology and Environment, and by Northern Archaeological Associates respectively.
- 1.3 Selby District covers an area of approximately 237 square miles and has a population estimated in mid-1994 at 72, 150. The most southerly District in North Yorkshire, Selby is broadly defined by the A1 trunk road to the west and by the river Derwent to the east. It adjoins parts of Harrogate District, and the Unitary Districts of Doncaster, the East Riding, Leeds, Wakefield and the City of York. Figure 1 indicates the general regional context of Selby District.
- 1.4 Generally rural in character, the district has a dispersed pattern of market towns, villages and hamlets. However industrial development around Selby, the coal-fired power stations located along the Aire valley and motorway and electricity transmission infrastructure are prominent features in the landscape of the southern part of the area.
- 1.5 The Deposit Draft version (July 1997) of the Selby District Local Plan describes the area as being
- 'mostly low-lying, comprising parts of the Vale of York and a series of drainage basins and washlands. The District is characterised by open sparsely wooded arable landscapes, consisting of high quality farmland. Several major watercourses including the rivers Ouse, Wharfe, Aire and Derwent cross the Plan area and are fed by numerous drainage ditches. To the west a north-south running outcrop of Magnesian limestone has produced a generally undulating ridge, giving extensive views over adjacent lowlands.'*
- 1.6 At a broad scale the landscape of the District includes parts of three Regional Character Areas (RCAs) which have been identified and jointly described by the Countryside Commission, English Nature and English Heritage. These RCAs, which coincide with three 'Natural Areas' identified by English Nature, are also indicated on Figure 1 'Regional Context' and include
- The Vale of York
  - Southern Magnesian Limestones
  - The Humberhead Levels
- 1.7 Of the 10 local landscape character areas described by the Selby District landscape assessment, the 'York Fringe' lies within the Vale of York RCA, the West Selby Ridge' lies within the Southern Magnesian Limestones RCA. All of the other local landscape character areas fall within the Humberhead Levels RCA. Appendix 2 provides summary descriptions of the Regional Character Areas.

- 1.8 No part of Selby District is designated as a landscape of national importance, nor are there any areas identified by North Yorkshire County Council as 'Special Landscape Areas'. However the District Council consider that the 'most attractive landscapes' occurring in the district are worthy of local recognition, and proposes to designate a number of Locally Important Landscape Areas (LILAs) under policies to be included in the Selby District Local Plan.
- 1.9 In addition, the District contains many features or areas of conservation, historic or archaeological importance which make a significant contribution to the quality of the local landscape. These include:
- **International Sites of Conservation importance –**  
Including SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites designated for their nature conservation importance
  - **National Nature Reserves**  
Comprise areas of national and sometimes international importance that are managed primarily for nature conservation.
  - **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**  
Including sites designated for their nature conservation and geological importance
  - **Local Nature Reserves**  
Comprise habitats of local significance that can make a useful contribution both to nature conservation and to the opportunities for the public to see, learn about and enjoy wildlife. Most are managed on behalf of the local authority by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
  - **Local Sites of Conservation Interest**  
Including Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS), sub-divided into Grades 2 and 3 (lower) and Grades 4 and 5 (higher).
  - **Ancient semi-natural woodland**  
Comprise woodlands of at least 2 hectares in area that have had continuous cover since at least 1600 AD. Ancient replanted woodland is also identified.
  - **Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Sites and Monuments Register (SMR) sites**  
Including nationally designated and locally registered archaeological remains, in particular those that are apparent within the landscape and contribute to its character.
  - **Registered Battlefield Sites**  
Comprising a limited number of sites associated with significant battles and included by English Heritage in a Register of Historic Battlefields on the basis of archaeological remains and other records. Towton Battlefield (War of the Roses, 29 March 1461) lies within Selby District.
  - **Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.**  
Comprising historic parks and gardens included by English Heritage in a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Registered sites of exceptional historic interest are assessed as grade I, those of great historic interest as grade II\*, and of special historic interest as grade II.
  - **Conservation Areas**  
Nineteen Conservation Areas are currently designated within the District in recognition of their '*special architectural or historic interest*'. They include a number of small villages and the older parts of larger settlements.

Regional Character Areas:  
*The Vale of York*  
*Southern Magnesian Limestones*  
*The Humberhead Levels*



Selby District  
Landscape Assessment

Figure 1  
REGIONAL CONTEXT

## 2. THE SELBY LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

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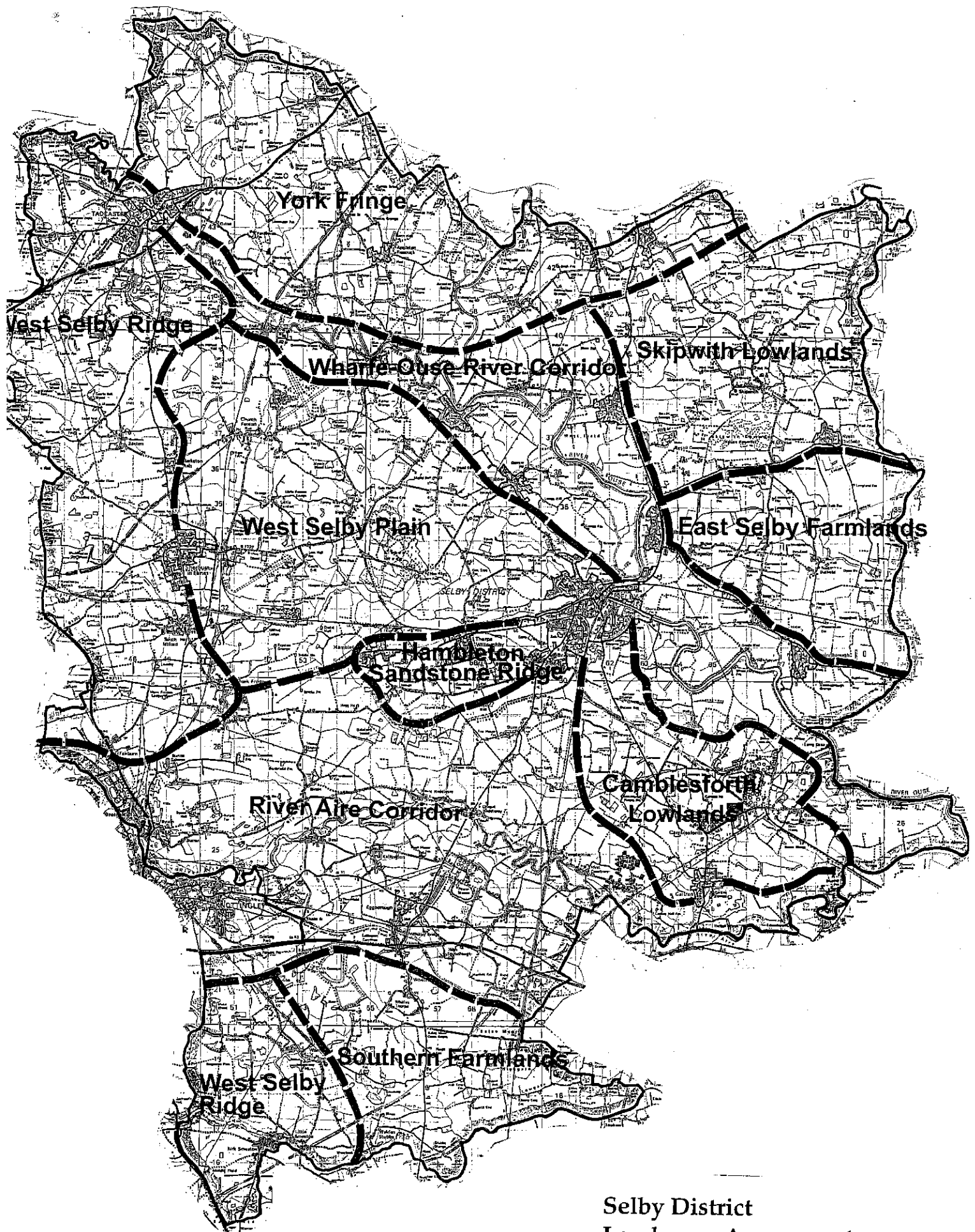
- 2.1 The Selby Landscape Assessment seeks to describe and classify the existing character of the Selby District landscape, outside of the main settlements, using the approach recommended by the Countryside Commission in its advisory booklet CCP423 'Landscape Assessment Guidance'. Appendix 3 provides further details of the methodology adopted by the study team.
- 2.2 The assessment describes the various physical, cultural and historical factors that have played their part, over time, in shaping the lowland landscape of Selby District. More recent changes in the landscape are also identified, for although much of the modern Selby landscape is farmed for arable crops, its character is influenced by industrial and built development of various types. These include industrial development centred on Selby, the coal-fired power stations located along the Aire valley, motorway and electricity transmission infrastructure concentrated in the southern part of the District, and the remaining coal mines located within Selby District.
- 2.3 The assessment has been undertaken at a district or county scale, and has involved an initial desk study stage, including a literature review of historical and geographical guidebooks, an examination of archaeological and heritage schedules and registers, a review of nature conservation sites registers, an analysis of landform and of underlying geology together with the review of other documentary material. Field survey work has also been undertaken throughout the District using a structured survey form. The form is used to record the dominant landscape elements and features that contribute to the landscape character, and its various aesthetic qualities, such as colour, texture and enclosure. Within Selby, an important aspect of character is the marked variations in the colour and texture of the agricultural landscape due to seasonal patterns of cropping and ploughing. Tidal river corridors also vary considerably in appearance, according to the state of the tide.
- 2.4 Selby District lacks the significant variations in topography and landform that characterise upland areas. Analysis of the desk study and field survey material has confirmed the very limited range of topographic variation within Selby, which in many places is essentially flat and very low-lying. Extensive areas of the District are no more than 10 metres and often no more than 5 metres above sea level.
- 2.5 Local differences in landscape character within Selby District are therefore relatively subtle, and arise principally from:
- **the influence of underlying geology and superficial deposits** on local landform and soils, with important differences between the locally elevated and gently rolling Magnesian limestone ridge in the west, the more undulating scenery of the Esrick moraine to the north, and the essentially flat expanse of clays and silts and wind-blown sands that were deposited over the remainder of the area during the last glacial period, entirely masking the underlying Bunter sandstone bedrock. This gives rise to variations in agricultural soil quality.
  - **the presence of a network of major lowland rivers** which drain towards the Humber Estuary, and which are navigable for much of their length.

- the influence of varying types of land use on the landscape, with some areas being influenced by the proximity of urban or industrial development, or by infrastructure, including power stations, electricity transmission lines, motorways and roads.
- the influence of varying types of agricultural land management on landscape character. Open arable farmland predominates, but variety is provided by areas of wooded farmland, mixed semi-enclosed farmland, lowland valley pastures, wetlands and marshes, and areas of historic parkland.

2.6 The character of the lowland landscape rarely changes abruptly, for in reality there is usually a more gradual transition between one area and another. Nevertheless **10 local landscape character areas** have been identified within Selby District, each of which has its own geographic identity and 'sense of place'. These areas are indicated on Figure 2 'Local Landscape Character Areas' and include:

- the **York Fringe**, where gently undulating topography, open farmland, woodlands and parkland combine in a varied rural landscape, much of which has a quiet and tranquil character;
- the **West Selby Ridge** of Magnesian limestone which runs down the western side of the District. The low ridge has a varied character, with open rolling arable farmland, large blocks of woodland, the winding valleys of limestone streams and parkland which echo a rich historic heritage;
- the **Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor** which was a prime highway for trade and communication and runs through the heart of the District. Fringed by strategically sited historic villages, much of the river corridor is protected by high flood embankments and is characterised by open heavily drained farmland with occasional wetlands;
- the **Skipwith Lowlands**, characterised by flat wooded farmland that is typically estate-managed, with a distinctive area of semi-natural lowland heath, and the pastoral landscapes of the lower Derwent valley;
- the **East Selby Farmlands**, which lie between the converging courses of the Rivers Ouse and Derwent. The arable farmland generally lacks woodland, but is semi-enclosed by hedgerows and lines of trees, with a fringe of more traditional pastures along the lower Derwent valley;
- the **West Selby Plain**, once an extensive area of wet marshy wasteland, is now intensively cultivated arable farmland which is very sparsely populated. In many parts the landscape is very open and featureless, but in some areas hedgerow trees and small woodlands combine with the large Bishop's Wood to create a semi-enclosed or lightly wooded landscape;
- the **Hambleton Sandstone Ridge** is a small but distinctive area of sandstone which rises above the surrounding agricultural plain to the west of Selby, and is distinguished by the two wooded hills of Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough;
- the **River Aire Corridor** which, like the Wharfe-Ouse, was a prime highway for trade and communication and is fringed by strategically sited historic villages. Although much of it is open or semi-enclosed farmland, the character of this river corridor is strongly influenced by large scale industrial and infrastructure development, in particular by power stations and the M62 motorway;





Selby District  
Landscape Assessment

Figure 2  
LOCAL LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER AREAS

- the **Camblesforth Lowlands**, where small blocks of woodland are an important feature of arable farmland on lighter sandy soils, with significant areas of semi-natural scrub. The Drax power station is visually very prominent in an otherwise rural landscape;
- the **Southern Farmlands** lie in the southern corner of the District, and have a quiet and tranquil character that is generally unaffected by urban and industrial development. Areas of flat wooded arable farmland combine with semi-enclosed more traditional mixed farmland that is less intensively managed. Brick-built farmhouses are characteristic features.

2.7 Although the local landscape character areas have a definable physical context and local identity, they are not homogenous, but are inevitably quite variable when considered at a more detailed level. Each local character area contains a number of *generic landscape character types* that are individually distinguished by the presence, absence or combination of landscape elements and features ie their characteristic patterns that make one area of landscape *different* from another. The following 16 broad landscape types were identified within the study area.

<b>Valley floor farmland</b>	typically arable farmland or occasionally mixed farmland that is generally open in character. Small patches of wetland occur in places.
<b>Open drained farmland</b>	extremely level and heavily drained open arable farmland in large fields divided by dikes. Few landscape features. Lies adjacent to the main river channels, protected by flood alleviation embankments.
<b>Pastoral valley</b>	narrow corridor of traditionally managed species rich flood meadows that fringe river channels. Riverside trees and willow scrub are frequent elements.
<b>Limestone valley</b>	narrow winding valley within the Magnesian limestone ridge. Varied linear landscape combining limestone pasture with woodland scrub and wetland. Of considerable conservation value.
<b>Lowland heath</b>	diverse range of semi-natural habitats including silver birch woodland, gorse, heather and damp and dry heath, and boggy mires developed on sandy acidic glacial drift
<b>Wooded hill</b>	distinctive locally elevated landform, characteristically cloaked in mixed mainly broad-leaf woodland.
<b>Rolling wooded farmland</b>	lowland farmland in which topography is distinct and varied, reducing wider intervisibility. Typically intensively managed arable farmland enclosed by low-cut hedgerows. Woodland, shelterbelts, copses are frequent landscape elements which provide a definite sense of enclosure. Often occurs within a landed estate. Wide views over surrounding lowland.
<b>Rolling open farmland</b>	rolling lowland of intensively managed arable farmland. Open, with large fields and minimal enclosure, often by fragmented remnant hedgerows. Woodland cover is generally relatively insignificant. Wide views over surrounding lowland.

<b>Semi-enclosed farmland</b>	lowland farmland that is flat or only gently undulating. Typically arable or mixed farmland intensively managed and enclosed by hedgerows with frequent mature hedgerow trees that provide a definite sense of enclosure. Woodland is very sparse or absent
<b>Flat wooded farmland</b>	lowland farmland that is flat or only gently undulating. Typically intensively managed arable farmland enclosed by low-cut hedgerows, in which woodland, shelterbelts, and copses are frequent and provide a definite sense of enclosure. Often occurs within a landed estate.
<b>Flat open farmland</b>	lowland farmland, open and large in scale with wide views across surrounding land. Intensively managed and typically cultivated for arable crops. Hedgerows usually fragmented, treeless and low cut or absent. Landscape lacks variety of natural features or relief.
<b>Open fringe farmland</b>	Flat lowland farmland, large in scale and offers wide views across surrounding land. Intensively managed and typically cultivated for arable crops. Hedgerows usually fragmented, treeless and low cut or absent. Landscape character is strongly influenced by the presence of large scale industrial and infrastructure development, in particular power stations and the motorway.
<b>Rural fringe</b>	lowland farmland that lies adjacent to settlements. Still essentially rural in character, it represents a transition zone to the wider farmland and often contains a variety of non-agricultural features or uses, incl. caravan and boat storage and pony grazing. Less intensively managed and smaller in scale, with patches of scrub.
<b>Modified Land</b>	Land within the open countryside which has an established non-agricultural use, including mines, power stations, industrial estates and airfields, or where the land has been modified to accommodate the disposal of waste material, typically ash derived from power stations
<b>Parkland</b>	'designed' amenity landscape typically combining extensive grasslands with distinctive tree and woodland cover, including ornamental species. Historic parkland often associated with country mansions may also include ornamental lakes, parkland walls and fencing. Modern equivalent represented by golf courses.
<b>Wetland/Ings</b>	Extensive low-lying areas of open water, marshy wetland, and seasonally inundated meadows, often fringed by trees. Typically occurs on floor of river valleys, and may be associated with mining subsidence.

2.8 The general distribution of landscape types within each local landscape character area is indicated for information purposes only on the plans that accompany the character area descriptions. The boundaries shown between types should be regarded as indicative, not definitive, and reflect the district-scale nature of the landscape assessment.

### 3. THE SHAPING OF THE SELBY LANDSCAPE

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#### Physical Influences on the Landscape

- 3.1 In many ways, the contemporary character of the landscape within Selby District broadly reflects the combined influences of solid and drift geology, low-lying landform and extensive drainage system on patterns of settlement, transport and landuse.
- 3.2 The oldest rocks to outcrop within the District are beds of Magnesian limestone. These overlie and entirely conceal the Upper Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures that occur on the surface further to the south-west. Permeable and relatively resistant to erosion, the Magnesian Limestone forms a low narrow ridge that extends along the western margins of Selby District. Within the District, much of the ridge land lies on the dip slope that falls away gently towards the east. Strongly bedded rather than massive, the limestone has weathered to form a rounded rolling ridge with well-drained calcareous soils. The limestone is of considerable economic value, and has been quarried since at least the Middle Ages for building stone, agricultural lime and latterly, crushed aggregate.
- 3.3 To the east of the ridge the Magnesian Limestone dips under younger deposits of Bunter or Lower Red Sandstones of the Triassic period, that underlies the remainder of the District. However there is very little evidence of the Triassic sandstone within the Selby landscape, as it has been almost entirely masked by great thicknesses of superficial Quaternary deposits. Outcrops of the sandstone are therefore extremely limited, occurring only in the area around Hambleton and Thorpe Willoughby, where it forms a low but distinctive ridge, and around Carlton and Camblesforth in the south.
- 3.4 The superficial deposits that cover much of the land within the District have a varied character. The northern part of the District is crossed west-east by the Escrick Moraine, a low and irregular curving ridge of drift sand and gravel that was deposited by retreating glaciers. The moraine marks the southern extent of the Vale of York RCA, where deposits of boulder clay, windblown sand and silts and clays cover the underlying Bunter sandstones.
- 3.5 To the south of the Escrick Moraine is the extremely low-lying and exceptionally flat topography of the Humberhead Levels RCA. This distinctive landform was created by alluvial deposits of silt and clay that settled out from the waters of 'Lake Humber', which was impounded by a glacier at the mouth of the Humber during the late Quaternary era. Within this expanse of water-lain deposits there are also some extensive areas of wind-blown sand.
- 3.6 The extensive network of broad, tidal and navigable rivers that drain the District has had an important influence on the Selby landscape. The river Ouse is the principal river in the District. Breaching the Escrick moraine near Cawood, it flows south-eastwards from its confluence with the Wharfe, through the city of Selby, on a converging course with its tributary rivers Derwent and Aire. Alluvium deposits line the floors of the river channels, which are now generally confined by engineered embankments.
- 3.7 In the west, the minor rivers of Cock Beck, Mires Beck and the river Went flow in incised valleys across the dip slope of the Magnesian limestone ridge, highly unusual features in permeable limestone scenery. Cock Beck is a tributary of the river Wharfe, which flows eastward along the northern edge of the outcrop at Tadcaster, where it is deflected south-eastward along the foot of the Escrick moraine.



- 3.8 As the climate warmed and the ice retreated, the flat Humberhead levels plain was initially colonised by a large forest. However 3000 years ago, rising sea levels pushed the Humber Estuary further inland, causing rivers to 'back up' and flood the forest area. Resulting waterlogging of the soil killed the trees and much of the Humberhead Levels became covered in reed swamps. Drainage and clearance of these swamps, which began in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, created broad areas of fertile farmland within extensive areas of 'waste'. Winter flooding of the major rivers deposited silts over the low-lying plain and rich grasslands and marshes developed. The fertility of the soils was maintained by the traditional technique of warping - deliberate and managed flooding of meadows with silt-laden tidal river waters by means of a specially constructed drain network. The layer of silt which left behind by the flood waters not only increased fertility but also, gradually, led to an increase in ground levels.
- 3.9 Variations in soil character has influenced the historical development of wildlife habitats. Traditional grazing management of alluvial grasslands on the fertile river washlands maintained at one time a rich variety of **neutral grassland** and breeding bird species, and on drier ground, the land was traditionally managed as hay meadows. However relatively few of these meadows have survived agricultural improvements of the past decades.
- 3.10 On tracts of more freely-draining sandy soils, which overlie deposits of sand and gravel, **lowland heath** communities of acidic grassland, heather birch and oak are established, as at Skipwith Common. The current distribution of woodland, including ancient woodland, on farmland between the rivers Ouse and Derwent and within the Vale of York generally coincides with the occurrence of lighter, less productive and more acidic soils. Many of the oldest and most diverse hedgerows are found along historic lanes formed as a result of the piecemeal clearance of woodland to create fields.












*Lowland heath on Skipwith Common*

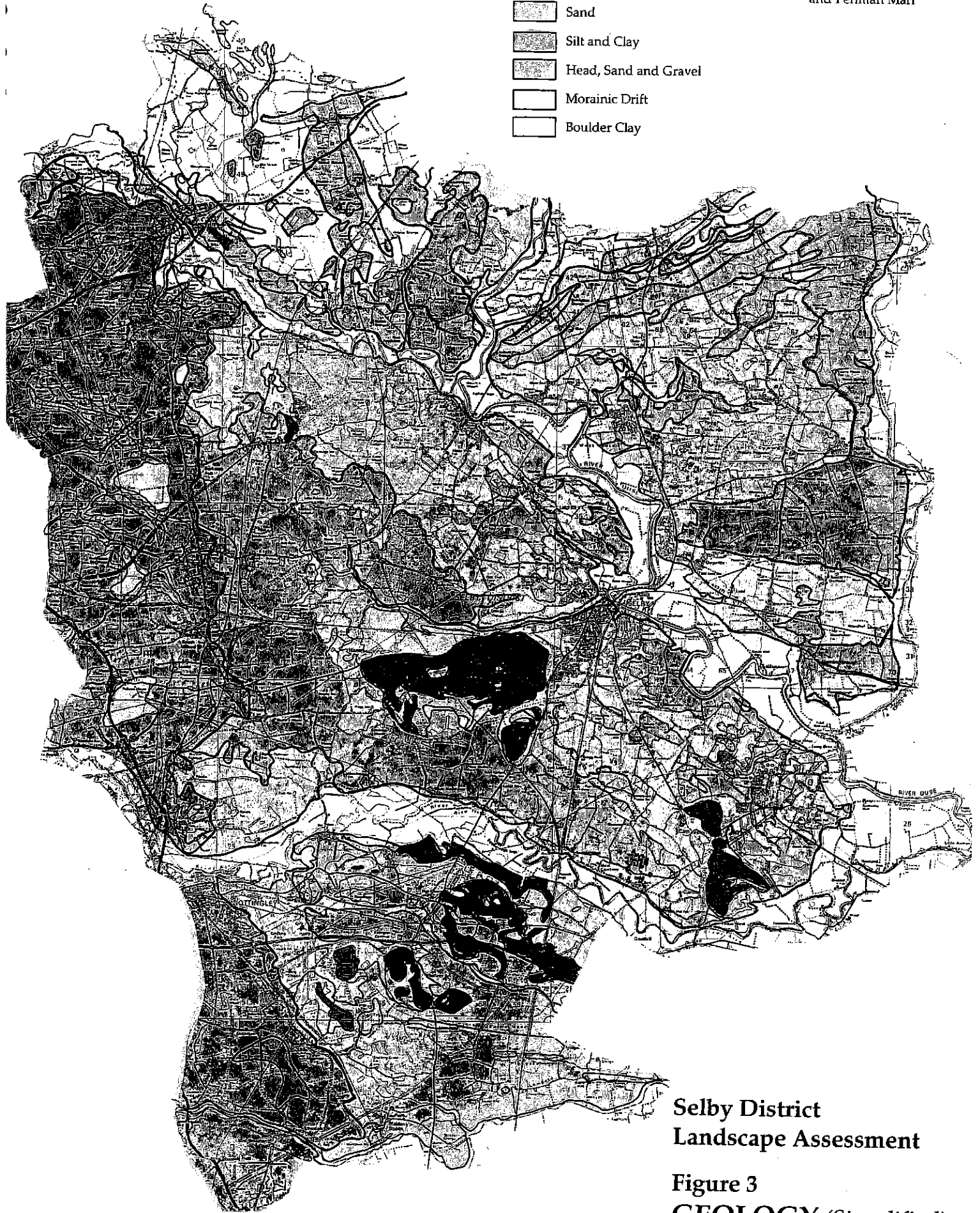
- 3.11 Much of the limestone ridge would originally have been clothed in a dense forest and inhabited by mammoths and woolly rhino that developed after the retreat of the last glaciers 10,000 years ago. Despite widespread clearance by man, isolated relicts of this ancient forest survive today within the intensively managed farmland. These **species-rich ancient and replanted limestone woodlands**, which are dominated by ash and birch with sessile oak and associated ground flora, make a significant contribution to the character and diversity of the landscape.

**KEY**

**DRIFT DEPOSITS**

**SOLID GEOLOGY**

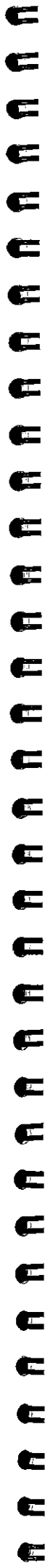
- |   |                       |   |                                      |
|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | Alluvium              |  | Bunter Sandstone                     |
|  | Peat                  |  | Magnesian Limestone and Permian Marl |
|  | Sand                  |   |                                      |
|  | Silt and Clay         |   |                                      |
|  | Head, Sand and Gravel |   |                                      |
|  | Morainic Drift        |   |                                      |
|  | Boulder Clay          |   |                                      |



**Selby District  
Landscape Assessment  
Figure 3  
GEOLOGY (Simplified)**

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3.12 Historically, the woodlands were once a fully integrated part of the rural economy, providing foraging and pasture grazing for livestock, timber for construction, and when managed by coppicing or pollarding, a source of young 'poles' for the production of charcoal fuel. The woodlands have been left to grow largely unmanaged since the decline in traditional woodland management.

3.13 Patches of rare unimproved **species-rich limestone grassland**, rich in flowers, are scattered throughout the ridge, often on road verges, or on former quarry sites where they occur in an intimate mosaic with bare rock outcrops (including quarry faces) heath, scrub and woodland. Streams, including Cock Beck and Mire Beck that flow from the limestone are also rich in aquatic plants and animals.

3.14 During the 17th/18th century, landowners and later wealthy industrialists created extensive **landscaped parklands** to provide an enhanced setting to their large country houses. Many of these estates are strategically sites adjacent to one of the major rivers, or located on higher drier ground. The estates and landscaped parklands have a considerable influence on the character of the modern rural landscape.

3.15 **Open water and wetland habitats** occur in the low-lying river corridors, and provide many sites of high ecological significance. Wet grasslands and diverse marshy areas are limited within the intensively cultivated agricultural washlands, and provide important sites for birds. In addition, important wetland have developed as part of the legacy of the former Yorkshire coal mining and associated industries. Localised flooding due to mining subsidence has created 'flashes' such as those at Fairburn Ings, which offer important semi-natural habitats for wildlife.



*Fairburn Ings, created by flooding following mining subsidence*

## Historical development of the Selby Landscape

3.16 The history of occupation in Selby District is one of gradual but accumulative exploitation of the land that has resulted in a dynamic change in the landscape over the last 20,000 years, and in particular over the last two hundred years. Historically, there have been two key influences on the settlement and economy of the area.

- the presence of higher and better drained land within the extensive marshes and bogs of the Humberhead Levels. These are the limestone ridge to the west, the Escrick moraine to the north, together with isolated outcrops of Bunter sandstone.
- the four large navigable rivers (Wharfe, Ouse, Derwent and Aire) that cross the District, and which developed as the prime highways for transport and communication from as early as the prehistoric period.



- 3.17 The low lying, swampy marshes and bogs would have been susceptible to regular flooding and were often shrouded in fog and mist. Although the marshes would not have been desirable for permanent occupation, it is likely that during the early prehistoric period seasonal camps were established on the raised gravel 'islands' within the wet swampy lands of the Humber Levels, where the extensive food resources could be easily exploited.
- 3.18 The well drained and easily cultivable land of the limestone ridge and Escrick moraine has been attractive for both settlement and farming from a very early period. Although evidence for actual occupation sites is rare, the discovery of artefacts such as flint tools, hand axes and the occasional bronze weaponry confirm that early prehistoric communities were active within the District. The Neolithic/Bronze Age henge and associated barrow cemetery at Newton Kyme indicates that the locality was of considerable ritual importance during this period, and that the communities within the area had moved away from hunting and gathering and had established a more agricultural based economy, with permanent settlements, small scale arable cultivation and animal husbandry.
- 3.19 By the late Iron Age/Romano-British period, the limestone ridge area and the higher ground around Skipwith were being intensively settled and farmed, supplying the needs of the settlements at York, Newton Kyme, Tadcaster and Castleford. Cropmark evidence on aerial photographs show that buried beneath the modern day landscape are the extensive and inter-linked remains of settlement enclosures, ditched fields and trackways.
- 3.20 The extent and nature of agricultural settlement and exploitation during this period in other areas of the District is not clear although there is limited cropmark evidence for enclosures and field systems around Kirby Wharfe, Bishop Wood, South Duffield and Kellington. There may also have been some occupation and possibly reclamation of the marsh land was occurring during this period. This is indicated by the discovery of several Iron Age or Romano-British beehive querns (grinding stones) in Balne parish, by a scatter of Roman pottery recovered from the western moat at Walden Stubbs, and by the discovery of Iron Age/Romano-British field ditches beneath the Medieval ground surface at Wood Hall moat near Womersley.
- 3.21 The Roman conquest of the north began around AD 70 when a breakdown in the relationship between the Brigantes and the Romans resulted in military action, followed by the conquest of northern England under Petillius Cerialis from AD 71. An essential aspect of this conquest was the construction of the **Roman military roads**, enabling the fast and effective movement of troops and the construction of forts and fortresses for the stationing of legionary troops and auxiliary cavalry and infantry. During this period the Romans used the higher ground of the limestone ridge and the ridge of boulder clay north-east of Tadcaster, to establish a network of roads in the north-west corner of the District, bypassing the expanse of marshy wet wastelands to the east. These roads, which linked the forts at Doncaster, Castleford, Tadcaster and Newton Kyme to those north of the River Wharfe at York, Boroughbridge and beyond, have provided the basis for the road network of this area right through to modern day.
- 3.22 The only known military forts within the District are those at Newton Kyme and Roall. The Newton Kyme fort was probably established to guard the river Wharfe crossing of one of the main north/south military roads, while the location of Roall fort away from all known Roman roads in the area suggests that the fort was used to control the traffic along the River Aire. Boats and ships sailing to or from the North Sea had an easy passage along the deep navigable Humber and the navigable and inter-linked river network of the Aire, Ouse, Derwent and Wharfe. It is likely therefore that by the Roman period the river systems were already playing a key role in the regional transport network, since river links would have been possible between the majority of the major Roman settlements in the area.
- 3.23 In addition to the military sites and the extensive native agricultural settlements, there are two Roman villa sites recorded in the District, one at Kirby Wharfe and the other at Scurff Hall near Drax. There are also records of a rural Roman settlement at Cawood Park and Roman

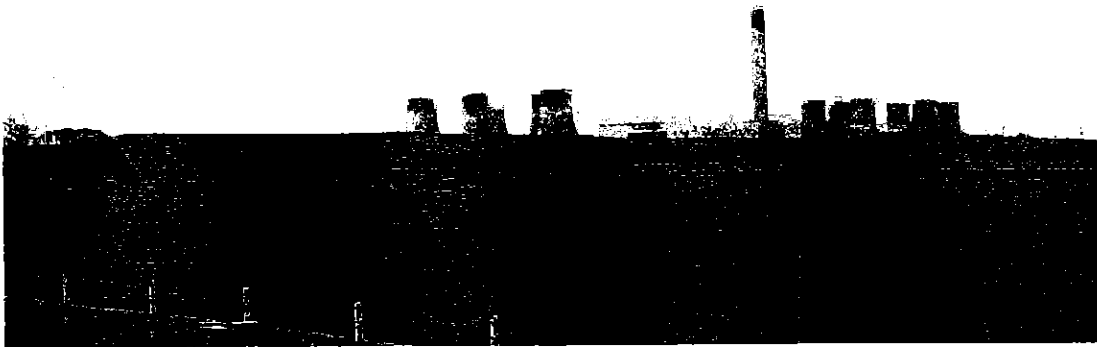
material from Ulleskelfe, Hemingbrough and Selby. The nature and function of these sites are not clear. The locations of these settlements, however, suggests that access to, or control of, the rivers were perhaps of importance.

- 3.24 During the 5th century, following the withdrawal of Roman troops, it is clear that the arrival of Angles, Saxons and Jutes from northern Germany and Denmark added to the chaos created by the Roman departure. They sailed up the Humber on raids, attacking all major towns and despoiling the countryside and its population. The invaders colonised the country, forming a multitude of Anglian settlements and by the end of the 5th century the area lay on the political boundaries of the Kingdoms of Deira, Elmet and Mercia. The area later became part of the Saxon Earldom of Northumbria. From the 5th century it was subject to further disruption by Danish invaders who again utilised the river systems for access. By 867 AD a Danish army had captured York and much of northern England came under 'Dane Law'. By the end of the 9th century, the Vikings had established permanent settlements, and land in the vicinity of York was distributed to soldiers, many of whom became established as respectable landowning aristocracy. The period between the 9th and mid-10th centuries was one of continual dispute, battle and political intrigue between successive Saxon kings and the Viking leaders who managed, for much of the period to retain rule of the area from York.
- 3.25 Selby District was well-settled by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period. The invaders had taken over existing centres of population and colonised previously unoccupied land. Many of the villages and the complex pattern of manors and parishes which are characteristic of the area have their origin in this period. The Domesday Book records entries for many of the settlements within the District that are still occupied today. There is a marked concentration of these early settlements on the higher, drier ground.
- 3.26 One of the most important archaeological sites within the District for this period is the site of King Athelstan's Palace at Hall Garth in Sherburn. There are also a small number of churches within the District which have retained Anglo-Saxon features.
- 3.27 The 11th century saw land within the District carved up into **large buffer estates** under the control of either powerful Norman lords or ecclesiastical and monastic ownership, in particular the Archbishop of York and to a lesser degree Selby Abbey. Upstanding Medieval remains are varied in character and include priories, monastic or ecclesiastical grange sites, high status residences, deer parks, moated manors, chapels, churches, the occasional wayside cross and a number of deserted medieval village sites. The reason for abandonment of villages is not always clear, although rebellions and intermittent war with the Scots, coupled with natural catastrophes such as the Black Death, have almost certainly contributed to settlement shift and abandonment. In addition a number of villages also appear to have been deliberately depopulated from the late Medieval/early post-Medieval period onwards, to make way for the construction of halls and landscaped parkland which were to become a characteristic feature within many parts of the District.
- 3.28 The next major landscape change within the area was the move to colonise the extensive areas of marsh and swamp. The importance of the wetland resource during the medieval period is confirmed by the efforts of the Crown and religious foundations in particular to control these resources and to progressively convert the area to seemingly more profitable usage. This involved extensive drainage improvements that date from the 11th century and included dredging, embanking, construction of sluices and digging of artificial channels and drains. It is with this phase of colonisation and exploitation of the lowland zone that the Medieval moated site is associated.
- 3.29 The growth in settlement during the Medieval period together with the lack of roads within the region, resulted in the increasing importance of the river network, both for the distribution of trade into the heart of Yorkshire and for the movement of people and goods between settlements. They were also used for private and commercial fisheries. Tadcaster, Cawood and

Selby grew as important crossing points of the river at this time, and as inland ports for trade and goods. Control of traffic both on and across the rivers provided a lucrative income. The importance of these rivers in the economy of the area is reflected in the riverside location of many settlements. The networks of lanes and footpaths that led down to ferry and landing points is still a feature of the modern landscape.

3.30 Between the 17th to 19th century, Acts of Enclosure and the establishment of the **landscaped historic parks and gardens** led to dramatic changes in the appearance of the Selby landscape. The effect of Enclosure was to transform the former medieval open field systems and surrounding wastelands into the more enclosed field landscape that is still characteristic of many parts of the District today. It also caused alterations to the settlement pattern resulting in the establishment of a number of farmsteads away from the village settlements and changes in road networks.

3.31 It was however with the agricultural and engineering innovations of the last two centuries, that the District has seen its most significant landscape and land use changes. The main element of change has been the **drainage of the former swampy wetlands** of the Humber Levels, transforming them into a major area of arable production. This arose out of 19th century innovations such as pumping, warping and under-soil drainage. Drainage and water level management has intensified during the present century, more especially since the 1950's, culminating in the industrial agricultural landscape of today.



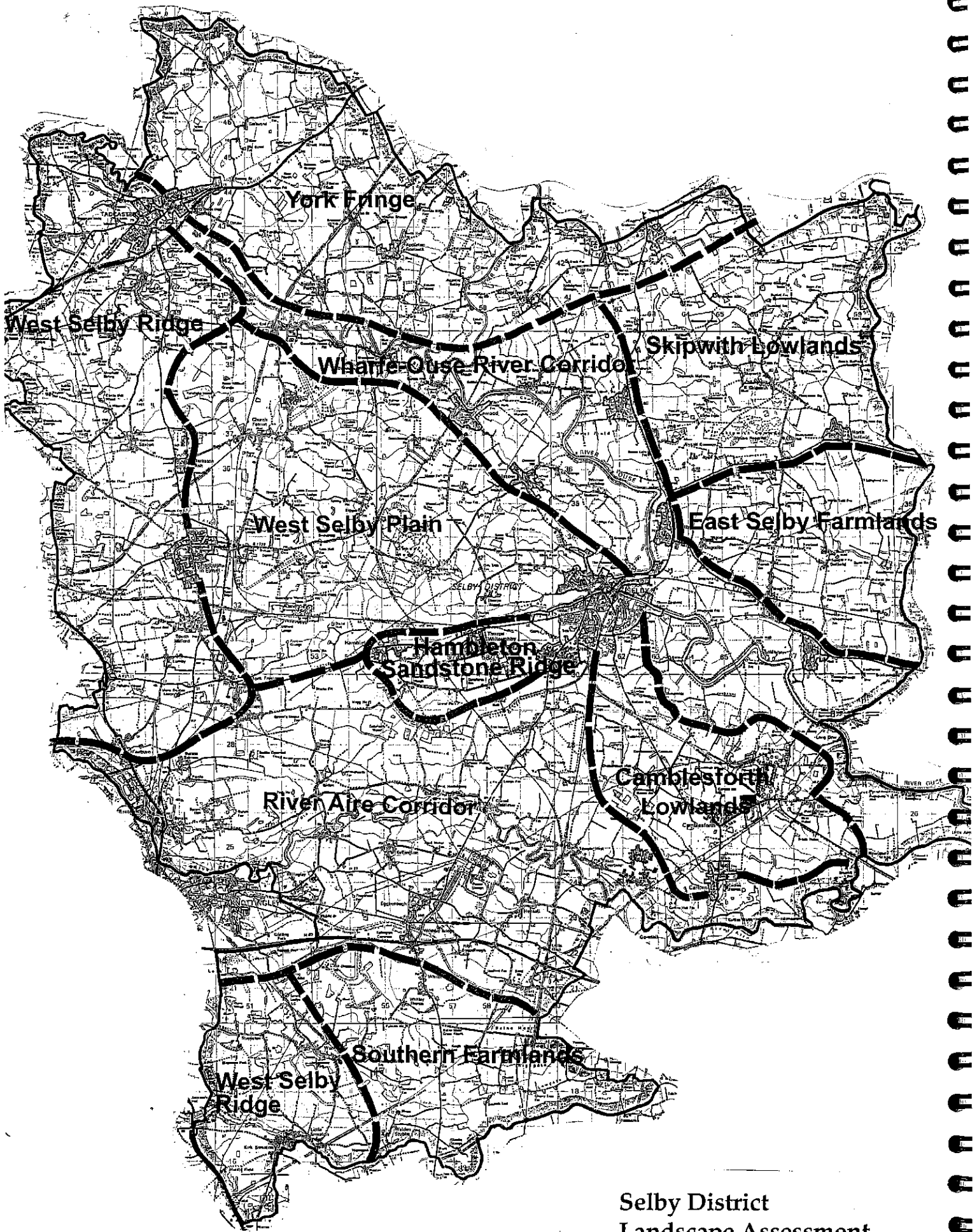
3.32 **Industrialisation and urbanisation** of the southern part of the District is a more recent phenomenon and is closely linked with the development of the railways, the opening of the Aire and Calder Navigation, the development of the coal field and improvements in the road networks within the area. The coal-fired power stations located along the Aire valley are particularly prominent features within the landscape, for the tall cooling towers and rising plumes of vapour draw the eye.

3.33 The development of an effective road and rail network over the last hundred years has also inevitably resulted in the reduction in the use of the rivers as transport corridors. Today, far from being the main means of facilitating communication, the rivers now constitute a considerable barrier to movement across the District with their great flood banks and limited crossing points.

3.34 Selby District has seen substantial landscape change over the centuries and the continued increase in arable cultivation, drainage and development, is creating yet another stage in this process. In common with much of the country, the Selby landscape has also been affected by changes in the rural economy over the last 50 years or so. **Intensification of agricultural crop production** has been particularly influential, resulting in a semi-industrial approach to farming in many areas. This is apparent in the more open and featureless character of some parts of the

District, where the loss of woodland, and hedgerow removal to permit field enlargement has accelerated the previously more gradual erosion of historic diversity so that even the more recent post-medieval landscape is fast disappearing.

- 3.35 Other recent trends including the introduction of prominent industrial-scale farm buildings, the erection of telecom masts and towers, road improvement schemes, the use of farmland for the storage of caravans and boats or as golf courses, the 'gentrification' of traditional farm buildings for residential use, and development of various types within historic parkland have all contributed to changes in the character of the countryside.



Selby District  
Landscape Assessment

Figure 2  
**LOCAL LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER AREAS**



#### 4. THE SELBY LANDSCAPE: LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

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4.1 The section that follows provides detailed descriptions of each of the following 10 local landscape character areas:

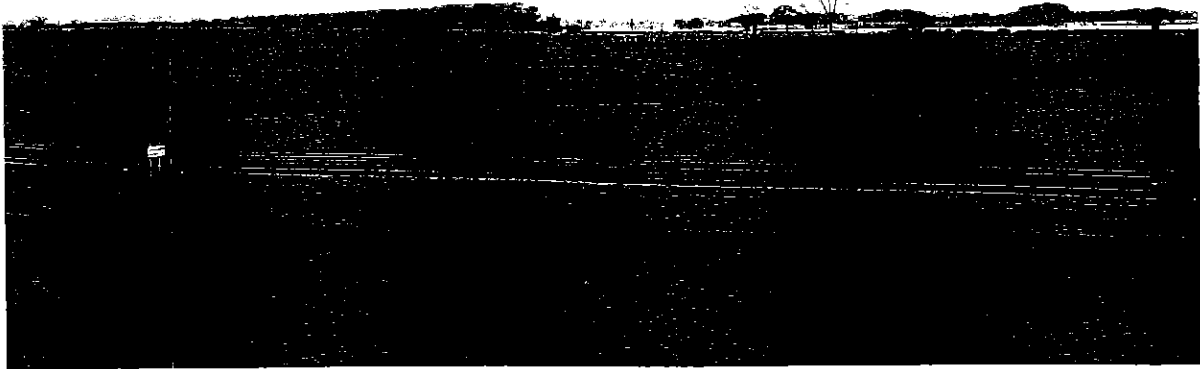
- The York Fringe
- West Selby Ridge
- The Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor
- The Skipwith Lowlands
- East Selby Farmlands
- West Selby Plain
- The Hambleton Sandstone Ridge
- The River Aire Corridor
- The Camblesforth Lowlands
- Southern Farmlands

4.2 The landscape character descriptions are prepared to the following standard format:

- key diagram indicating the location of the local landscape character area within Selby District
- plan indicating the overall extent of the local landscape character area and the general distribution of landscape types within it. The plans, which were prepared at A3 size using OS 1:50 000 maps, are reproduced at A4 size.
- 'bullet point' notes of the key characteristics of the local landscape character areas
- photographs illustrating the character of the landscape found within each area
- full descriptions of each local landscape character area, including its general location in relation to adjacent character areas, overall summary of landscape character, followed by a more detailed descriptions of the landscape types present, referring to local geology, features of cultural heritage and nature conservation interest, patterns of land use, settlement and access, together with accompanying plan;
- a commentary that identifies the principal changes that have occurred in the landscape since about 1945

## THE YORK FRINGE

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### Key Characteristics

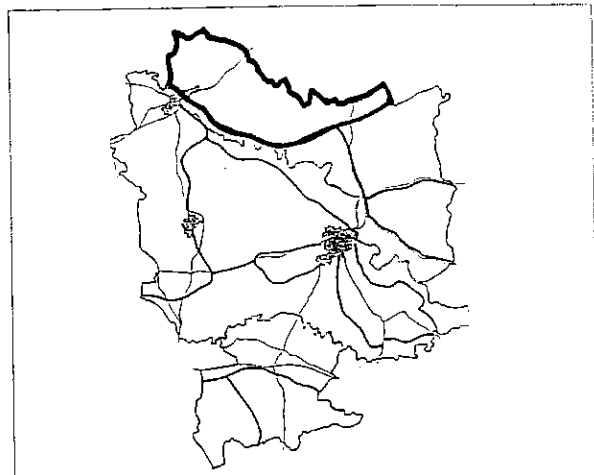
- ◆ the Escrick moraine, a low curving ridge of boulder clay, sand and gravel which was deposited by retreating glaciers
- ◆ strong rural character, relatively isolated, quiet and tranquil
- ◆ small nucleated villages and farmsteads and no large settlements
- ◆ gently rolling or flat arable farmland, with areas of woodland, and traditional mixed arable and pasture
- ◆ large historic houses within parkland, located either within pastoral valley settings, or on locally elevated ridgetops

The York Fringe lies entirely within and forms the southern part of the Vale of York RCA. The most northerly of the District's character areas, it is defined along the foot of the Escrick moraine, an irregular undulating ridge of glacial material that is locally distinctive. The ridge rises some 15 metres above surrounding levels, and is breached by the river Ouse as it flows southward to its confluence with the Wharfe.

Fertile soils have developed over the superficial glacial deposits, and much of the York Fringe is intensively cultivated open arable farmland growing wheat, sugar beet and potatoes. The land is gently undulating, or flat in places, and longer views across the countryside are often limited by low subtle landforms and by woodland cover. Hedgerow trees are infrequent, and remaining hedgerows are gappy and low-cut, defining fields that are regular and medium - large or large in size. Despite the widespread and intensive cultivation of the area, there remain a number of locally important wetland, grassland and woodland sites that are of nature conservation interest and add variety to the character of the landscape.

These include in particular the wetland sites clustered around Healaugh Priory and near Catterton, and the Tadcaster Mere SSSI.

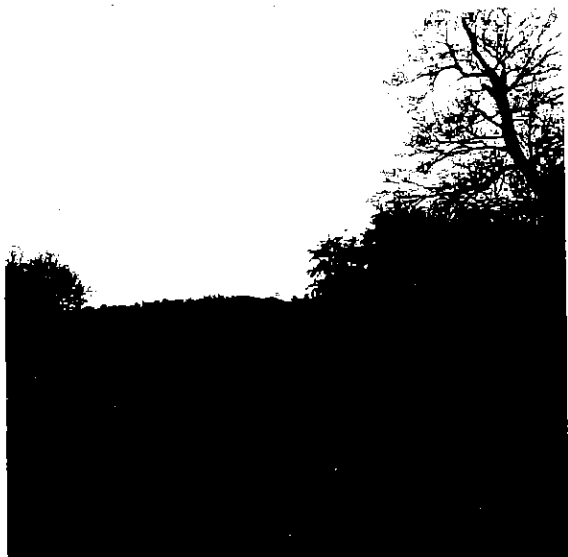
The York Fringe has a strong rural character. Although the A64(T) Roman Road, A19(T) and railway radiate out from York to cross the area in a broadly north-south direction, there are no west-east links across the river Ouse, and the area is largely by-passed by traffic. As a result, the York Fringe has a relatively isolated, quiet and tranquil character. There are few urban features



within the area, apart from development associated with the A64(T), and the Acaster Malbis airfield. This WWII airfield, sited within open farmland, is a testament to the importance of the Vale of York during WWII. Surviving runways and domestic accommodation located to the north-east of the airfield, within the City of York, have an influence on local character.

There are no large settlements in the York Fringe, although small nucleated villages and farmsteads are scattered across the area. Many, including Healaugh, Catterton, Bilborough, Bolton Percy, Appleton Roebuck, Acaster Selby, Stillingfleet and Escrick were recorded in the Domesday Survey, suggesting that the framework of the modern settlement pattern was essentially established prior to the 11th century. A number of villages, in particular Healaugh, Appleton Roebuck and Bilborough have managed to retain a surrounding fringe of narrow strip fields, which confer a distinctive small-scale pattern to the landscape. The subtle form of some of the best preserved ridge and furrow earthworks in the District often distinguishes these fields, surviving remnants of the post-medieval enclosure system.

Flat wooded farmland is characteristic of the landscape to the south and west of Catterton, where blocks and belts of broadleaf woodland and mixed plantations provide visual enclosure and are distinctive features of the landscape. Some of the woodlands are ancient, including Bilborough Whin, and Shire Oaks, a sizeable woodland located on the District boundary which contains one of the few remaining heronries in Yorkshire and is of particular nature conservation interest. Although arable cultivation



predominates, pockets of more traditional mixed farmland remain, for example around Catterton, where medium sized fields of both pasture and arable crops are enclosed by rich well-managed hedgerows with mature hedgerow oaks. Wooded farmland also occurs on the undulating ridgeland around Escrick, where broadleaf and mixed plantation woodlands are frequent and largely estate-managed. Of these Moreby Wood comprises mixed planting on an ancient woodland site, and Gashouse Plantation contains a number of ponds and is particularly diverse.

In the vicinity of Bolton Percy, estate management is also evident. Agriculture is rather less intensive and there is a patchwork of smaller fields of both pasture and arable crops. Unimproved hay meadows are of District conservation value, as is the wide meandering stream and associated marshy land found to the west of the village.

A number of large historic houses, including Nun Appleton Hall, Moreby Hall, Oxton Hall and Escrick Park are located either within the pastoral valley settings of the rivers Wharfe and Ouse, or on locally elevated ridgetop sites. Parkland associated with them is an important feature of the York Fringe landscape, in particular the extensive landscaped parkland which surrounds Nun Appleton Hall, (17th century Grade II Listed Building), which is a Registered Historic Park and Garden.

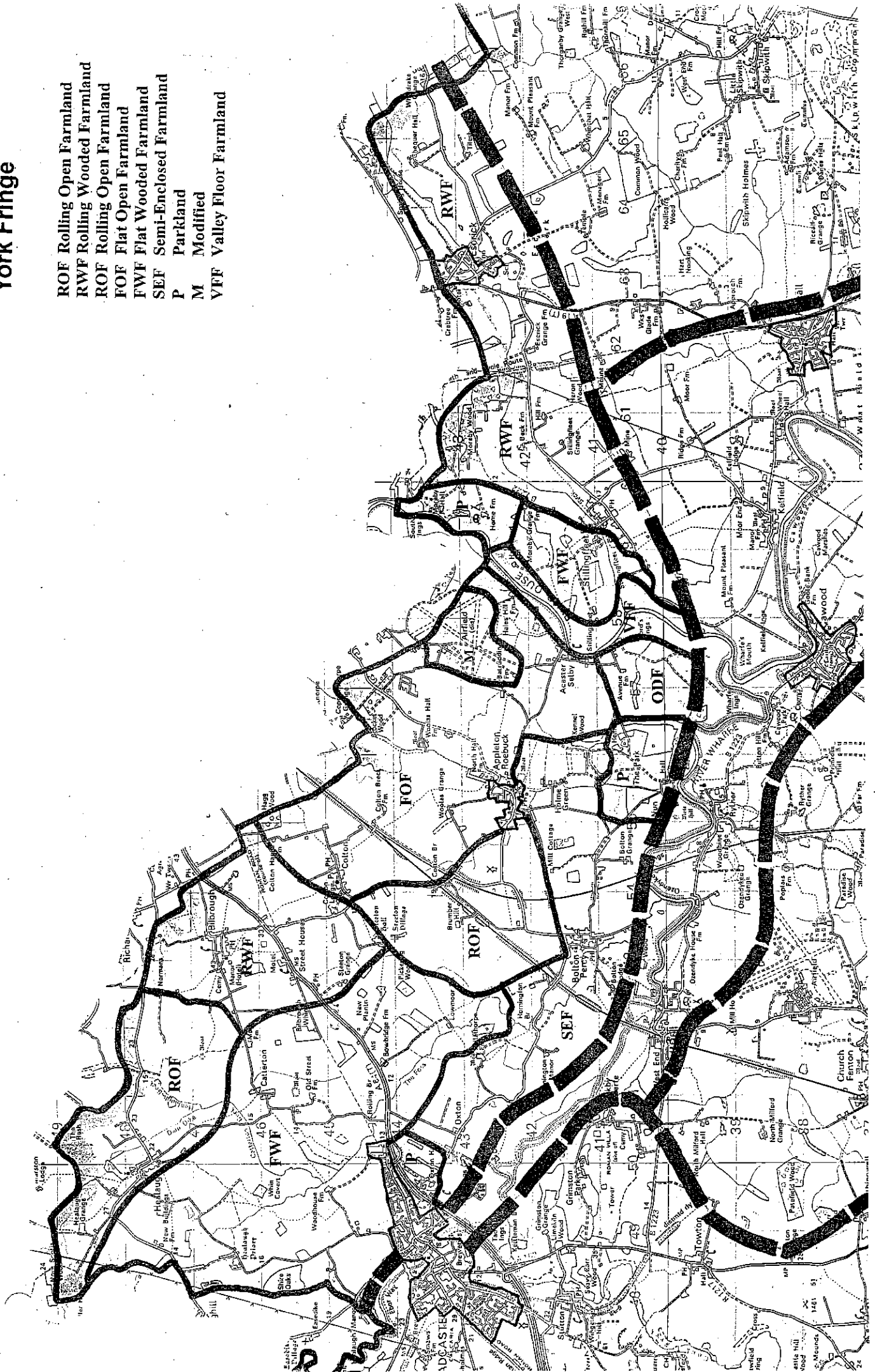
#### Changes in the Landscape:

- New use of disused railway line as long distance footpath/cycleway
- Development adjacent to the A64(T) road
- New uses/development within historic parks, including the conversion of Escrick Park to a school, and the development of camping/caravan sites at Moreby Hall, in response to York-based tourism
- Under-management of woodlands and of parkland features within designed landscapes, which show signs of over-maturity.
- Intensification of arable farming has led in places to the loss of field hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and some fragmentation of field pattern. The structure of the landscape has been partially eroded and is becoming more open as a result.



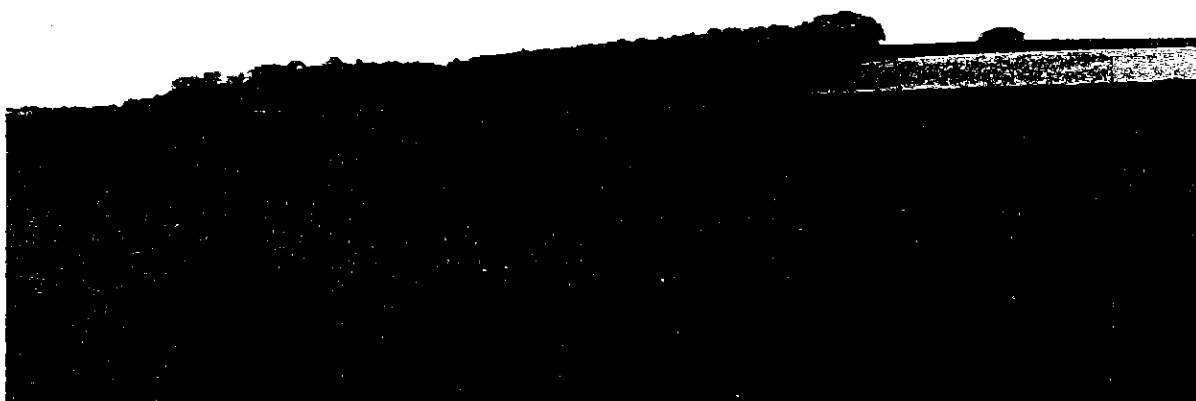
# York Fringe

- ROF Rolling Open Farmland
- RWF Rolling Wooded Farmland
- FOF Rolling Open Farmland
- FOF Flat Open Farmland
- FWF Flat Wooded Farmland
- SEF Semi-Enclosed Farmland
- P Parkland
- M Modified
- VFF Valley Floor Farmland



## WEST SELBY RIDGE

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### Key Characteristics

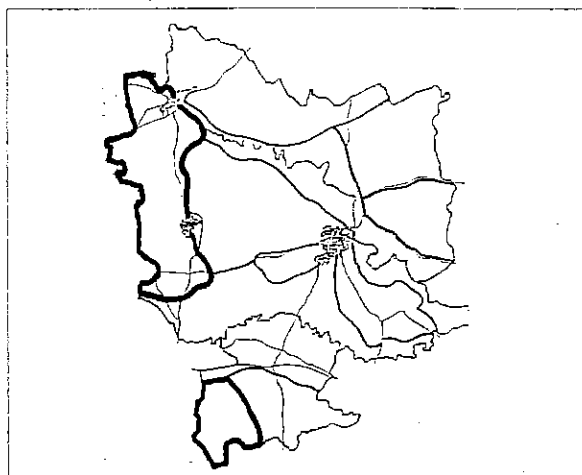
- ◆ low ridge of Magnesian limestone
- ◆ essentially rural character, simple and large in scale
- ◆ large scale rolling arable farmland
- ◆ large blocks of calcareous woodland, much of it replanted on Ancient sites
- ◆ narrow winding limestone valleys
- ◆ exceptional historic legacy
- ◆ pockets of semi-natural calcareous grassland, woodlands, scrub, streamside wetlands are of considerable nature conservation interest
- ◆ historic parklands associated with large country houses
- ◆ long tradition of limestone extraction.

The West Selby Ridge local landscape character area lies entirely within the Southern Magnesian Limestones RCA, and forms part of a low ridge of limestone that extends north to south through Yorkshire in a narrow band. Distinguished both by underlying geology and topography, the ridge is defined along its break in slope with the flatter ground to the east. It frames the western margins of the District, forming two sections that are separated by the broad valley of the river Aire. The ridge provides the most extensive variation in landform and relief within the District, which is otherwise remarkably flat. Its characteristic limestone building material and calcareous vegetation communities including species-rich Magnesian limestone grassland and ash-oak woodland are distinctive within the District.

The West Selby Ridge has an essentially rural character that is simple and large in scale. Much of the higher, western part of the area is gently rolling wooded arable farmland, with open arable farmland on lower-lying and flatter land to the east. Within this limestone

scenery narrow winding streams flow eastwards across the dip slope of the limestone ridge, while the valley of the river Wharfe runs along the edge of the limestone, on the northern boundary of the District, fringed by flat low-lying valley farmland.

Small limestone villages, individual farmsteads, large country mansions and associated historic parkland also contribute distinctive features to the landscape of the West Selby Ridge.



The Magnesian limestone ridge is asymmetric, with a gentle rolling dip slope, and a low escarpment which lies to the west, beyond the District boundary. Although low in absolute terms, the ridge feels relatively elevated, and in places offers wide views over the surrounding lowlands.

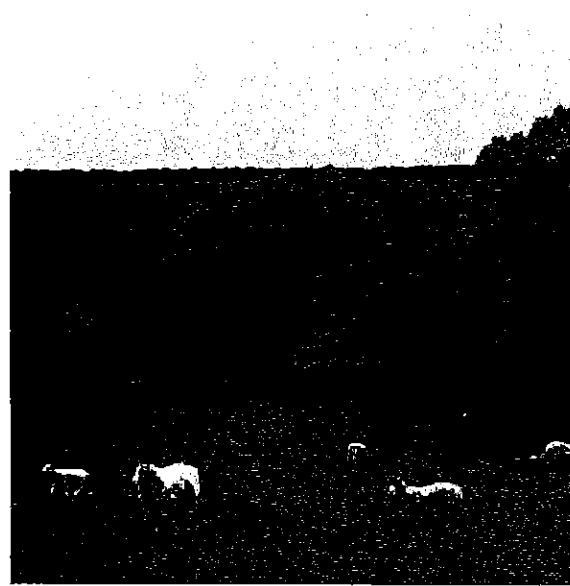
Well-drained, highly fertile grade 2 soils have developed over the Magnesian limestone bedrock, and are intensively cultivated for a range of arable crops. Fields are large and open, and their typically rectilinear pattern dates from the later Parliamentary enclosures of the 18th and 19th century. Low cut, gappy and fragmented hedgerows generally define the fields, although on estate-managed land hedgerows are often thicker and more continuous. Although most land is intensively cultivated, there are important areas of unimproved and semi-improved limestone grassland which survive on difficult or unsuitable land. These occur on steep banks adjacent to Cock Beck, within the Sherburn Willows SSSI, on roadside verges, within disused quarries, and within the churchyard at Monk Fryston.

Within the gently rolling wooded farmland, large blocks and belts of broadleaf woodland and mixed plantations are particularly characteristic of the landscape. Some were planted primarily as sporting coverts, but many have ancient origins, including Whin Covert, Castle Wood, Hazelwood and Wake Wood which are excellent examples of limestone woodland with a characteristic herb layer that provides a great diversity of flowering ground flora in spring. Some woods including Hayton Wood and The Rein, are also significant for their nationally important Iron Age/Romano-British and Neolithic remains. In the lower-lying eastern parts of the area, the arable farmland is gently rolling and open, with smooth horizons that are interrupted by the occasional farm building or group of trees. Fields are typically very large and regular, and partially defined by remnant hedgerows.

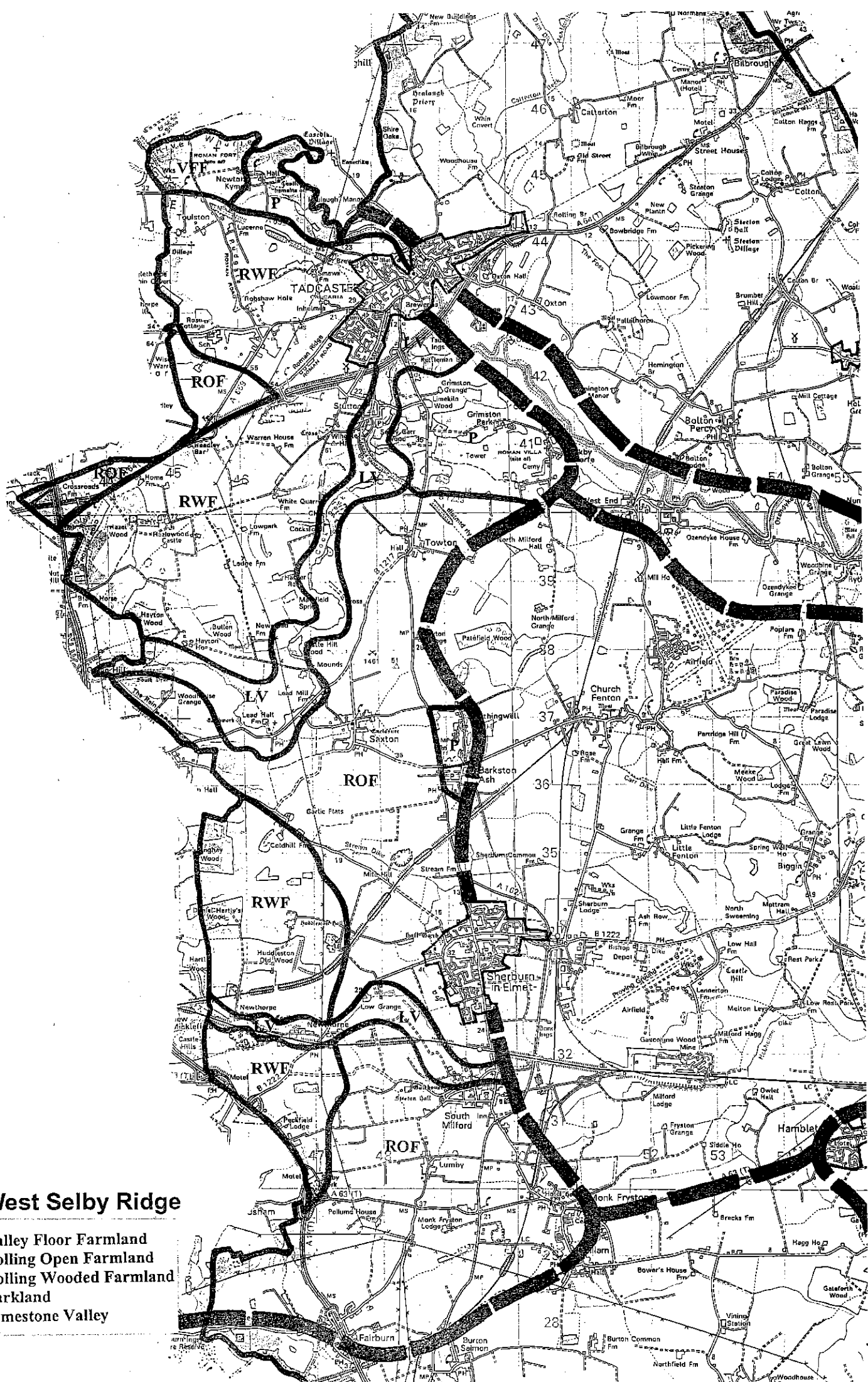
Wetlands and streams are relatively unusual features within permeable Magnesian limestone scenery. The limestone valleys of Cock Beck and Mires Beck in the northern part of the ridge, and the River Went in the southern part, are diverse linear landscapes that make a considerable contribution to the West Selby Ridge. Cock Beck links

areas of grazing pasture and woodland, unimproved calcareous grassland, and areas of scrub, and is an important aquatic habitat in its own right. Natural wetlands, fen and grassland habitats occur in the Mires Beck valley at the Sherburn Willows SSSI, while the steep and picturesque Brockadale stretch of the Went valley combines craggy limestone outcrops with diverse woodlands, limestone grassland and species-rich meadows beside the river Went.

The limestone ridge has traditionally been a very important area for settlement and communications. The present day landscape of arable farmland conceals a buried landscape of cropmark enclosures and field systems that are visible on aerial photographs. These include a large number of Iron Age/Romano British settlements, and the regionally and nationally important archaeological remains at Newton Kyme which contain a Neolithic henge and barrow cemetery and extensive Roman military forts and camps. The remains indicate that the Selby Limestone Ridge was extensively farmed and settled during the Iron Age/Romano-British period.

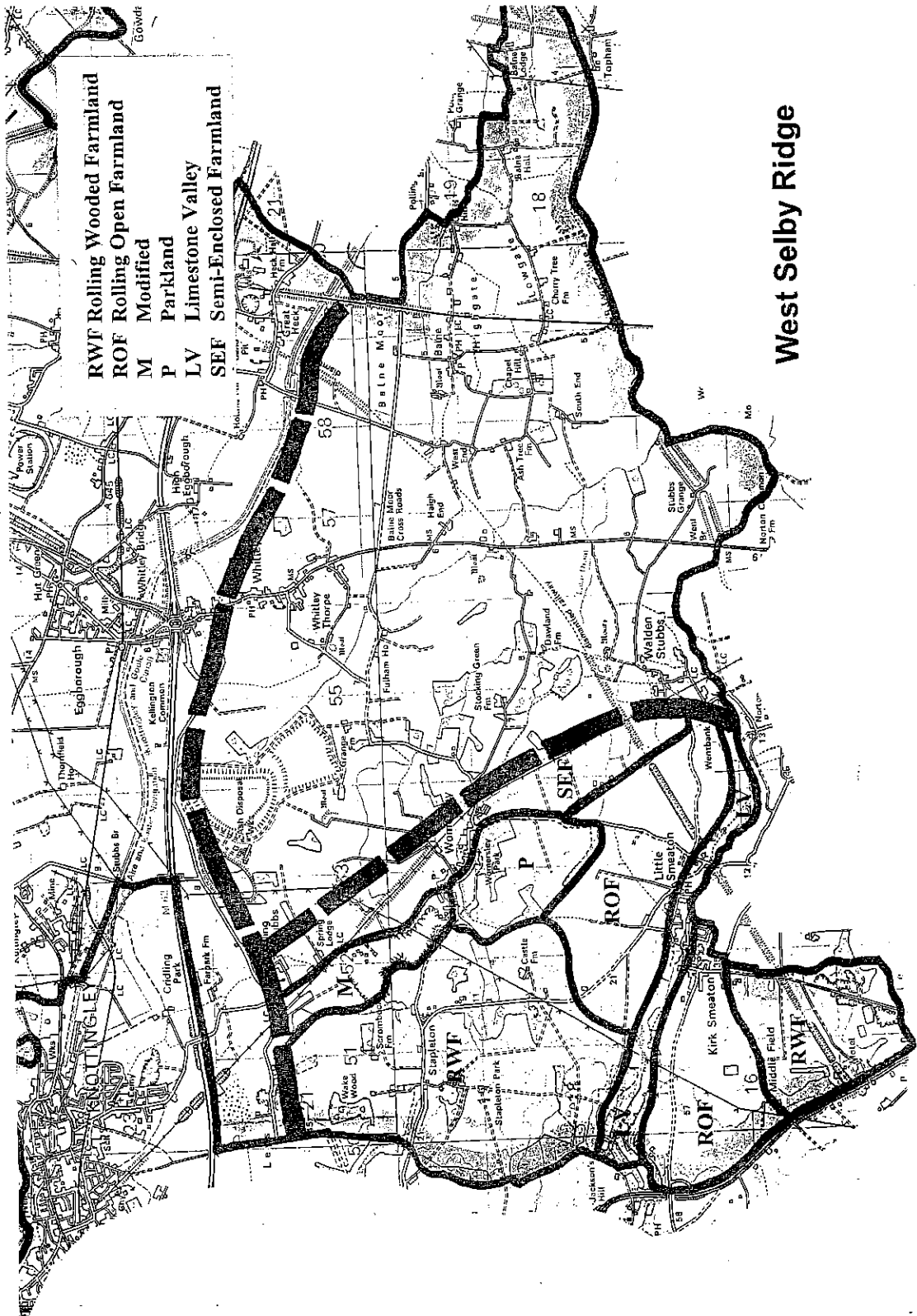


The high ground of the ridge was used from early times to by-pass the expanse of wet marshy wastelands which lay to the east, and the northern part of the ridge is important as the main focus for Roman military activity in the District. This accounts for the network of Roman and later roads in the area, together with the strategically important bridging points on the River Wharfe at Tadcaster and Newton Kyme, which were important military and civilian set-



**West Selby Ridge**

- VFF Valley Floor Farmland
- ROF Rolling Open Farmland
- RWF Rolling Wooded Farmland
- P Parkland
- LV Limestone Valley



- RWF Rolling Wooded Farmland
- ROF Rolling Open Farmland
- M Modified
- P Parkland
- LV Limestone Valley
- SEF Semi-Enclosed Farmland

West Selby Ridge





tlements from the Roman period onwards. Tadcaster remains the largest town within the limestone ridge.

The modern settlement pattern has early origins, with many village names appearing in Anglo Saxon manuscripts and/or the Domesday Survey. Sherburn was a particularly important religious estate centre from at least the 9th century and Hall Garth is traditionally regarded as the site of the palace of King Athelstan (895 -939 AD). A dispersed pattern of small nucleated villages such as Saxton, estate villages including Womersley, and large isolated farms is characteristic of the area. The distinctive character and appearance of these villages owes much to the use of local Magnesian limestone as a building material, often set off by contrasting red clay pantile roofs. Many of the settlements, including Womersley, South Milford, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Barkston Ash, Towton and Tadcaster are strategically sited on the limestone ridge, just above the foot of the dip slope.

The Selby Limestone Ridge contains the site of one of the most important and decisive battles of the Wars of the Roses. The Battle of Towton was fought in 1461 and saw the Yorkist Army under Edward IV defeat the Lancastrians under Henry VI. The battle took place over open arable fields much like the modern landscape, with substantial woodland on both flanks. But for the absence of narrow strips within the fields, the modern scene is remarkably unchanged from 1461. A small number of visible features relating to, or commemorating, the event survive within

the immediate vicinity of Towton. These include a number of burial sites for the battle victims and Lord Dacre's commemorative cross. The site of the battlefield is considered to be of national importance and has been included in the English Heritage Register of Historic Battlefields.

Large country mansions, including Grimston Park, Newton Kyme Hall, Womersley Park, and Scarthingwell Park are a characteristic feature of the West Selby Ridge. Most were, at one time, the local seats of industrial magnates, and include former medieval estates and manors that were often redesigned in the 18th/19th century, after the fashion at the time. Historic parkland surrounding these mansions is of particular interest, and often includes features such as formal gardens, fountains, walls and railings, avenues of trees, clumps and groups of trees, lakes and fountains, all of which have a designed quality which makes a distinctive contribution to the local landscape. Grimston Park and Newton Kyme Hall are enhanced by their settings close to the river Wharfe. A number of parklands within the District are included by English Heritage in a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

There is a long history of limestone extraction within the area. During the great building periods of the Middle Ages, local limestone was in great demand. Stone from quarries at Tadcaster and Huddleston for example was used for York Minster, York City walls, Selby Abbey, Beverley,

Howden and parts of Cambridge University.

Magnesian Limestone is still quarried at various locations within the ridge, including Smaws Quarry near Tadcaster and the Darrington Quarries to the north of Womersley. Many small disused quarries, such as Newthorpe Quarry, are scattered across the ridge. They have been left to revegetate over a long period and have naturally recolonised with the local flora including scrub woodland and species-rich grassland. The old quarries provide a diversity of successional stages ranging from bare rock and spoil to secondary calcareous woodland that is of particular conservation interest.

### Changes in the Landscape

- Intensification of arable farming has led to the loss or under-management of field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and some fragmentation of field pattern, and the degradation or destruction of buried archaeological remains. The structure of the landscape has been partially eroded and is becoming more open as a result.
- Gradual loss of woodland due to removal for the expansion of quarrying, and for arable cultivation.
- Under-management of woodlands and of parkland features within designed landscapes, which are showing signs of over-maturity.
- Loss of limestone grasslands through conversion to arable cultivation.

# THE WEST SELBY PLAIN

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## Key Characteristics

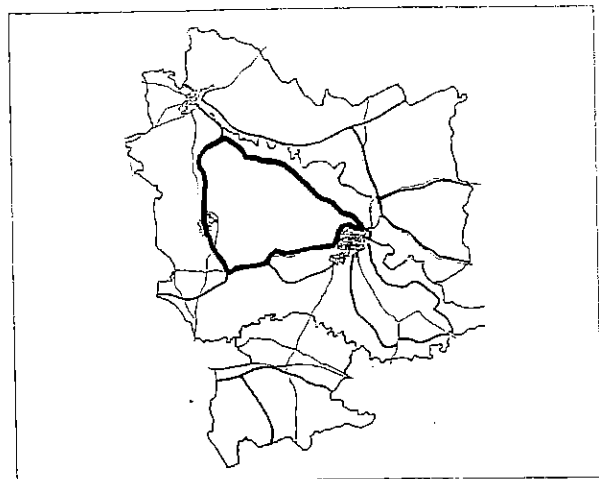
- extensive area of flat open low-lying farmland with arable crops intensively cultivated in large or very large fields with few trees or hedgerows
- belt of semi-enclosed or lightly wooded landscape with frequent hedgerow trees and small woodlands
- very sparse settlement, with only a few isolated properties
- Bishop's Wood, the largest woodland in Selby
- rural fringe character of farmland adjacent to Selby
- Church Fenton airfield, still in use as a training centre by the RAF

The West Selby Plain is located centrally within the District. It extends eastwards from the foot of the West Selby Magnesian limestone ridge, between the river floodplains of the Aire valley to the south and the River Wharfe/Ouse corridor to the north. The plain lies entirely within the Humberhead Levels RCA, and is an extensive area of essentially flat low-lying farmland, less than 10 metres above sea level in elevation. Great thicknesses of superficial deposits mask the underlying Permo-Triassic Bunter Sandstones. Most of it is glaciolacustrine silts and clays, and there is also a broad band of coarser wind-blown sand deposits that fringe the River Wharfe/Ouse corridor to the north. Good quality drained soils have developed over the drift deposits, and the farmland is one of the most productive cropping areas in Britain.

Although Selby District was generally well-settled by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, in a pattern which shows a marked concentration of villages and other settlements on higher drier ground, the West Selby Plain would still have been a large expanse of marshy 'wasteland' at

this time. Despite subsequent drainage improvements, the historic pattern remains essentially unaltered and the West Selby Plain is very sparsely settled, with only a few isolated individual properties, and farms with large agricultural farm buildings.

Apart from Church Fenton, which is recorded in the Domesday survey, and Biggin village, that dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, early settlement is





restricted to a few moated sites and to Rest Park, a manor and Park which abuts Bishop's Dike and which was retained by the Archbishop of York.

Much of the West Selby Plain is flat open arable farmland, intensively cultivated mainly for cereals and sugar beet. Fields are generally large or very large with few trees or hedgerows to provide texture and pattern. Woodland is absent, with the exception of the recent planting associated with the Gascoigne mine. The level of arable production is almost industrial in its intensity, an effect that is increased by the lack of natural features within the farmland. Long views are available across the open landscape, particularly towards the south, where pylons, transmission lines and power station cooling towers are features on the horizon. There are very few sites of ecological interest within the West Selby Plain, due to the intensity of agricultural production.

Within the open farmland are the modified landscapes of two former WWII airfields located at Sherburn and Church Fenton. The former Sherburn airfield now accommodates significant non-agricultural land uses, including the Gascoigne Wood deep mine, an employment/industrial estate and a vehicle proving ground. In contrast, the Church Fenton airfield is still in use by the RAF as a training centre. It is an imposing landscape feature and considered to be one of the most important surviving airfields in England. Many of the original wartime buildings have survived, but have not been reused and lie derelict but relatively intact behind the modern RAF buildings. There is also an interesting set of surviving fighter defences and fighter pens around the airfield which adds to its historic importance.

Other landscape types within the character area include lightly wooded or semi-enclosed arable farmland, which occurs on lighter sandy drift soils to the north-east of Bishop's Wood. Scattered small woodlands and lines of remnant hedgerow trees confer a lightly wooded character on the medium-large scale arable farmland, providing a degree of visual enclosure and interrupting wider views.

Bishop's Wood is the most extensive woodland in the District. It is an ancient replanted woodland with some areas of ancient woodland remaining. Broad-leaved trees fringe the woodland rides, and a small pond is noted for its species-rich flora. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century Bishop's Wood was the favourite hunting ground for the bishops, abbots and kings who stayed at nearby Cawood Castle and Rest Park. Other woods in the area, including Paradise Wood are also ancient, and Great Lawn Wood is a replanted woodland on an ancient site.

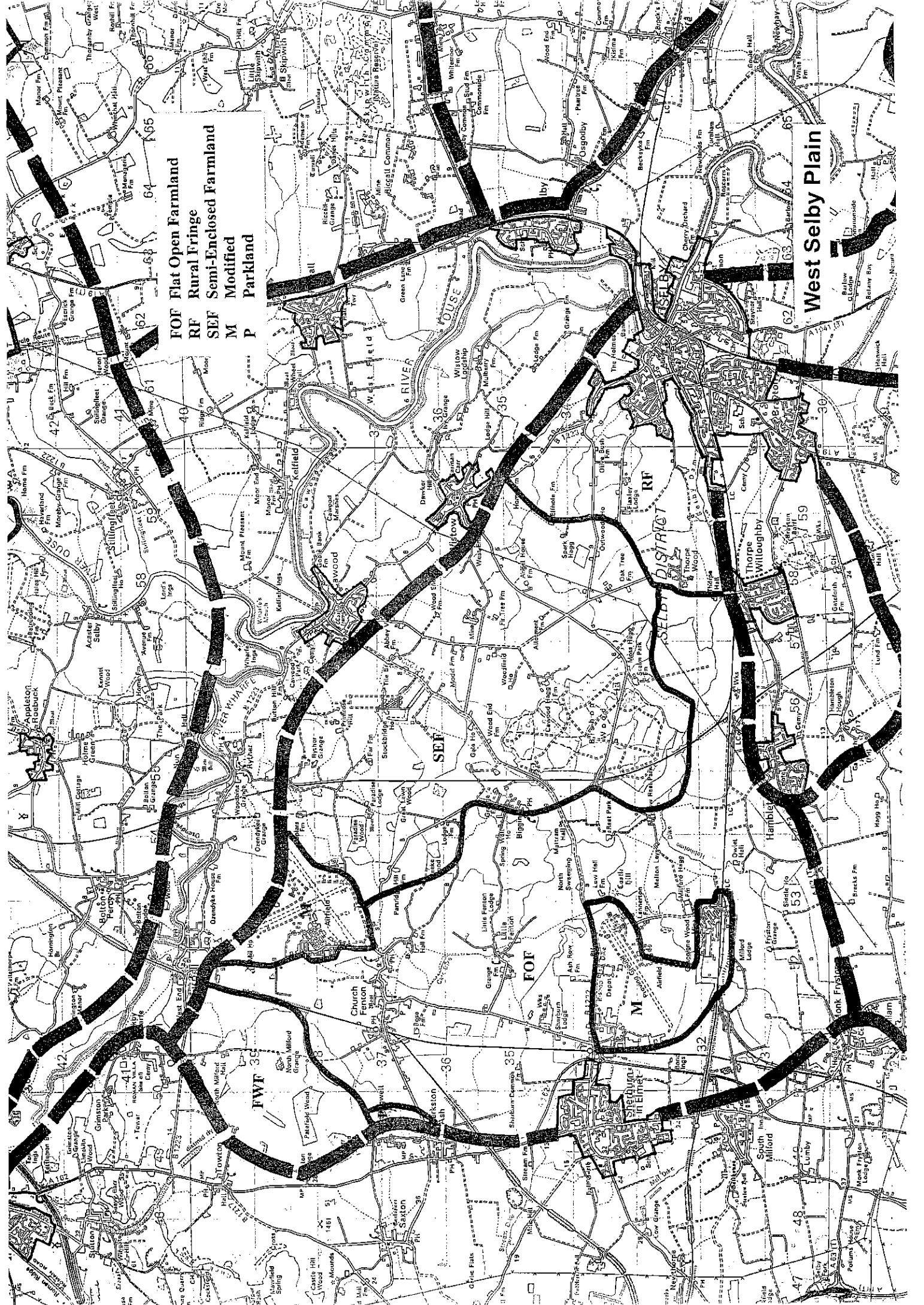
The ecclesiastical legacy is also reflected in Bishop's Dike, an important historic landscape feature built by the Bishop of York. Bishop's Dike is a canalised stream that bisects the area, extending alongside the B1222 road from Sherburn-in-Elmet to the river Ouse at Cawood. It dates from at least the 14th century and was used to transport limestone from the Huddlestone quarries to Cawood, for onward shipment up the Ouse to York.

A small area of flat wooded farmland is characteristic of the north-western part of the West Selby Plain. Here, a cluster of ancient and replanted woodland sites, including Towton



**FOF** Flat Open Farmland  
**RF** Rural Fringe  
**SEF** Semi-Enclosed Farmland  
**M** Modified  
**P** Parkland

**West Selby Plain**



Spring wood, Patefield Wood and Carr Wood provide visual enclosure within open arable farmland.

The eastern part of the West Selby Plain is influenced by its proximity to Selby and has a distinctive rural fringe character. Dense residential estates and factory sites provide an abrupt and distinctively urban backdrop to flat or gently undulating farmland. Non-agricultural land uses are evident, including a caravan site and boat storage facility, and a number of the scattered farmhouses and other individual properties have lost their association with farmland and have been improved for residential rather than agricultural use. Farming within the rural fringe is generally less intensive, and there are smaller fields of mixed arable and livestock (sheep) grazing, particularly adjacent to Black Fen Drain. Pastures are also in use as horse grazing. Mature vegetation fringing Black Fen Drain as it crosses The Holmes is an important linear landscape feature and wildlife corridor that helps to screen the adjacent factory development from view.

### Changes in the landscape

- Considerable intensification of arable farming has created a very open industrial agricultural landscape in some places, resulting in the further loss of landscape features particularly hedgerows and copses in some parts of the area, leading to field enlargement, and the erosion of landscape pattern and texture. Buried archaeological remains have also been degraded or destroyed through arable cultivation. The structure of the landscape has also been partially eroded within the north-eastern parts of the area, and is becoming more open as a result.
- Commercial and industrial development on the former Sherburn airfield
- More recent residential development in the post-war period has resulted in places in abrupt boundaries to housing estates and a 'hard' interface between Selby and the surrounding countryside.
- Increase in non-agricultural activities within farmland on the fringes of Selby, including caravan and boat storage, and the reduced level of management of farmland is leading to the development of a more degraded rural/urban fringe around Selby.



## THE SKIPWITH LOWLANDS



### Key Characteristics

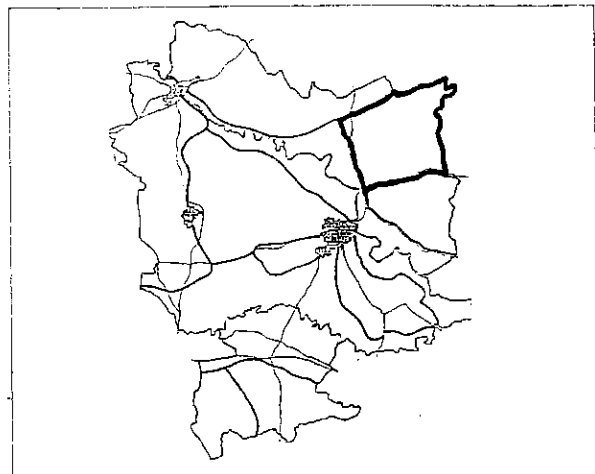
- flat wooded arable farmland, visually enclosed and characteristically estate-managed
- extensive area of semi-natural lowland heath of high conservation value
- many scattered farmsteads and cottages have a unity of style, reflecting estate ownership
- unimproved pastoral scenery of the narrow river Derwent floodplain which is of high conservation value
- the Riccall mine, developed on the former Riccall airfield
- wide grassy verges

The Skipwith Lowlands lie in the north-east corner of Selby District, at the foot of the Escrick moraine. The lowlands lie entirely within the Humberhead Levels Regional Character Area, where landform is flat or very gently undulating, and underlying Permo-Triassic Bunter Sandstones are overlain by thick deposits of glacial drift. These deposits include extensive areas of wind-blown sand on which well-drained sandy acidic soils have developed that are generally of poorer agricultural quality. The narrow valley corridor of the river Derwent forms the eastern boundary of the area, while the broader floodplain of the river Ouse lies to the west. The A163 Selby-Beverley road forms the southern boundary of the character area, and represents a transition to more open agricultural landscapes beyond.

The lowlands have a strong rural character which, apart from the Riccall mine, is generally unaffected by industrial or urban development. Much of the area comprises flat wooded arable farmland that is visually enclosed and characteristically estate-managed. Lowland heath that has developed on Skipwith Common provides a

distinctively varied, colourful and textured landscape. Semi-enclosed farmland provides a transition to the unimproved traditional pastoral scenery of the narrow river Derwent floodplain.

There are no large settlements within the Skipwith Lowlands. However there is extensive buried evidence that the area was intensively settled and farmed by Iron Age/Romano British times. This includes a distinct and complex system of cropmarks that extends between Riccall Common, Adamson farm, Skipwith and High



Farm to the south-west of Thorganby. The small scattered villages of Thorganby, Skipwith and North Duffield all have early origins and are recorded in the Domesday Book.

A limited area of open arable farmland occurs adjacent to the A19 road. Cultivated for cereals and other crops, its large fields are subdivided by gappy and low-cut hedgerows. The character of this area is influenced by structures associated with the Riccall mine and the remnants of the WWII Riccall airfield on which the mine is located. Woodland blocks which characterise the flat wooded farmland provide a backdrop to the open farmland. To the north of North Duffield lines of mature broadleaf trees interrupt wider views from the semi-enclosed flat arable farmland.

Large fields of cereals and other arable crops are generally characteristic of the flat wooded farmland, with high-quality turf production established near Thorganby Gale. Partially fragmented and gappy hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees sub-divide the fields, but the hedgerows that line the network of minor roads are typically thick and well-managed, with numerous mature hedgerow oaks, and wide grassy verges. Scattered farmsteads and cottages are features of interest, and typically have a unity of style and finish that results from their ownership by a landed estate. Woodland blocks and belts are key features of the local landscape, and their frequency reflects the relatively poorer quality of land for crop production. Most are mixed coniferous and broadleaf plantation woodland, and some are replanted on ancient sites, including Hollicarrs wood and Common Wood, providing habitats of nature conservation value. Local wooded character is enhanced by the woodland belts and clumps of trees, which are designed features of the landscaped parkland associated with Escrick Park.

The sandy acidic nature of local soils has also led to the development of an extensive area of lowland heath on Skipwith Common SSSI, which is the largest single tract of this habitat type in the north of England. Managed as a nature reserve, a diverse range of semi-natural habitats are present which provide a varied, colourful and textured landscape of high conservation value. These include silver birch woodland and scrub, heather and damp and dry heath, with areas of marsh and open



water. Scrub woodland is also developing along a stretch of disused railway to the north-east of the Common, and creates a wildlife corridor between Skipwith Common and the woodlands to the north.

The river Derwent is an important landscape feature that is apparent in many local views, unconfined by the grassy embankments that line the river Ouse. It would have played a key role in the transport system of the wider area from at least the medieval period. The narrow river floodplain is characterised by open pastures and alluvial flood meadows, with areas of fen and marshland. Drainage ditches sub-divide the pastures and are often reedy, and there are frequent patches of willow scrub and areas of standing water. The agriculturally unimproved riverine landscape fringing the river Derwent is of exceptional nature conservation interest, particularly for wetland birds including Bewick's swan. It is protected within the Derwent Ings and River Derwent SSSIs and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA, SAC NNR and RAMSAR sites. Thicket Priory is a feature of interest within the river floodplain. It occupies the site of a medieval Benedictine priory, and its grounds have a parkland-like quality that adds variety to the riverine landscape.

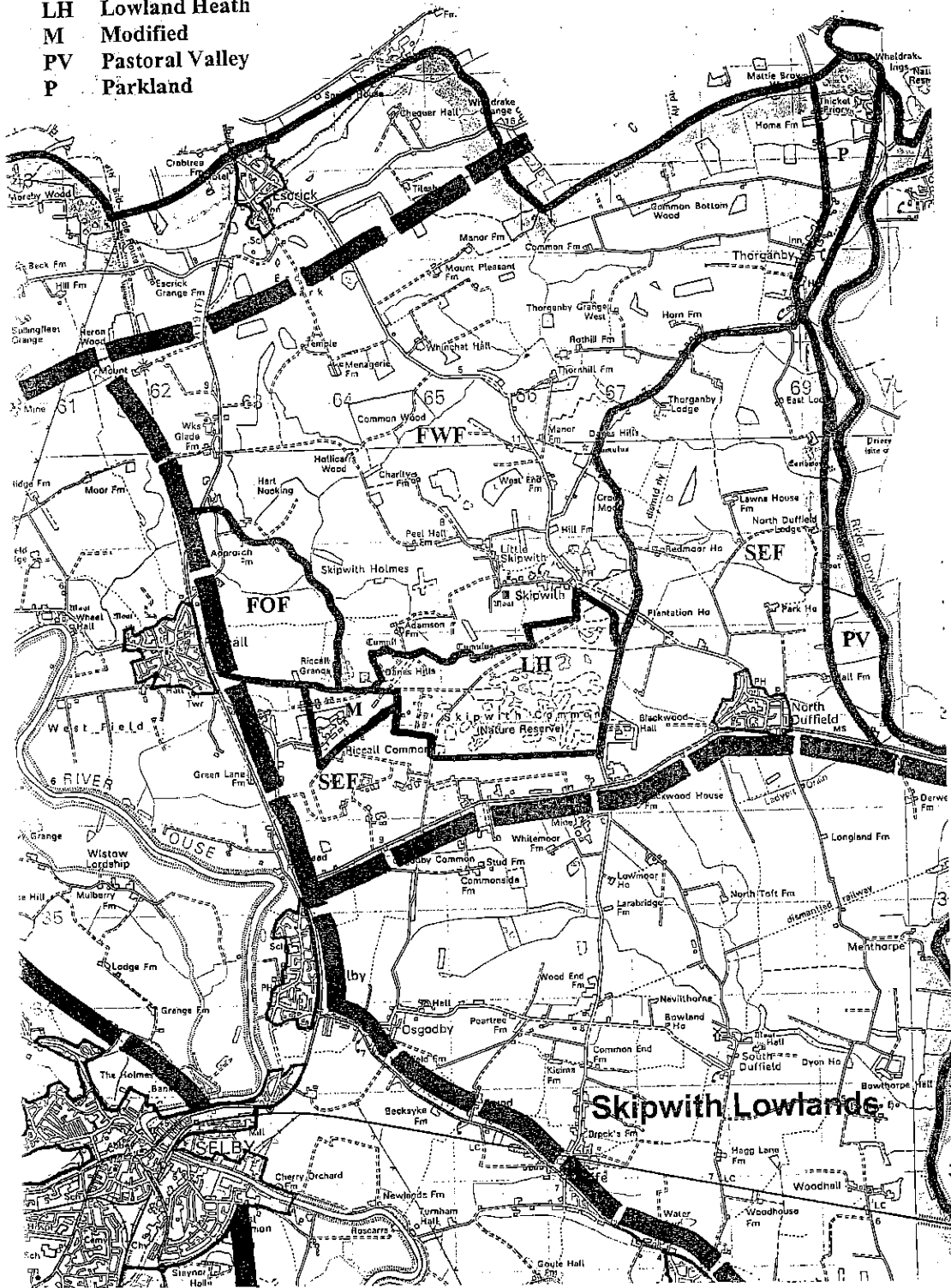




### Changes in the Landscape

- Intensification of arable farming in some parts has led to the under-management of field hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and some loss of field pattern, and the degradation or destruction of buried archaeological remains. The structure of the landscape has been partially eroded and is becoming more open as a result. Development of semi-natural scrub woodland along dismantled railway lines provides valuable wildlife corridors. Decline in the frequency of hedgerow trees within farmland
- Increase in semi-natural character and conservation value of the Derwent valley following designation.
- Expansion of lowland heath habitats at Skipwith Common following its designation and protection as a nature reserve.

- FWF** Flat Wooded Farmland
- FOF** Flat Open Farmland
- LH** Lowland Heath
- M** Modified
- PV** Pastoral Valley
- P** Parkland



## EAST SELBY FARMLAND

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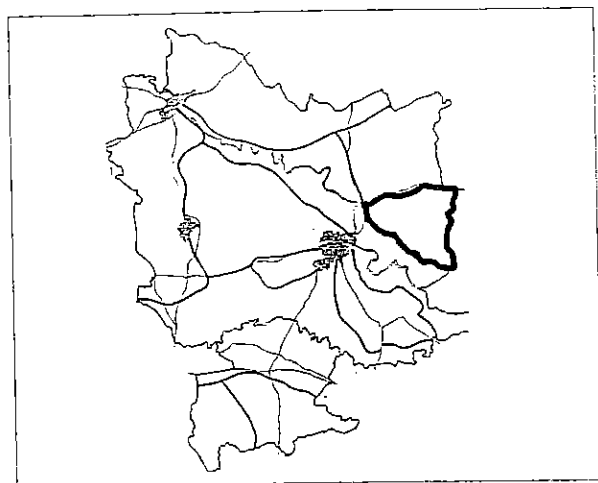
### Key Characteristics

- predominantly flat arable farmland, medium in scale and with frequent lines of hedgerow trees and a strong pattern of enclosure
- area of more traditional mixed farmland with small-medium scale pattern of fields, thick rich hedgerows and numerous hedgerow trees.
- unimproved pastoral scenery of the narrow river Derwent floodplain which is of high conservation value
- dispersed pattern of farmsteads and small nucleated villages

The East Selby Farmland is a lowland character area of the Humberhead Levels RCA. It lies to the south of the A163 Selby to Beverley road and to the north of the A63(T) Selby - Hull road, between the converging course of the rivers Ouse and Derwent. The land is essentially flat, open and very low-lying, less than 10 metres above sea level, and at one time would largely have been marshy ground. Great thicknesses of superficial deposits mask the underlying Permian-Triassic Bunter Sandstones, and include glacial drift, comprising pockets of silt/clay, and wind-blown sand, with river alluvium along the Derwent.

Most of the East Selby Lowland is flat arable farmland growing cereals, potatoes and sugar beet. However the eastern margins which lie within the river Derwent floodplain are characterised by extensive areas of traditionally managed alluvial flood meadow, which contrasts in character with the intensively cultivated farmland of the area.

Much of the arable farmland is characterised by medium- large fields sub-divided by hedgerows that are sometimes gappy and fragmented, but generally retain a strong pattern of enclosure. It lacks blocks of woodland, but has the appearance of being semi-enclosed. This is due to the frequent lines of hedgerow trees, and to the scrub vegetation established along drains, water-courses and the dismantled railway line, which





cumulatively provide intermediate horizons that interrupt wider views. More traditional, less intensive mixed farming takes place in the vicinity of Cliffe Common, where a small-medium scale pattern of fields is enclosed by thick rich hedgerows and numerous hedgerow trees, mainly oak. It forms part of a limited area of flat wooded farmland where small woodlands (including Cliffe Wood, a small semi-natural broadleaf wood on an ancient woodland site) are important visual and ecological features within the wider agricultural landscape. In contrast, flat open arable farmland occurs in the eastern part of the area, where better quality soils have developed on silt and clay drift deposits. Here the fields are considerably larger, the result of hedgerow removal and field amalgamation.

The river Derwent is an important landscape feature that is apparent in many local views, unconfined by the grassy embankments that line the river Ouse. It would also have played a key role in the transport system of the wider area from at least the medieval period. The Derwent floodplain is noted for the unimproved and semi-natural character of its vegetation. Wetlands and grasslands characterise the varied landscape that fringes the river, including alluvial flood meadows, fen and marshland that occur within the Derwent Ings and River Derwent SSSI.

Several large ponds located near Loftsome Bridge and adjacent to the disused railway line provide diverse wetland habitats. Internationally important numbers of winter breeding birds are attracted to the extensive traditionally managed specie-rich flood meadows of the Lower Derwent Valley, and the whole floodplain corridor is of exceptional nature conservation interest, hence its varied designation as SPA, SAC NNR and RAMSAR sites.

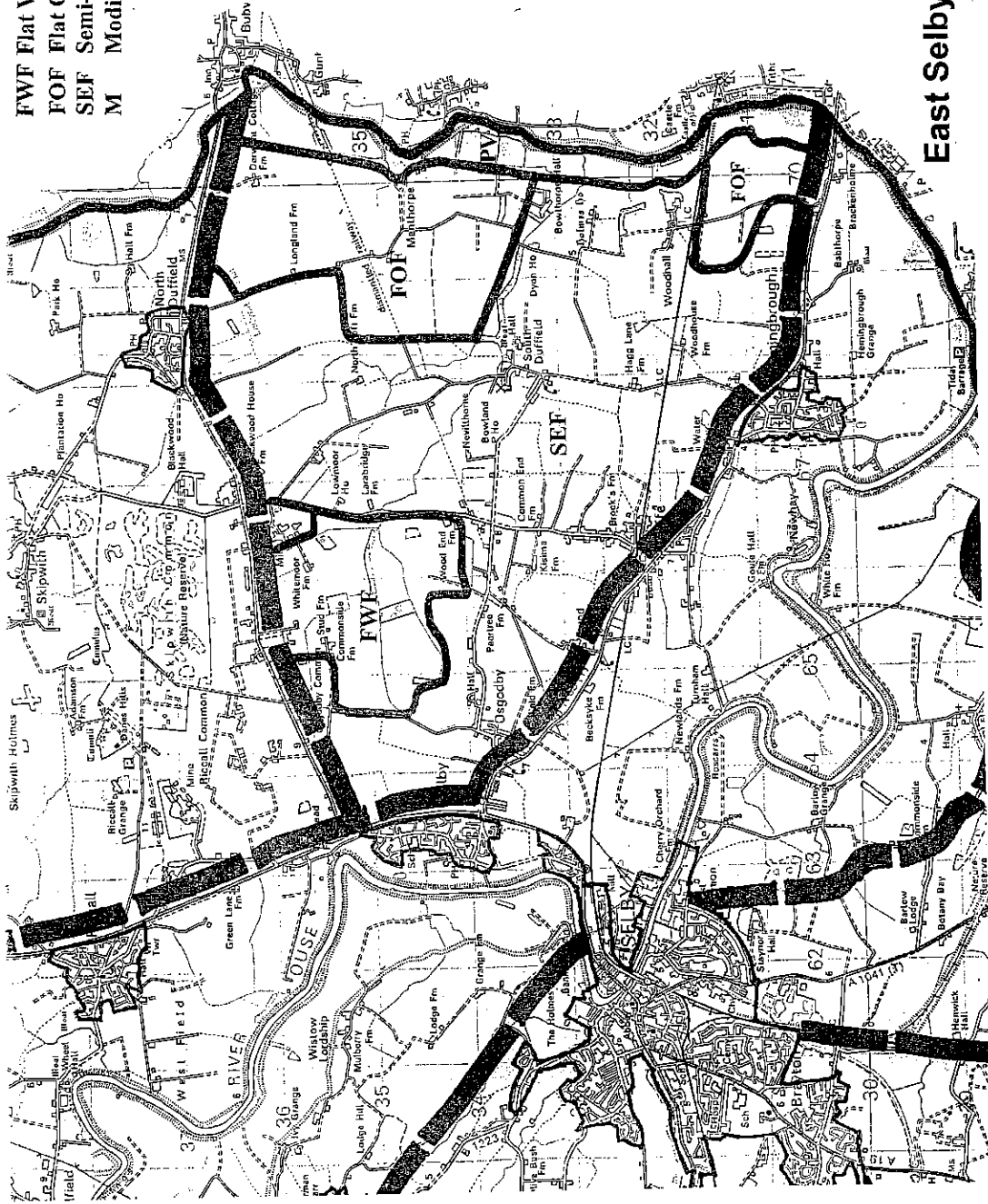
A dispersed pattern of farmsteads and small nucleated villages which lie between the A163 and A63(T) roads are important built features of the landscape. These include South Duffield, which is recorded in the Domesday Book. The Hall at South Duffield retains the best preserved moated site in the area, evidence of the late 12th to 14th century reclamation of 'waste' lands away from settlements. A number of other halls with small associated parklands, such as Bowthorpe Hall, are features of the area, adding variety and interest to the landscape.

These may occupy the sites of deserted medieval villages, possibly indicating deliberate depopulation to make way for the creation of landscaped parkland from the late 16th/17th century onwards.

### Changes in the Landscape

- Loss of field hedgerows and subsequent field enlargement due to more intensive arable cultivation has partially eroded landscape structure, which is becoming more open as a result;
- Increase in semi-natural character and conservation value of the Derwent valley following designation.
- Development of semi-natural scrub woodland along dismantled railway lines provides valuable wildlife corridors.

**FWF** Flat Wooded Farmland  
**FOF** Flat Open Farmland  
**SEF** Semi-Enclosed Farmland  
**M** Modified



**East Selby Farmlands**

# THE WHARFE-OUSE RIVER CORRIDOR

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## Key Characteristics

- ◆ open heavily drained arable farmland with occasional mixed farmland
- ◆ important areas of wetland, diverse marshy grasslands and unimproved neutral grasslands
- ◆ high grassy flood embankments, which visually isolate the river from the surrounding landscape
- ◆ large number of strategically sited historic villages
- ◆ prime highway for trade and communication
- ◆ influence of the Drax power station on the river landscape
- ◆ striking changes in the appearance of the river due to tidal variations,

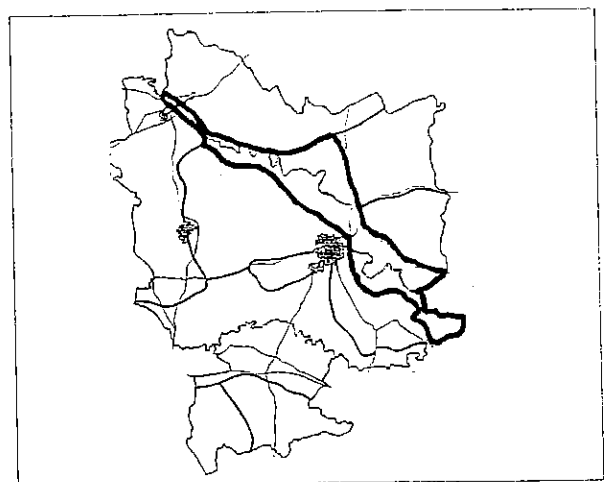
The Wharfe-Ouse river corridor is a long linear character area that lies entirely within the Humberhead Levels RCA. It runs north-west to south-east through the heart of Selby District, from the West Selby Magnesian limestone ridge to the confluence of the Ouse with the river Aire.

In some places the outer boundary of the area indicates a transition to higher, drier land, but elsewhere it is less distinct. The rivers Wharfe and Ouse form part of a navigable lowland river network within Selby District that exerted considerable influence on both the historic settlement and economy of the area. They developed as the prime highways for communication and have probably served as the main transport system for the area from as early as the prehistoric period.

The Wharfe flows along the foot of the Esrcick moraine in a relatively narrow floodplain, but downstream of the Wharfe/Ouse confluence near Cawood, the river corridor is rather broader, particularly in the vicinity of Kelfield

and Wistow. Changes in the course of the river Ouse are reflected in the floodplain downstream of Selby.

The Wharfe-Ouse river corridor is an essentially rural landscape, with a relatively remote and isolated character. There are few bridging points, and the river often presents a barrier to movement within the area. Tidal variation results in striking changes in the appearance of the



river, from a broad deep river at high tide, to a muddy channel at low tide.

Long views are available across and along the river, including views of the imposing Selby Abbey, and of the large scale wharf-side buildings that are prominent features on the edge of Selby. However the proximity of huge cooling tower structures and landforms associated with the Drax power station has a degrading influence on the character of the river landscape downstream of Selby.

Alluvial floodplain farmland fringing the rivers Ouse and Aire is flat and very low-lying (3-5m AOD). It comprises a central core area of marine or river alluvium adjacent to the river channel that is generally less than 5 metres above sea level, and fringing bands of low heavily drained land which rarely rise above 10m AOD, and which would traditionally have formed part of the river landscape.

In many places along the river the immediately fringing land comprises areas of improved permanent pasture typically enclosed by grassy embankment, or by steel piling that has a highly engineered appearance which is visually intrusive. Willow scrub lines some stretches of the river, but generally the banks are open, and changing views of the river are available, depending on the state of the tide.



Although the flood alleviation embankments are highly effective in terms of flood relief, and have led to a significant increase in adjacent land under cultivation, they have considerably altered the natural relationship between the river and its floodplain by physically and visually isolating the river channel from the surrounding landscape.

Important areas of wetland, diverse marshy grasslands and unimproved neutral grasslands also occur along the river, which add variety to the landscape and are of nature conservation value. These include an area of low lying marshland, neutral grassland and managed osier beds at Kirkby Wharfe and the Ulleskelf Mires, a marshy area of sedges, rushes and willows and ditches that attracts wetland birds. South of the River Wharfe, at Ryther Ings and Ozendyke, alluvial flood meadows are managed traditionally by summer cutting and autumn grazing. Bolton Percy Ings SSSI and Nun Appleton Ings are noted for their grasslands and nearby is the southern half of Great Marsh, a further area of diverse marshy grassland. Wetlands are developing in flooded borrow pits beside the Ouse at Barlby, providing a combination of open water, marshy grassland and trees. Similar habitats are also found at Roscars Ponds, beside the Ouse south-east of Selby.

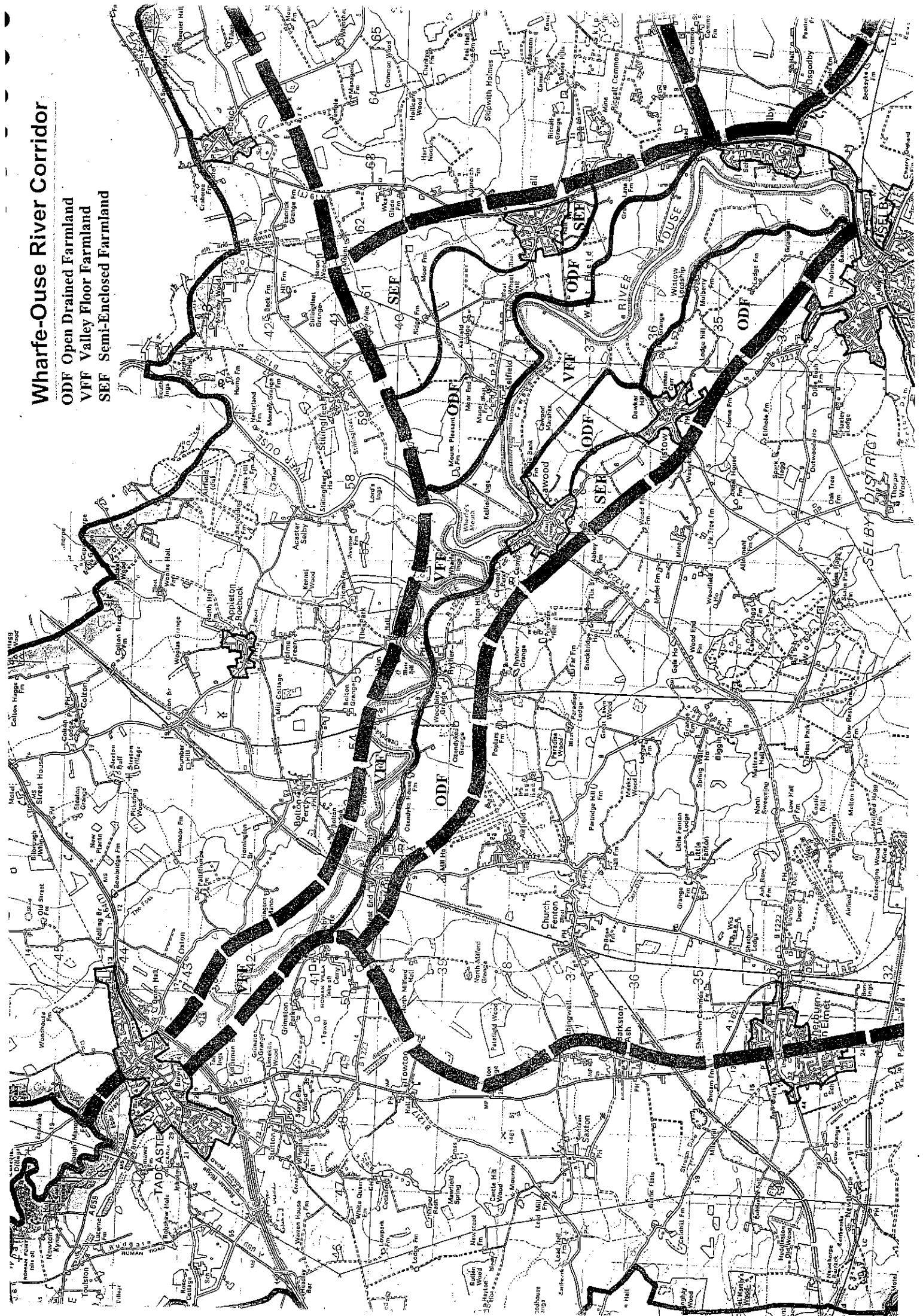
Beyond the flood embankments, the outer fringes of the river Ouse, are generally characterised by very flat open, heavily drained and intensively cultivated arable farmland. The farmland typically lacks landscape pattern, and in places is almost featureless, with only occasional lines of scrub along drainage ditches. In the Wistow Lordship area, large scale very open arable farmland almost entirely lacks any 'natural' landscape features and has the smooth texture of monoculture cereal crops. The only discernible pattern in the landscape is provided by a network of minor roads which sub-divide the farmland, and isolated groups of farm buildings are visual focal points within an otherwise featureless agricultural landscape. In contrast, farmland within the Cawood Marshes is less intensively managed and smaller in scale. Mature willow is established along drainage ditches, and hedgerows define a pattern of linear strip fields adjacent to Marsh Lane that provide significant enclosure. In the Wharfe river corridor, arable farmland is generally medium-large in scale. Only a few gappy hedgerows remain to mark the pattern of field enclosure in the low

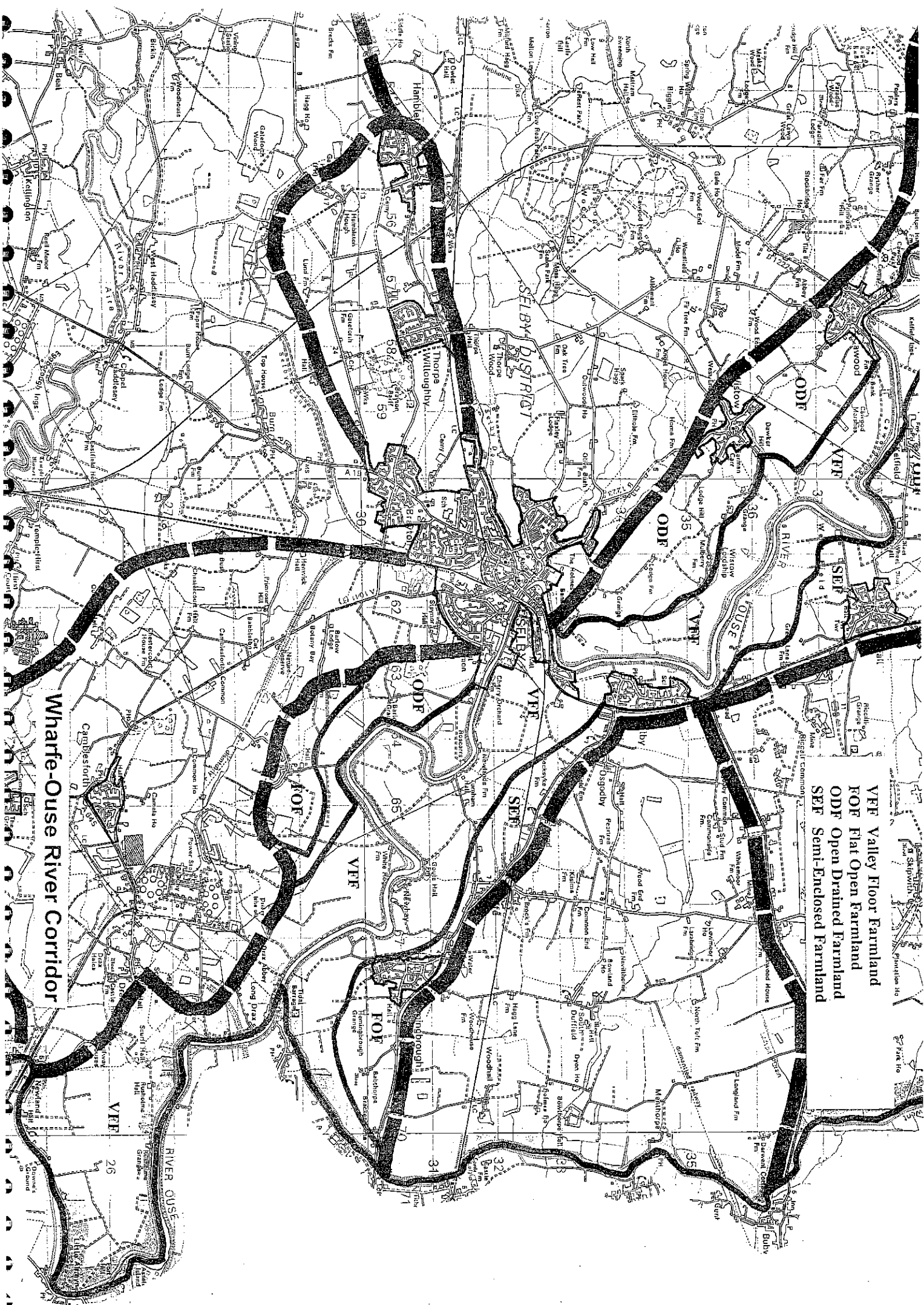
# Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor

ODF Open Drained Farmland

VFF Valley Floor Farmland

SEF Semi-Enclosed Farmland





**VFF** Valley Floor Farmland  
**FOF** Flat Open Farmland  
**ODF** Open Drained Farmland  
**SEF** Semi-Enclosed Farmland

Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor

SELBY DISTRICT

RIVER OUSE

VFF 26

FOF

VFF

ODF

FOF

SEF

VFF

ODF

SEF

VFF

ODF

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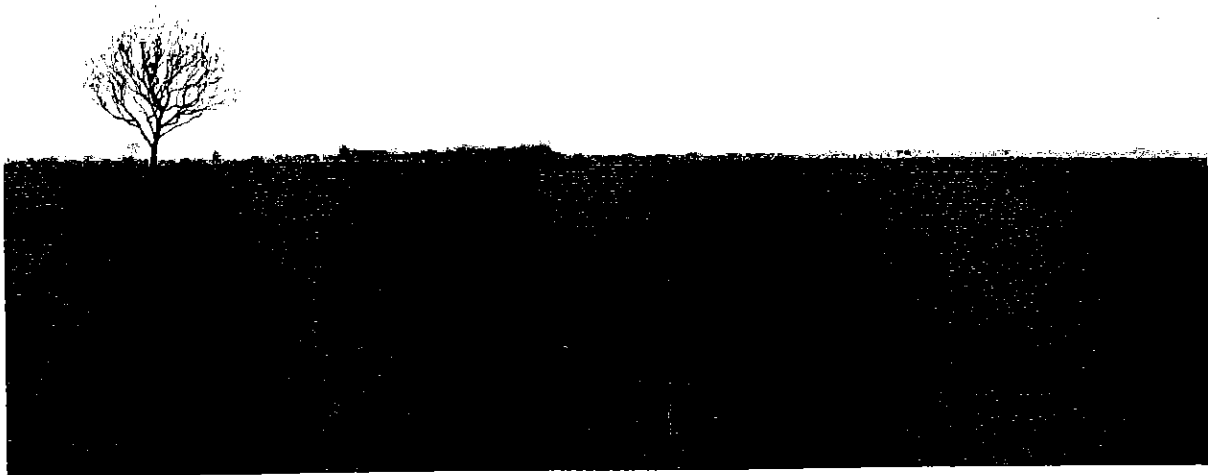
ODF

VFF

ODF

VFF

ODF



drained farmland to the south-west and south-east of Ryther.

Throughout the medieval period until as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the river played an important role in settlement location, communications and trade for the area. Settlement within the river corridor is long established, and all are strategically located adjacent to the river on higher drift deposits, above the wet alluvium that lines the flood-plain floor. Control of traffic on the river, and of river crossing points provided a valued source of revenue in the Middle Ages for the archbishop of York, who had a strong ecclesiastical presence in this area.

Selby, the principal bridging point within the river corridor and the site of Selby abbey, has expanded to form a large and thriving town that serves an extensive farming community. Cawood was also of particular significance being an inland port and an important crossing point of the Ouse, (via ferry until the construction of the present bridge in 1872) for roads leading to and from York and the East Riding. The form of the village reflects its planned development by the archbishop of York. There is also strong documentary evidence for a triple moated episcopal palace belonging to the Bishop of Durham at Riccall.

Within the river corridor there are a considerable number of nucleated villages. Many have pre-conquest origins and retain elements of medieval settlement pattern, and include Ulleskelf, Ryther, Cawood, Wistow, Kelfield, Riccall Barlow and Drax. The network of lanes and footpaths that

once led down from these villages and halls to ferry and landing points are still features of the modern landscape. They indicate the importance of the river in more-localised movement-of-traffic and trade. The landing at Riccall is reputed to be where the Norse anchored their fleet in 1066 before the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Cliffe, Osgodby and Hemingbrough, also medieval settlements were originally located on the river Ouse. However they were isolated from the river when it changed course southwards in the Middle Ages. Barlby, which was recorded in the Domesday Book and lies adjacent to the river Ouse at the junction of the A19/A63(T) roads, has undergone considerable expansion in recent years.

### Changes in the Landscape

- ◆ Field drainage and flood relief schemes have improved the quality of agricultural land but have led to the conversion of permanent pastures to arable cultivation and the loss of wet grassland sites. Flood defence improvements have allowed cultivation of grasslands within former washland areas.
- ◆ Development/expansion of the Drax power station
- ◆ Loss of field hedgerows and subsequent field enlargement within the Wharfe valley due to more intensive arable cultivation has partially eroded landscape structure, which is becoming more open as a result;

# THE HAMBLETON SANDSTONE RIDGE

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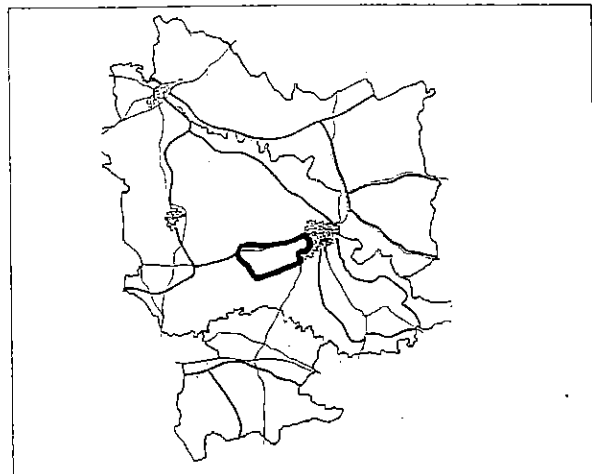
## Key Characteristics

- ◆ low but distinctive ridge is characterised by two wooded hills
- ◆ gently undulating arable farmland
- ◆ Parkland that provides the setting to Gateforth Hall

The Hambleton Sandstone Ridge lies immediately to the west of Selby, entirely within the Humberhead Levels RCA. Only 5.5km long and 3km wide, it is the smallest, and one of the most easily recognisable character areas in Selby District. The ridge is low but distinctive, and represents an 'island' of Bunter sandstone bedrock within the surrounding Vale of York plain. It runs roughly east-west, and is characterised by two low wooded hills, Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough, which rise to 55m and 35m respectively. The A63(T) Leeds-Selby road runs along the northern edge of the character area and the recently approved Selby by-pass would, on its proposed alignment, cross the area between Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough.

The rural character of land on the northern fringe of the Hambleton Sandstone ridge has been partially modified by urban influences, principally by traffic and associated development on the A63(T) road, which provides fast links westward to the A1(T) and the M62, and by large suburban housing estates at Hambleton and Thorpe Willoughby, which are 'dormitory' settlements for nearby Selby.

A saddle of lower gently undulating arable farmland separates the wooded hills of Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough, and rolls gently down to meet the surrounding agricultural plain. Mixed broad leaf and coniferous woodland emphasises the form of Hambleton Hough, and is a foil to the parkland surrounding Gateforth Hall. Ancient woodland, replanted in parts, clothes the steep slopes of Brayton Barff. The mixed broad-leaf woodland provides a contrast in colour and texture with the surrounding farmland, and is of conservation value.





Gateforth Hall, located at the southern foot of Hambleton Hough, is an early 19th century Grade II\* listed building recently converted as a hotel. It sits within parkland that includes various formal designed elements such as avenues and clumps of trees, a Grade II listed ha-ha, together with a coach house and lodge. The parkland also includes a prominent skyline woodland belt, which makes an important contribution to the character and quality of the local landscape. In addition to the parkland setting of Gateforth Hall, the Selby golf course also provides designed or amenity features that add variety to the landscape of the character area.

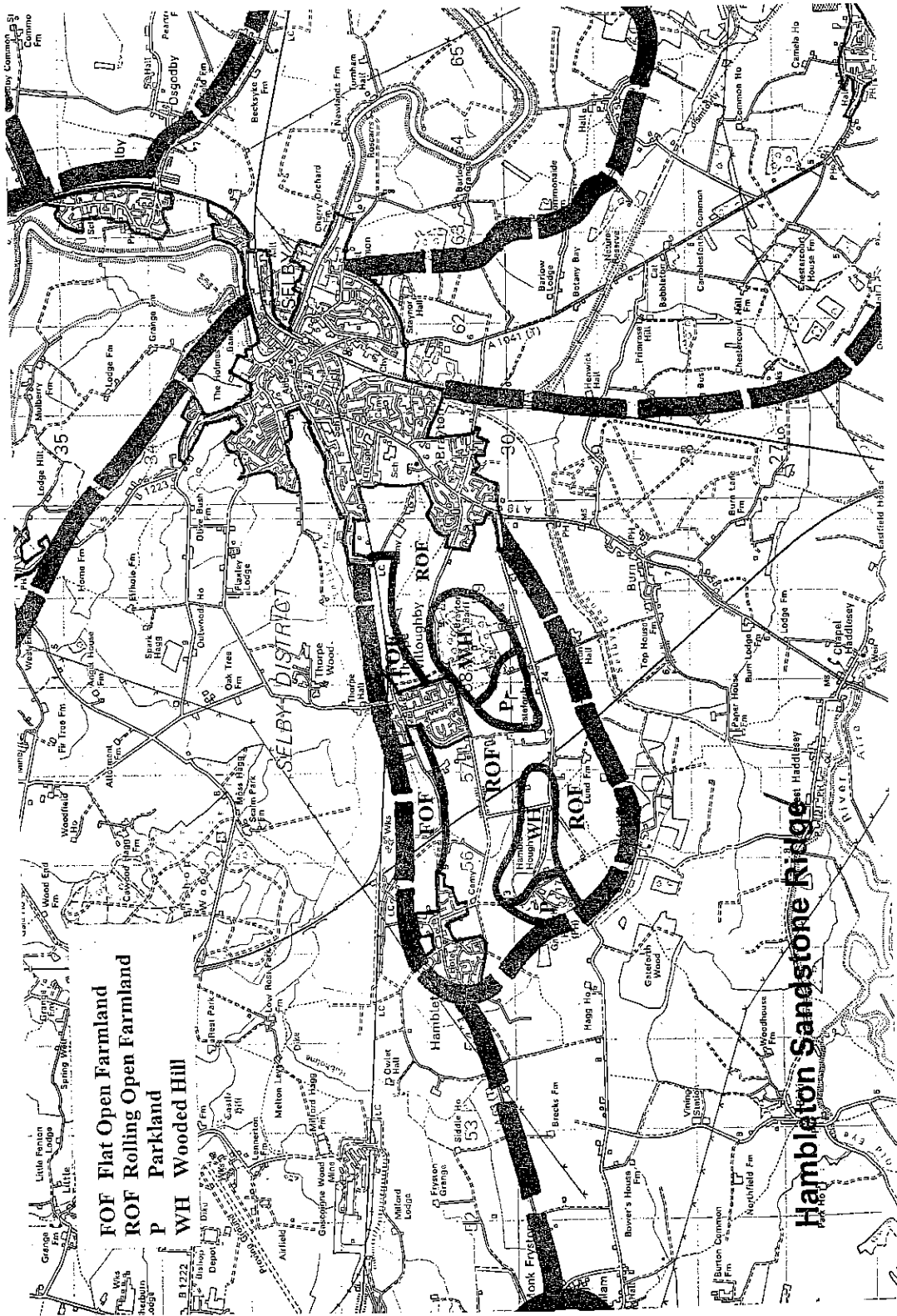
Arable farmland fringes and provides a contrasting setting to the wooded Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough. Well managed hedgerows with a few isolated hedgerow trees enclosed in a regular pattern of medium-large fields, and small belts of scrub also provide a degree of enclosure. Much of the farmland is in intensive arable cultivation. However a few fields of pasture about the Brayton Barff woodland near Thorpe Willoughby, and there is also a large mushroom farm in the area. A former POW camp located at the foot of the Barff on its south-west side is long abandoned and derelict.

Hambleton and Thorpe Willoughby are the principal settlements of the character area. Strategically located at the foot of the sandstone ridge, both have pre-Conquest origins and are recorded in the Domesday Book. They have undergone considerable expansion in recent years, particularly Thorpe Willoughby, with the result that the original form of the settlements is much distorted by large suburban housing estates.

### Changes in the Landscape

- ◆ Development of the Selby Golf course, resulting in change from agricultural to amenity use
- ◆ Under-management of woodlands and of parkland features within designed landscapes, which are showing signs of over-maturity.



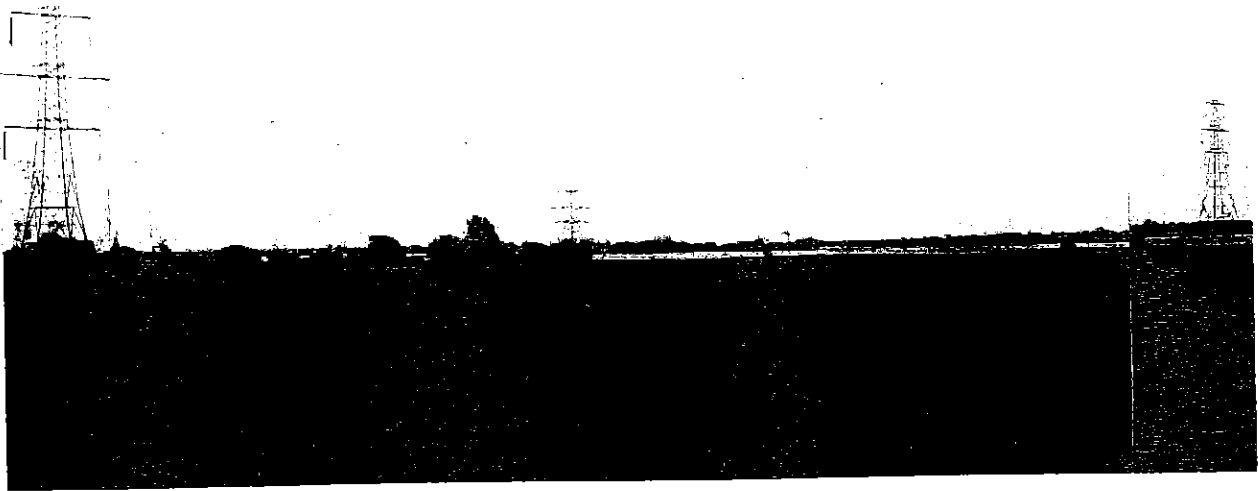


**ROF Flat Open Farmland**  
**ROF Rolling Open Farmland**  
**P Parkland**  
**WH Wooded Hill**

**Hamblaton Sandstone Ridge**

# THE RIVER AIRE CORRIDOR

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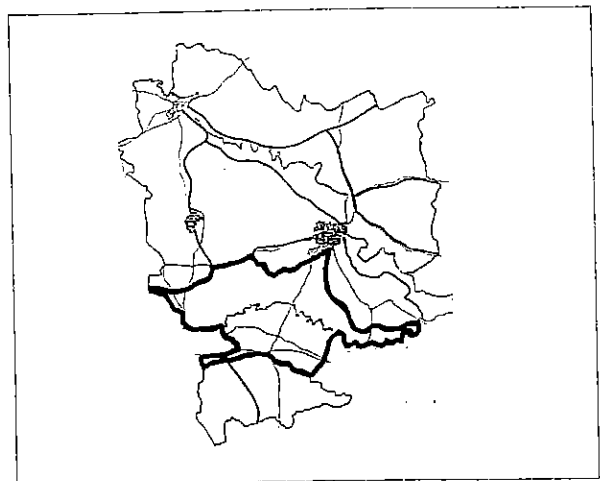
## Key Characteristics

- ◆ principal highway for trade and communication
- ◆ strong influence of large scale industrial and infrastructure development, in particular power stations and the motorway on the river landscape
- ◆ varied character combining flat open farmland and semi-enclosed arable farmland, and small areas of flat wooded farmland,
- ◆ open heavily drained arable farmland on valley floor, with high grassy flood-em-bankments, and areas of smaller scale mixed farmland
- ◆ strategically sited historic villages
- ◆ historic parkland and country mansions
- ◆ important wetlands, diverse marshy grasslands and unimproved neutral grasslands

The River Aire Corridor is a linear river valley floodplain landscape that is located within the Humberhead Levels RCA. The river lies within a broad corridor that breaks through the Magnesian limestone ridge and runs eastward to the confluence of the Aire with the river Ouse near Drax. The outer limits of the corridor do not generally coincide with distinctive features, but represent a transition to higher, drier ground.

The Aire forms part of a navigable lowland river network within Selby District that exerted considerable influence on both the historic settlement and economy of the area. The rivers, including the Wharfe, Ouse and Derwent developed as the prime highways for communication and transport. The location of the Roall Roman Fort close to the River Aire and the lack of any known Roman routes through the area suggests that the River Aire has been an important transport route from at least the Roman period. The harbour at Hall Garth moat is evidence of the commercial use of the river during the Medieval period.

Much of the River Aire Corridor is flat low-lying arable farmland of varying types. However to the south of the river in particular its otherwise rural character has been considerably modified and degraded by the urbanising, industrial influence of multiple features of infrastructure that are large in scale. These features, which detract from the character of the landscape include the M62 motorway, the Eggborough power station and numerous overhead electricity transmission



lines, the A1(T) road, A19 road, the Selby Canal, the Aire and Calder Navigation canal, and various railway lines. There are few bridging points on the river Aire, and the river often presents a barrier to movement within the area. Tidal variation results in striking changes in the appearance of the river, from a broad deep river at high tide, to a muddy channel at low tide.

Small linear villages, strategically sited on higher drift deposits adjacent to the river, characterise the pattern of settlement within the river corridor. Many, including Poole, Birkin, Beal, Burn, Kellington, Low Eggborough, Hensall and Carlton were recorded in the Domesday Book and have pre-Conquest origins. The network of lanes and footpaths which once led down from these villages and halls to ferry and landing points are still features of the modern landscape. They indicate the importance of the river in more localised movement of traffic and trade. Beal is one of only a handful of historic river crossing points within the Aire floodplain. There are also a small number of moated sites but their location on the margins of settlements indicates that only limited reclamation of wastelands during 12th-14th centuries.

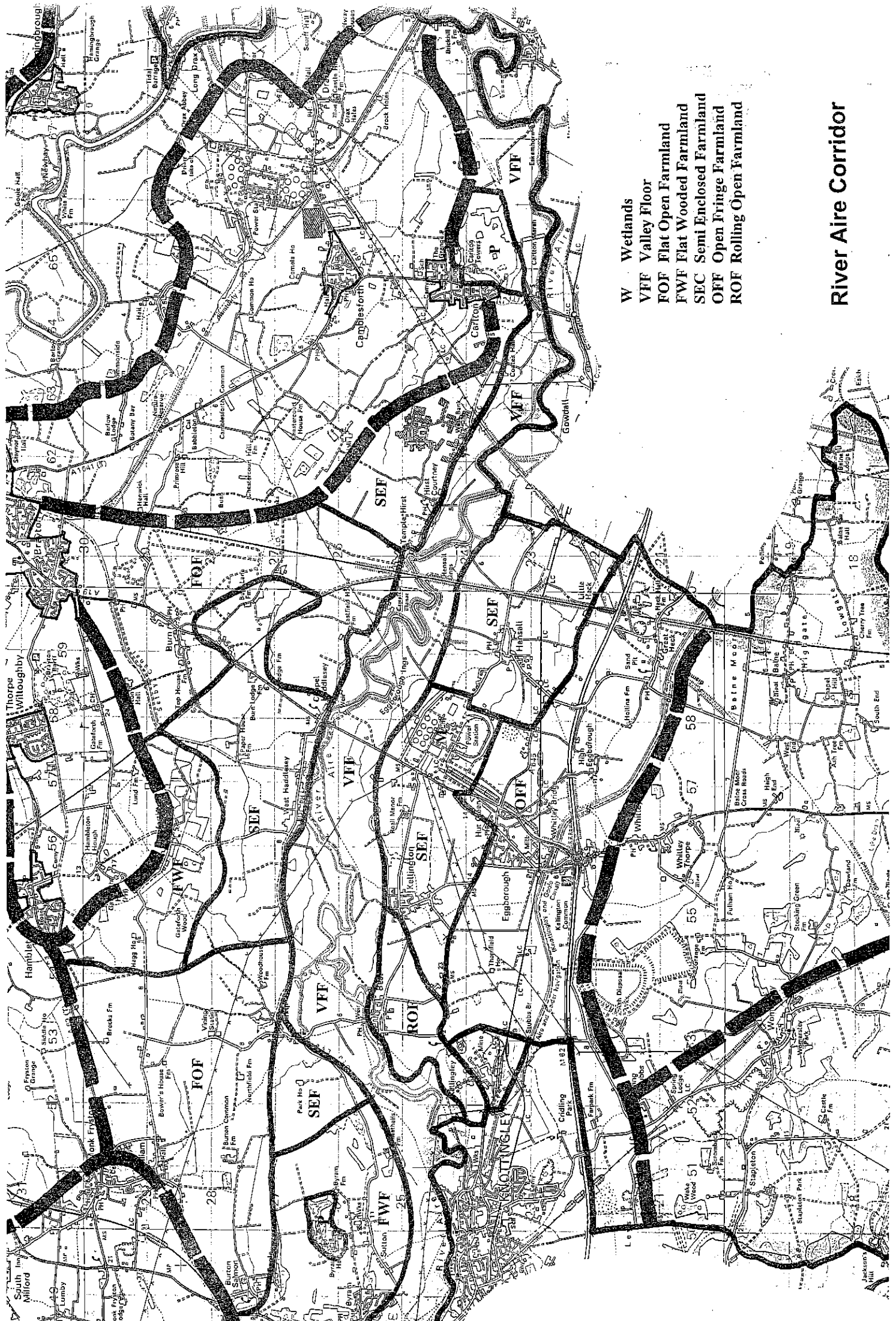
The river corridor is low-lying, with a varied character. At the heart of the river corridor, to the north and south of the river channel lies a central area of river alluvium where low valley floor farmland is characteristic. This farmland is generally less than 5 metres above sea level, and prior to drainage was an extensive marshland. Grassy flood defence embankments now fringe

the river, and land adjacent is often in mixed cultivation, divided by drainage dikes. At the eastern, downstream end of the corridor, the valley floor farmland is relatively open and large in scale. However less intensively managed mixed farmland of arable fields and pasture is also present, as at Hirst Courtney. Hedgerows and irregular lines of trees provide significant visual enclosure within the small-medium scale landscape.

The valley floor farmland is also characterised by a number of wetlands and flood meadows that add to the variety and texture of the landscape. These include West Marsh, which is located near to the river Aire near Carlton, but is now separated from the river by a flood bank. Here species-rich lowland wet grassland and reedy old ditches are of particular conservation value.

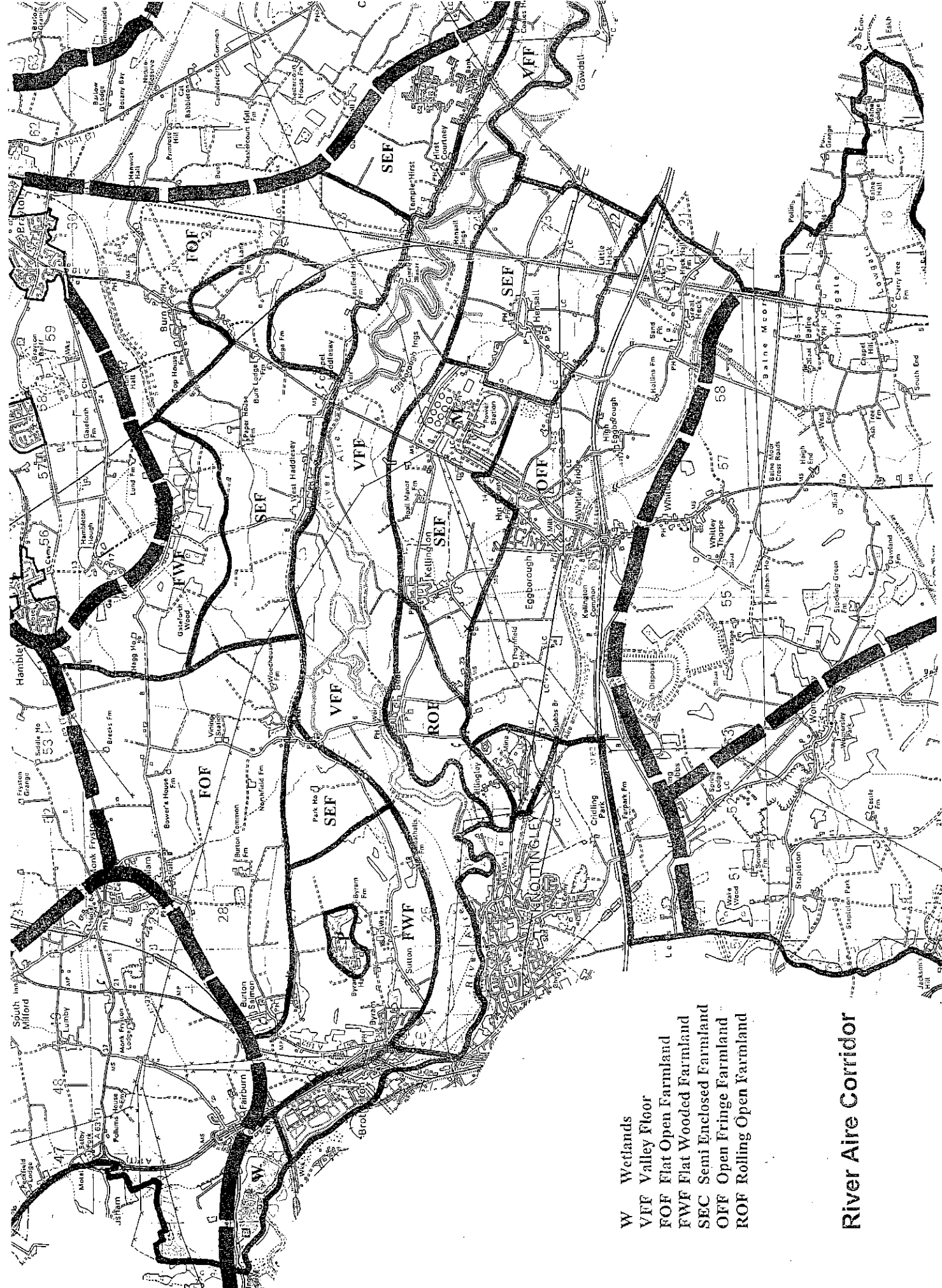
Farmland in the western parts of the floodplain has been degraded by the presence of adjacent industrial development at Knottingley and Brotherton. Former mining activities in the valley have resulted in the permanent flooding of an extensive area of former fens (flood meadows) due to mining subsidence. The resulting series of interconnected water bodies, known as the Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI, is surrounded by marsh and wet pasture and divided by dykes. Despite the degraded tips which lie immediately to the south, the Ings make an important contribution to the character and variety of the River Aire Corridor landscape. The





- W** Wetlands
- VFF** Valley Floor
- FOF** Flat Open Farmland
- FWF** Flat Wooded Farmland
- SEC** Semi Enclosed Farmland
- OFF** Open Fringe Farmland
- ROF** Rolling Open Farmland

**River Aire Corridor**



- W Wetlands
- VFF Valley Floor
- FOF Flat Open Farmland
- FWF Flat Wooded Farmland
- SEC Semi Enclosed Farmland
- OFF Open Fringe Farmland
- ROF Rolling Open Farmland

River Aire Corridor



site attracts a large number of bird species and is particularly noted for wintering wildfowl. Nearby, beside Brotherton Ings the bank of the River Aire, is noted for its diverse neutral grassland that includes tall herbs such as meadow crane's-bill, great burnet, wild angelica and foxglove.

Flat open arable farmland comprising large or very large fields of intensively cultivated arable crops occurs to the north of Temple Hirst, and to the north of Birkin. Low-cut remnant hedgerows occur in places, but the farmland is essentially featureless and the sky dominates extensive views across farmland to distant woodland and trees. The former Burn Airfield, one of the series of WWII airfields that ringed York, is sited within open farmland. The runways and taxiways still survive within areas of arable cultivation and continue to be used by a gliding club.

To the south of the river Aire, much of the flat open arable land has a modified fringe farmland character, degraded by the cumulative effect of a range of predominantly linear industrial features. These include the M62 motorway, numerous overhead electricity transmission lines, the A1(T) road, A19 road, the Selby Canal, the Aire and Calder Navigation canal, various railway lines, and the Kellingley mine. The large scale Eggborough power station and its associated chimneys, cooling towers, plumes of vapour, pylons and transmission lines is visually very prominent in the local area, and detracts from the character of the landscape, despite the belts of woodland screen planting that are established on its perimeter. The Ferrybridge power station, which is located adjacent to the District boundary has a similar effect, as does the Drax power station, which is located within the Camblesforth Lowlands, close to the confluence of the Ouse and Aire.

Woodland is generally absent from the wider river corridor, except on the fringes of villages. However small areas of flat wooded farmland are distinctive at Gateforth, where Staker Wood is an example of a semi-natural and planted woodland which still retains some ancient woodland features. Bluebells, wood anemone, broad-leaved helleborine and primrose are present in a particularly diverse herb layer.

Flat wooded arable farmland with large blocks and belts of woodland also forms part of the former Byram Hall estate, where relict parkland surrounding the site of Byram Hall still contains a large ornamental lake. The woodlands and lake are the remnants of an extensive parkland landscape that fell

into decline following the sale of the estate in the 1920s. Included in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, it had been laid out in 1782 by the foremost landscape designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Brown's plans also included a 200 acre deer park, tree-lined avenues, orangery, formal walled gardens, and shrubberies.

Parkland also adds variety to the river corridor landscape at Carlton, where an extensive landscaped park was created in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century as the setting to Carlton Towers, a Grade I Listed building. Laid out by Thomas White, it contains many formal features including a lake, folly, walled garden, and formal gardens and is also included in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Much of the farmland to the north of the river Aire is characterised by flat semi-enclosed arable farmland, medium-large in scale. Although it generally lacks blocks of woodland, the landscape has the appearance of being semi-enclosed, due to the hedgerows which define the pattern of fields, frequent lines of hedgerow trees, and patches of scrub vegetation established along dikes and watercourses that cumulatively provide intermediate horizons and interrupt wider views. An area of horticultural glasshouses located to the east of Hirst Courtney has a semi-industrial character which contrasts with the surrounding farmland.

The Selby Canal passes through this area. Constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it gave Selby a direct access to the increasing trade from the developing industrial centres of Leeds, Bradford, Castleford and Knottingly, resulting in a new wave of prosperity for Selby.

An open water feature, it makes an important contribution to local character and vegetation along the canal towpath, in particular to the north of Burn, is of conservation value.

### Changes in the Landscape

- ◆ Field drainage and flood relief schemes have improved the quality of agricultural land but have led to the conversion of pastures to arable cultivation and some loss of wet grassland sites. Flood defence improvements have allowed cultivation within former washland areas.

- ◆ Construction of highly effective but visually intrusive sheet piling as part of river flood defence measures has degraded character of river corridor in places.
- ◆ Loss of field hedgerows and subsequent field enlargement within the wider Aire valley due to more intensive arable cultivation has partially eroded landscape structure, which is becoming more open.
- ◆ Intensification of infrastructure within corridor to the south of the river, leading to severe degradation of landscape character
- ◆ Development of a marina site on the Aire-Calder Canal is a further diversification of non-agricultural uses in the countryside
- ◆ Development of Fairburn Ings wetlands has made an important contribution to the variety and nature conservation value of the river landscape.



# THE CAMBLESFORTH LOWLANDS

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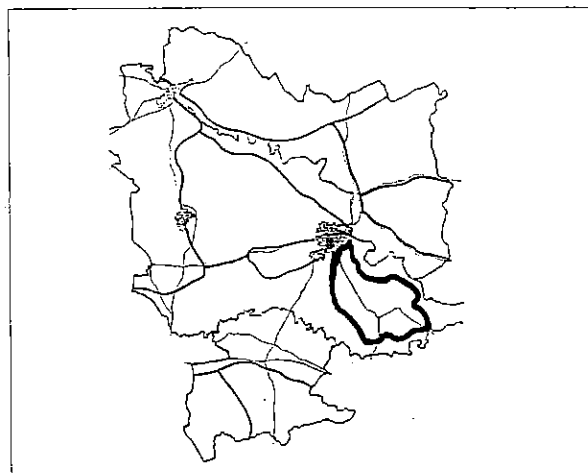
## Key Characteristics

- ◆ flat, semi-enclosed arable farmland with frequent lines of hedgerow trees, and patches of semi-natural scrub
- ◆ scattered small broadleaf and mixed woodland plantations and shelterbelts on lighter arable farmland
- ◆ ponds and scrub woodland on the edge of Selby
- ◆ sparse pattern of settlement
- ◆ influence of the visually prominent Drax power station on the local landscape

The Camblesforth Lowlands is located in the south-east corner of the District, entirely within the Humberhead Levels RCA. The lowland River Aire Corridor lies to the south and west of the character area, with the Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor to the east. The land is essentially flat and low-lying, less than 10 metres above sea level, and at one time would largely have been marshy ground. Great thicknesses of superficial deposits mask the underlying Permo-Triassic Bunter Sandstones, and including pockets of silt/clay, and wind-blown sand.

Much of the landscape of the Camblesforth lowlands is characterised by flat, semi-enclosed, arable farmland. Fields are medium in scale and sub-divided by hedgerows that are sometimes gappy and fragmented, but generally retain a strong pattern of enclosure. It lacks blocks of woodland, but has the appearance of being semi-enclosed, due to the frequent lines of hedgerow trees, and patches of scrub vegetation, particularly along the dismantled railway line. These features cumulatively provide intermediate horizons that interrupt wider views. Scrub

vegetation within the Barlow Nature Reserve further reinforces the lightly wooded character of the surrounding farmland. The reserve contains habitats that are of local nature conservation value. On the edge of Selby, several ponds surrounded by scrub and woodland provide variety colour and texture within the landscape. Sturges Ponds include three areas of open water with surrounding birch, willow and bramble scrub. The ponds are noted for their diverse bird population.



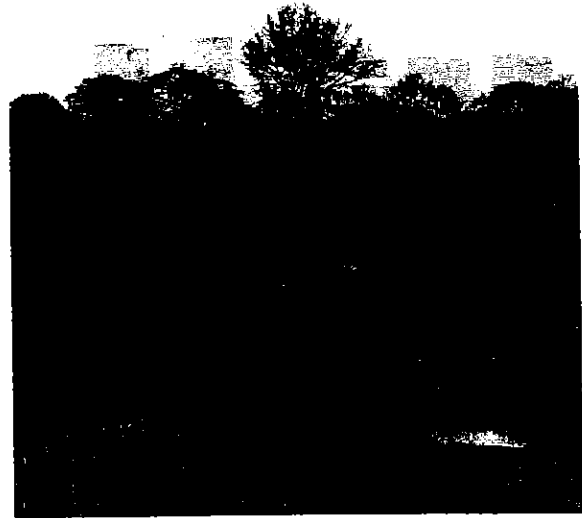
The adjacent Oakney Woods is a semi-natural broad-leaved wood dominated by silver birch and an understorey of bracken.

On the western side of the character area, flat wooded arable farmland is characteristic of land in the vicinity of Camblesforth Common. Here medium-large fields of cereal crops are typically enclosed by low-cut partially fragmented hedgerows, and mature hedgerow oak trees are characteristic. Scattered small broadleaf and mixed woodland plantations and shelterbelts are a key feature of the local landscape. They provide visual enclosure, and their frequency reflects the lighter sandy nature of relatively poorer quality soils, which is confirmed by names like Sand Pit Wood and by occasional patches of acidic heathy scrub. A number of the woodlands are of local nature conservation value, including Cobble Croft Wood and Jowland Whin. Sand Pit Wood and Barff Close Plantation are deciduous woodlands of sycamore, oak and ash with an understorey of birch and willows. Their herb layer is characteristic of the lighter soils of the District and includes bluebells, climbing corydalis and bramble. Common Plantation is also of local conservation value as a semi-natural broad-leaved woodland of oak, birch and sycamore with a diversity of understorey and herb layer species

A further restricted area of flat wooded farmland occurs to the north of Drax. Small blocks of broad-leaved woodland, wetlands and scrub vegetation along the dismantled railway combine to produce a small-scale textured landscape.

Settlements within the Camblesforth Lowlands are sparse, reflecting the historic preference for higher ground or drier river valley sites. An outcrop of Bunter sandstone provides the location of Camblesforth which has pre-Conquest origins, and is recorded in the Domesday Book. Elsewhere within the farmland there are occasional farmsteads and isolated dwellings.

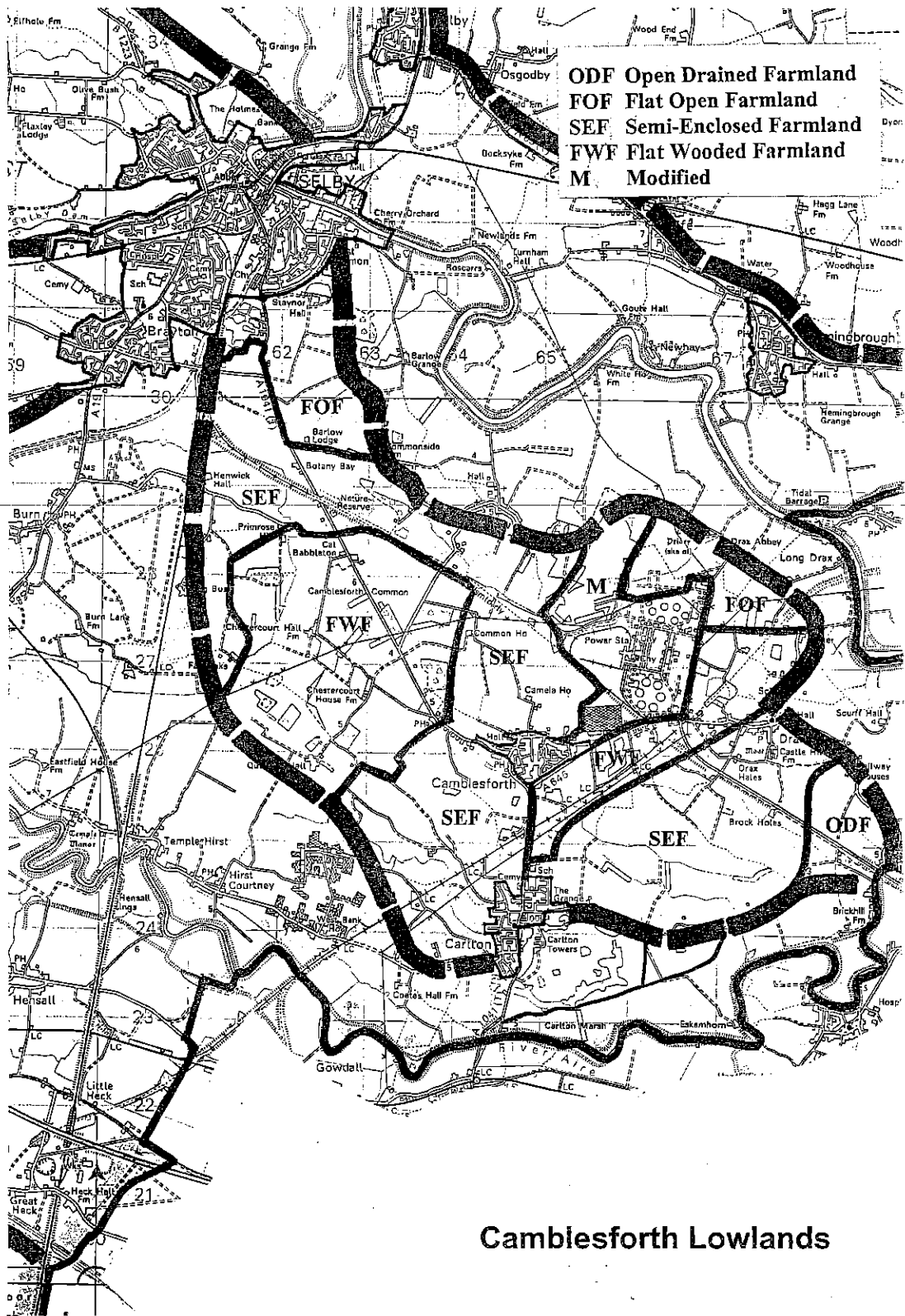
The Drax power station is large scale industrial installation which covers an extensive area within the Camblesforth Lowlands, including part of the former Barlow airfield. The power station is characterised by its associated cooling towers, chimneys, and transmission lines, and plumes of vapour are a constant feature of the skyline. In addition to built elements, the flat airfield land has been substantially modified to accommodate ash waste, creating a steep sided



landform that rises 25 metres above the surrounding lowland. Although local woodland and tree cover help to interrupt some close-range views of the power station, it is an extremely dominant visual feature especially when viewed across open farmland from the south and north-east, and substantially modifies the character of the local landscape.

### Changes in the Landscape

- ◆ Intensification of arable farming in some parts has led to the partial loss or under-management of field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and some fragmentation of field pattern. The structure of the landscape has been partially eroded and is becoming more open as a result.
- ◆ Ash tipping adjacent to the Drax power station has led to the creation of a steep sided landform that rises 25 metres above the surrounding lowland.
- ◆ Development of semi-natural scrub vegetation along and adjacent to the dismantled railway line has improved the variety, texture and nature conservation value of the area.



**Camblesforth Lowlands**

# SOUTHERN FARMLANDS

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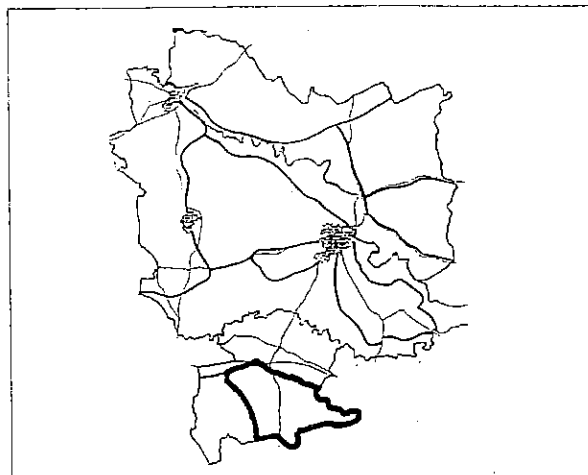
## Key Characteristics

- ◆ varied character, predominantly flat semi-enclosed arable farmland, with an area of estate-managed wooded farmland, and an area of larger scale more open farmland
- ◆ distinctive area of more traditional mixed farmland to the south of Balne Moor, with pastures and orchards
- ◆ small wetlands, some of which are medieval moats
- ◆ network of minor roads and lanes linking scattered properties and settlements
- ◆ traditional farmhouses typically constructed in red brick
- ◆ distinctive landform of the ash disposal site at Gale Common
- ◆ generally quiet and tranquil character largely unaffected by urban and industrial development

The Southern Farmlands character area lie within the Humberhead Levels RCA, to the east of the West Selby Magnesian limestone ridge which frames its western horizon. The farmlands are very low-lying, generally no more than 10 m above sea level and would once have formed part of an extensive area of uncultivated marshy 'wasteland'. Their essentially flat landform is derived from great thicknesses of superficial deposits, mostly glaciolacustrine silts and clays which mask the underlying Permo-Triassic Bunter Sandstones.

The Southern Farmlands have an essentially rural character, apart from the ash disposal site at Gale Common and the influence of the busy A19 road, and is generally unaffected by industrial or urban development. Long distance views are available over the surrounding countryside, with the cooling towers of power stations on the horizon. Much of the area is flat semi-enclosed farmland, medium in scale, principally growing cereal crops.

There is a network of minor roads and lanes linking scattered properties and settlements in the area. Flat wooded farmland is characteristic of land to the east of Womersley, and a limited area of open arable farmland occurs to the south-east of Whitley. There is also an area of more traditional mixed mainly arable farmland to the south of Balne Moor, where pastures and orchards add variety to the landscape.



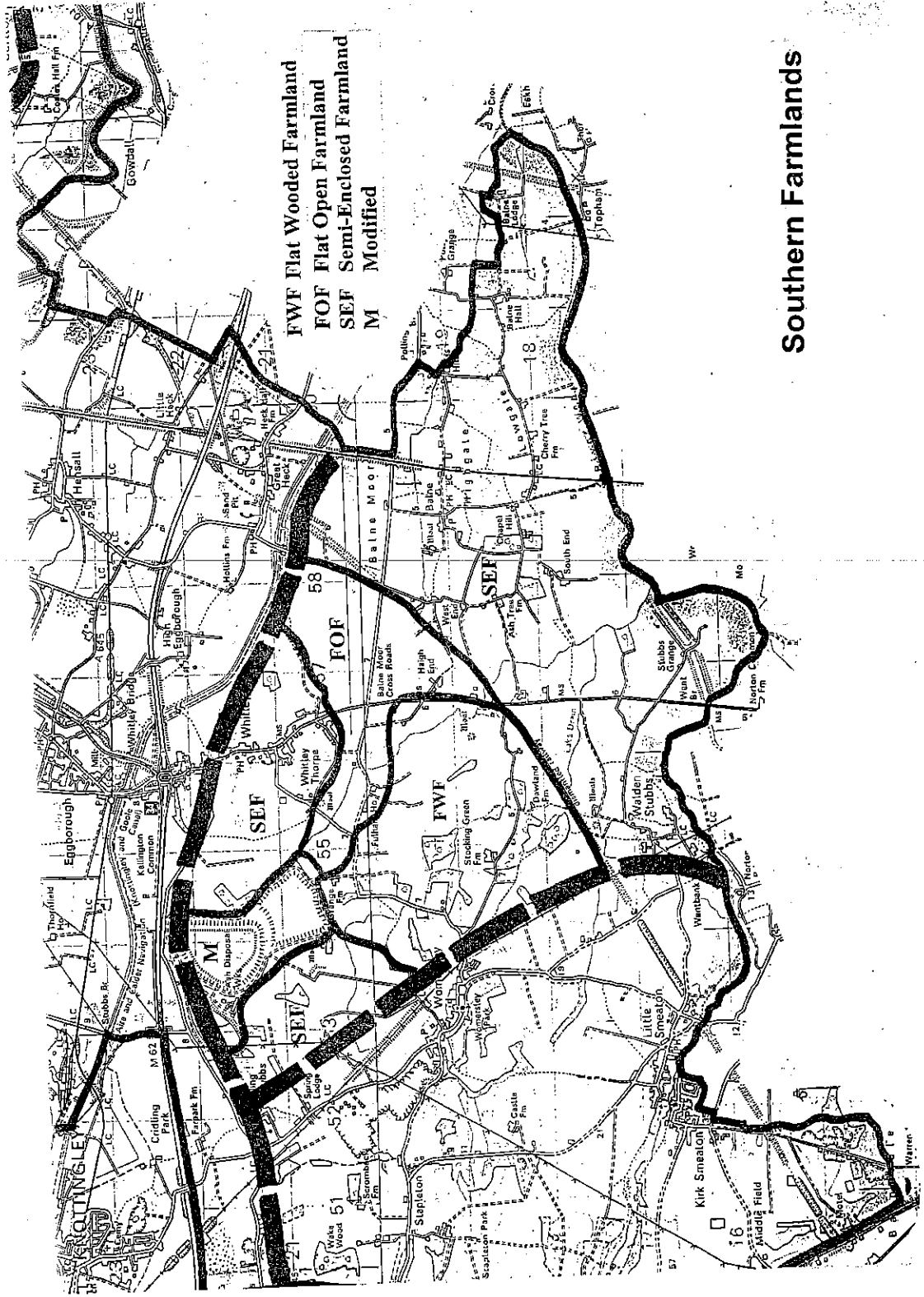
There are no large settlements within the Southern Farmlands. Early prehistoric and late Iron Age / Romano British occupation sites or settlements did occur but was limited, and concentrated primarily on the raised sand and gravel 'islands' within the low lying marsh and swampland. The villages of Walden Stubbs, Balne and Whitley were all recorded in the Domesday Book and have their origins in the pre-Conquest period. However the main period of drainage, clearance and cultivation of the marshy wasteland was the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, when settlements were established at a number of moated sites in the area, including Wood Hall, Whitley Thorpe and at Parkshaw Wood which are nationally important monuments. At least 7 other Medieval moated sites are scattered across the Southern Farmlands, and they are features which enrich the character of the local landscape.

To the east of the A19, a limited area of farmland adjacent to Balne Moor Road and Heck Lane is flat open and intensively cultivated within large fields which are defined by a few remnant hedgerows. To the west of the A19 road, lighter loamy soils on drift over Permian Marls support a distinctive area of flat wooded farmland that is characteristically estate-managed. Frequent blocks of mixed mainly broadleaf woodland provide a strong sense of visual enclosure within the rich arable farmland. Most of the woodlands are on ancient sites and are locally important as nature conservation resources.

A broad area of flat semi-enclosed arable farmland extends around the wooded area. It retains a reasonably strong pattern of field boundaries, with low-cut hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Together with scrub vegetation that has become established along drains, watercourses and along the dismantled railway line near Balne Moor, these provide a degree of enclosure that partially interrupts wider views. Woodlands are still present as important features of the landscape, but are less frequent. They include Grant Spring Wood, a small area of ancient woodland that is located adjacent to the ash waste disposal site on Gale Common. Tipping over a number of years has created a low steep-sided and pronounced hill within the low-lying farmed landscape.

To the south of Balne Moor, a network of lanes links a number of properties that collectively form Balne. The farmland surrounding this dispersed settlement is less intensively cultivated and smaller in scale, with heavier clay soils. Fields are generally medium in scale and enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow oak trees. Individual farmsteads, typically constructed in red brick, are characteristic features of the landscape. Although arable crops predominate, there are also fields of grazing pasture and occasional small orchards which contribute to a more varied landscape. The mainly deciduous Parkshaw Wood is of special interest, for it includes a pond formed from an important medieval moat.





FWF Flat Wooded Farmland  
 FOF Flat Open Farmland  
 SEF Semi-Enclosed Farmland  
 M Modified

**Southern Farmlands**

Barn Fall Wood which lies nearby is a plantation woodland with a moderately diverse herb layer dominated by bramble and some bluebells.

Small wetlands add variety and texture to the farmed landscape, and are of nature conservation value. The two ponds separated by the old railway embankment at Balne Moor, near Great Heck, forms a locally significant wetland and wildlife corridor, with areas of species-diverse marsh and swamp vegetation with fringes of scrub. Although managed for fishing the site is an important wetland providing habitat for bird and invertebrate species. railway line and around ponds.

### **Changes in the landscape**

- ◆ Field drainage and flood relief schemes have improved the quality of agricultural land but have led to the loss of permanent pastures and wet grassland sites;
- ◆ Loss or decline of field hedgerows and subsequent field enlargement has partially eroded landscape structure, which is becoming more open as a result;
- ◆ Extensive damage to buried archaeological remains including medieval moats through arable cultivation
- ◆ Development of semi-natural scrub vegetation along and adjacent to the dismantled railway line has improved the variety, texture and nature conservation value of the area.
- ◆ Creation of a new landform on Gale Common through the deposition of ash waste.

# Landscape Assessment of Selby District

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

### THE STUDY BRIEF

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### APPENDIX 2

Extracts from  
'The Character of England: Landscape,  
Wildlife and Natural Features'

- ♦ The Humberhead Levels
- ♦ The Vale of York
- ♦ Southern Magnesian Limestones

### APPENDIX 3

### ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### APPENDIX 4

### NATURE CONSERVATION RESOURCES

### APPENDIX 5

### CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES



**APPENDIX 1      THE STUDY BRIEF**

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**SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL - SPECIFICATION FOR UNDERTAKING A LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCTION OF LANDSCAPE POLICY GUIDELINES**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The District Council wishes to invite written proposals for undertaking a Landscape Assessment of Selby District and the preparation of landscape policy guidelines.
- 1.2 The purpose of this document is to outline the Council's requirements with regard to the scope of the Assignment, the content of Proposals and the Selection procedure.
- 1.3 Prior to submitting full proposals and costs, short-listed consultancies will be invited to an exploratory meeting with Council officers. The purpose of this meeting will be to:-
- Discuss the issues in more detail.
  - Amplify the Council's requirements.
  - Provide an opportunity for consultancies to outline their approach and to demonstrate their technical competence/quality of work/innovation.
- 1.4 Whilst the meeting will form part of the selection process; formal presentations are not required.

2. Background

- 2.1 Selby District is the most southerly District in North Yorkshire and extends over an area of 237 square miles being broadly contained by the A1 trunk road in the west and the river Derwent, to the east.
- 2.2 The area is principally rural in character with a dispersed settlement pattern of market towns, villages and hamlets. The mid-1994 population of the District was estimated at 72,150 which is concentrated mostly in the three market towns of Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet, and a number of service villages.
- 2.3 Virtually the whole of the District is low lying. It comprises generally open, sparsely wooded arable landscapes dissected by a number of major watercourses, including the rivers Ouse, Wharfe, Aire and Derwent and numerous drainage ditches.
- 2.4 To the east, the landscape is formed by a series of drainage basins and associated washlands. It is dominated by extensive views of industrial development around Selby and coal-fired power stations along the Aire Valley to the south.

- 2.5 To the west, a north-south running outcrop of Magnesian Limestone has produced a generally undulating lowland ridge, giving extensive views over adjacent lowlands. This area is identified as a locally important landscape (Special Landscape Area) in the Selby District Local Plan. (Deposit Draft - July 1997).
- 2.6 Policies in the Plan aim to minimise the impact of development and enhance the traditional character of buildings and landscape in the designated Special Landscape Area, and to protect important hedgerows and historic parks and gardens throughout the Plan area. Other policies aim to ensure that landscaping considerations are an integral element in the design of development proposals and to provide for the incorporation of strategic landscaping in appropriate circumstances.
- 2.7 The District Council believes a Landscape Character Assessment of the District is necessary in order to:-
- a) help review Local Plan Landscape Policies, in response to objections and other comments submitted at Deposit stage.
  - b) to provide a context for the production of a Countryside Design Summary and other guidelines.
  - c) help in both monitoring and influencing landscape change.
  - d) to help target resources and future countryside initiatives, such as improving degraded landscapes.

### 3. Requirements

- 3.1 Written proposals are invited to carry out the following work:
- a) Design and agree with the District Council a form of Landscape Character Assessment for the District.
  - b) Carry out a Landscape Assessment of the District and define and describe the main landscape types, key features and character areas for each type, including an assessment of visual character, geology, landform, land use and buildings and settlements.
  - c) Identify key issues arising from the Assessment including:
    - Vulnerable landscapes.
    - Degraded landscapes.
    - Landscapes threatened through changes in land management practices or development pressures.

- d) Present the results of the assessment in the form of a written report with appropriate illustrations and map work. Six presentational copies are required with colour plans, plus twelve monochrome sets.
  - e) Comment on the merits of proposed Local Plan landscape designations and policies, and advise the Council on the feasibility of identifying river and stream corridors.
  - f) Prepare draft landscape guidelines highlighting policy requirements and recommended action, based on agreed defined landscape types and character areas.
  - g) Present draft guidelines in written form with written illustrations as appropriate. 18 copies are required, plus one master set in monochrome.
- 3.2 The Landscape Assessment should be carried out in accordance with the Countryside Commission publication 'Landscape Assessment Guidance' CCP 423, to identify main landscape types and subdivision into character areas.

- 3.3 The Assessment should also take into account assessments previously carried out for adjoining Local Authority areas, and must have regard to the 'Character of England' map produced jointly by the Countryside Commission and English Nature.
- 3.4 Proposals should outline the method of assessment and technical evaluation proposed.

#### 4. Timetable

- 4.1 The envisaged timetable is as follows:-
- a) Exploratory meeting with officers arranged for week beginning 16 March 1998.
  - b) Following the meeting, written proposals and costs to be submitted by Friday 27 March 1998.
  - c) It is anticipated that a contract will be awarded to the successful consultancy by 2 April 1998.
  - d) An Interim report of the Landscape Assessment to be completed by 1 May 1998.
  - e) Final report to be completed by 22 May 1998.
  - f) Landscape Guidelines (if required) to be completed by end July 1998.

## 5. Costs

5.1 Costs should be split clearly to show the following:

- i) The cost of designing the form of landscape assessment, carrying out the assessment and presenting the results and key issues arising in map and report form.
- ii) The cost of reviewing the Local Plan policies and designations.
- iii) The cost of preparing draft landscape guidelines.

5.2 Costs should be identified separately for staff time, artwork and production costs, and expenses.

## 6. General

6.1 Submissions should provide details of all consultancy staff who would be involved in the project, including their curriculum vitae, position in the consultancy, experience in this type of work, project roles and the number of hours they would spend on the project and the cost per hour. Any intention to use sub-contractors, together with the estimated costs involved should also be specified in the submission.

6.2 The names and addresses of two referees on whose behalf work of a similar nature has recently been completed are also required.

6.3 The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest quotation received. The appointment will be made on the basis of both cost and quality, taking into account the range of expertise and experience directly available.

6.4 The Council reserves the right to commission only the Landscape Assessment.

6.5 All data/information obtained in connection with the assignment will become the sole property of the Council. The Consultants will be required to undertake, that they will not disclose, copy or supply any information, findings, results or documents produced as a result of their employment within the Council.

6.6 The Council reserves itself the right to duplicate documents produced on its behalf and to make appropriate charges for the sale of documents to third parties.

6.7 For further information please contact John Deakin on direct dial number 01757 292064.

## APPENDIX 2

## Regional Character Area Descriptions

- 
- ◆ The Humberhead Levels
  - ◆ The Vale of York
  - ◆ Southern Magnesian Limestones

Extracts from  
'The Character of England: Landscape, Wildlife and  
Natural Features'

Published by the Countryside Commission  
and English Nature 1997

# Vale of York

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The Vale of York forms an area of transition between the more varied topography of the Vale of Mowbray to the north, with which it shares a similar nature conservation character, and the flat open land of the Humberhead Levels to the south of the Escrick moraine. The area is also bounded by the ridge of Southern Magnesian Limestone that rises to the west and by the Howardian Hills and Yorkshire Wolds rising to the east.

The solid geology of Triassic sandstones and mudstones is completely covered by drift deposits of differing types. In the north deposits are of sands, gravels and laminated clays which, together with the alluvium from the main rivers, provide good loamy soils for agriculture. The boulder clay benches in the west and the eastern fringe of the vale tend to be calcareous and create a more varied relief. Where there are dry sandy soils, especially around York, remnants of historic heathland and ancient semi-natural woodland occur.

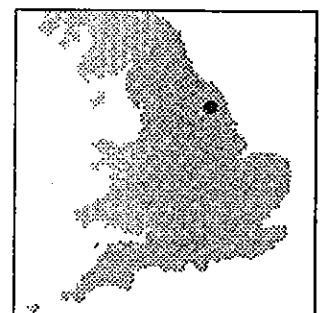
The Vale of York is a low lying flat area created mainly from floodplains, although minor ridges and glacial moraines provide subtle local variations in the topography. Many streams and drainage channels link the main rivers that traverse the Vale and provide further interest in the landscape. The city of York has a dominant influence both economically and physically, with the white limestone towers of the Minster being visible for miles around. Elsewhere there are linear villages with buildings set back behind wide grass verges, or solid brick farmsteads of post-enclosure date amongst the predominantly flat arable land. Parkland associated with country houses, such as Rufforth Hall Park, also occurs along the fringes of the vale. Together with tree belts, avenues and tree clumps, these add variety to the landscape. Roman roads are of some visual interest, especially around York.

## COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

*Countryside Commission*  
John Dower House  
Crescent Place  
Cheltenham  
GL50 3RA



*English Nature*  
Northminster House  
Peterborough  
PE1 1UA



Characteristic  
features of nature  
conservation



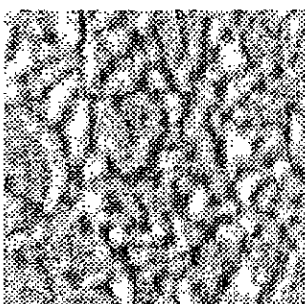
landscape interest

*The tributary  
streams and  
floodplains*

*Remnants of  
historic heathland  
and ancient semi-  
natural woodland*

*Medium to large  
fields*

- **The tributary streams and floodplains** of the rivers Ouse, Derwent, Ure, Nidd and Foss dominate the flat landscape. These aquatic habitats are important for their lamprey, otter, crayfish, mayfly and dragonfly populations. Flood meadows, previously common, are now mainly concentrated along the River Derwent, especially in its lower reaches. These meadows are particularly important for their rich flora, and populations of waders and wildfowl such as golden plover, shoveler, pintail and wigeon.
- **Remnants of historic heathland and ancient semi-natural woodland** occur on the dry sandy soils found in the north, east and south. Areas of both wet and dry heath occur which are characterised by cross leaved heath, ling and purple moor grass. Nightjar, adder, tiger beetle and marsh gentian are some of the important species associated with the heaths. Conifer plantations of mainly Scots pine also occur in this area and, together with the heathland and deciduous woodland, lend a different character to parts of the vale. Woodland blocks are often on a large scale and provide a visual foil to the larger open arable fields that lie between.
- **Medium to large fields** are enclosed by low, flailed, often intermittent hedges with few hedgerow trees. Farming tends to be mainly arable with some improved grassland areas. Small farm woods, shelterbelts and game coverts add to the diversity and interest in the landscape.





# Southern Magnesian Limestone

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The Southern Magnesian Limestone stretches from the north of Ripon, runs through South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and ends just south of Nottingham. The area consists of a narrow band of rising ground separating the Pennine Dales Fringe and Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield to the west from the Vale of Mowbray, Vale of York, Humberhead Levels and Sherwood to the east.

The Permian Magnesian Limestone that underlies the area varies from thin crumbly layers mixed with clay and marl to thicker beds. This soft rock has weathered to form rounded hills and spectacular gorges and caves. Although often covered by glacial drift especially in the north, the limestone is clearly seen where rivers cut into the ridge. Soils formed from the limestone and overlying deposits are often rich, light, well drained, fertile and in places coloured red.

The area is characterised by the low rounded profile of the ridge, dissected by numerous river and dry valleys. Fertile arable farmland and wooded estates dominate this ridge. To the south, the ridge becomes less well defined and deep mines are found amongst the flat open agricultural land. The limestone has been used as a local building material since medieval times for both dwellings and field enclosure walls. Small limestone quarries occur throughout the length of the ridge, with larger modern quarries mainly in the south. Other industrial features such as mines, shale tips, power lines and industrial settlements, especially in the Aire Valley and other central valleys, have influenced the landscape. The main transport routes, dominated by the A1 trunk road and M1 and M18 motorways, often intrude into an otherwise undisturbed rural area. Settlement varies from large scattered farmsteads that are increasingly dominated by complexes of large modern farm buildings, to small nucleated limestone villages. Contrast occurs in the central region of the ridge where settlements take on the appearance of the more traditional mining towns and villages that lie to the west of the area. The large number of country houses and estates with parkland, estate woodlands and plantations such as Hardwick Hall have a notable effect on the landscape. Archaeological remains including palaeolithic caves, Roman roads and Iron Age hill forts are visible in the landscape.

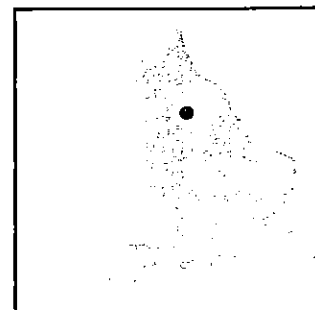
**COUNTRYSIDE  
COMMISSION**

*Countryside Commission  
John Dower House  
Crescent Place  
Cheltenham  
GL50 3RA*



**ENGLISH  
NATURE**

*English Nature  
Northminster House  
Peterborough  
PE1 1UA*



Characteristic  
features of nature  
conservation



landscape interest

*The smooth,  
rolling, elevated  
ridge*

*Picturesque river  
valleys and gorges*

*Woodland cover is  
more abundant  
than in  
surrounding areas*

*The intensive  
arable fields are  
often large and  
bounded by low  
hawthorn hedges*

- **The smooth, rolling, elevated ridge** gives panoramic views over the lowlands to the east. The Magnesian limestone is of considerable geological interest and gives rise to fragmented unimproved limestone grassland in areas least suitable for cultivation, such as old quarries, steep gorges and valley sides. Characterised by tor grass, fairy flax and ox eye daisy, the rich flora attracts a number of invertebrates such as glow worms and the dingy skipper butterfly. Common pasque flower, dark red helleborine and field garlic provide a colourful summer display. Guelder rose, privet, dogwood, hawthorn scrub and grassland occur in a mosaic which supports brimstone and garden warblers.
- **Picturesque river valleys and gorges** cut through the ridge and expose the underlying Magnesian limestone. Many of these river valleys and gorges, as well as being of geological interest, support crayfish, otter, water vole and kingfisher. Nidd Gorge and Don Gorge are particularly dramatic with their overhanging woodlands. In the central part of the ridge, the rivers and valleys have a different landscape that is heavily influenced by industry. Elsewhere on the ridge base rich flushes, streams and ponds provide other important habitats for flora and fauna. In several gorges, notably Cresswell, caves in the gorge sides contain important palaeolithic remains that pre-date the last Ice Age.
- **Woodland cover is more abundant than in surrounding areas** and, combined with open arable land, creates a wooded farmland landscape in places. The majority of the woodland occurs in large blocks associated with large estates, parklands and game coverts, or on uncultivated areas such as steep slopes or along small valleys. The Greenwood Community Forest, lying in the extreme south of the area, provides an important local landscape and recreational resource. Ancient semi-natural woods associated with parkland, on steeper slopes and in river valleys are important for their rich assemblage of lichens, bryophytes, invertebrates and plants such as lily of the valley, bluebells and herb Paris. Woodland is a particularly important habitat within the intensive agricultural landscape.
- **The intensive arable fields are often large and bounded by low hawthorn hedges**, although smaller, irregular fields enclosed by limestone walls do occur around the edges of villages. Together with the long straight roads, the fields and hedges create a geometric pattern in the large scale, open agricultural landscape. Hedgerow trees are relatively sparse which further adds to the open character of the fields. The agricultural land supports arable weeds such as prickly poppies, and scarlet pimpernel, together with the corn bunting, skylark, tree sparrows and harvest mice. In less intensively farmed areas, small remnants of neutral grassland with concentrations of lady's bedstraw and salad burnet occur.

# Humberhead Levels

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The Humberhead Levels consists of a large, open and flat plain lying at the head of the Humber Estuary, between South Yorkshire and Humberside. It is bounded to the west by the Southern Magnesian Limestone and to the east by the limestone outcrops of the North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands. The Trent and Belvoir Vales, together with Sherwood form the southern limits, while the Escrick moraine creates the northern boundary. The Humberhead Levels represent the area originally occupied by the post-glacial Lake Humber.

The underlying rocks of Triassic Sherwood Sandstone and Mercia Mudstones are almost totally obscured by drift deposits. The Isle of Axholme, created by the cropping of the Mercia Mudstones, is the only substantial high area. Following the last Ice Age deep lacustrine and alluvial laminated clays, sands and gravels were deposited and it is these, through tillage and other uses, that have helped create the present landscape. Waterlogged conditions gave rise to widespread peat deposits, examples of which have survived in the raised mires of Thorne and Hatfield Moors. Deeper Carboniferous rocks have coal deposits which, due to the eastward movement of coal mining, have been extensively exploited in recent years around Selby.

The Humberhead Levels are predominantly flat and below sea level in places. Agriculture is maintained by extensive pumped drainage systems and rivers have been re-aligned and canalised. The open agricultural land, broad flood plains and sparse hedgerows result in long, unbroken views, broad horizons and spacious sky. Visual variation follows differences in the glacial deposits, river systems and occasional outcrops of sandstone and mudstones. In some areas, such as around Fishlake and Sykehouse near Doncaster, the landscape is more enclosed, providing small islands of shelter and more intimate spaces amidst the open levels. The peaty wilderness at the heart of the area is internationally important and renowned for its specialised plants and animals. The practise of 'warping', in which areas of farmland are deliberately inundated with controlled impoundment of silt-laden tidal waters, was formerly widespread to the east of the area and dates from the beginning of the drainage era and the original Dutch engineers. Through the process of warping, silt is deposited on the land, increasing its fertility and raising its height above sea level.

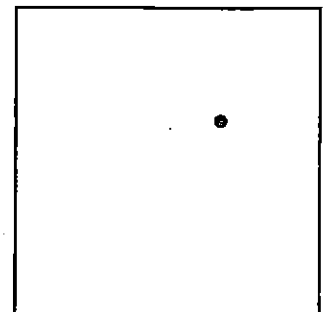
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**ENGLISH  
NATURE**

*English Nature  
Northminster House  
Peterborough  
PE1 1UA*



Characteristic  
features of nature  
conservation



landscape interest

*Broad river  
valleys and flood  
plains*

*The largest  
continuous extent  
of remnant raised  
mire*

*Remnants of  
heathland*

*Very large, open,  
intensively  
managed fields  
divided by dykes*

Structures used during the land drainage process, such as dykes, berms, bridge crossings, water towers and disused windmills, still form distinctive features in the landscape. More recent additions to the landscape include the cooling towers and structures of Drax and Eggborough power stations, together with their associated pylon lines and vapour plumes. Settlement in the area has always been sparse and is characterised by villages that are concentrated on higher ground at the margins of the area. On the open levels there are large, scattered modern farms and associated buildings.

- **Broad river valleys and flood plains** have a distinctive character. The floodplains, containing flood meadows with a high diversity of plant species, are sometimes known as 'Ings'. These grasslands and marshy areas are important as a haven for wintering and migrating birds. Wetlands, were once widespread but have now mostly been drained for cultivation. Those areas remaining with bulrush, reedmace and rush support reed warblers, sedge warblers and rare beetles and flies. The process of drainage is marked by the containment of rivers within flood embankments, networks of ditches, dykes, canals and pump houses. The dykes and ditches now provide locations where aquatic and waterside plants, butterflies and dragonflies can be found.

- **The largest continuous extent of remnant raised mire** in England is provided within Thorne Goole and Crowle Moors, with Hatfield Moors being the second largest area. There are other remnants, such as Epworth and Haxey Turbaries. The two major peat moors are important for their raised mires and populations of breeding nightjar and endangered invertebrates and bryophytes. Black darter dragonfly, large heath butterfly, common lizard and adder can be found amongst the cotton grass, heathers, bracken, birch scrub and sphagnum moss. These areas are ecologically, geologically and archaeologically important, and the peat still being extracted from parts of the moor will be re-established in the future. Belts of scrub woodland, heath fragments and other conditions created by centuries of peat cutting are all characteristic features.

- **Remnants of heathland** are found on the sand and gravel deposits around Selby in the north and between the rivers Thorne and Idle in the south. Conifers have been planted on many and these combine with arable land to form a large scale, wooded farmland landscape.

- **Very large, open, intensively managed fields divided by dykes** are common, with relatively few hedgerows and trees. North of Doncaster, heavy clay soils support a smaller scale, pastoral landscape. This is found particularly around Fishlake and Sykehouse, where there is a traditional pattern of small, thickly hedged fields, hedgerow trees, green lanes, moated buildings, ditches and field ponds. The hedgerows, commonly of hawthorn but including standard trees such as willow and poplar, are important both as a landscape feature as well as a refuge for small mammals, invertebrates, plants and birds, such as the barn owl and little owl. Occasional unimproved neutral hay meadows with their seasonal floral display, provide interest and contrast to the surrounding intensively farmed land. Alongside the River Went, these areas can be important for birds, such as wintering wildfowl including Bewick's swans and wigeons, and grey partridge.

**APPENDIX 3**

**ASSESSMENT  
METHODOLOGY**

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## APPENDIX 3

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### Landscape Assessment - Approach and Methodology

- 1.1 The general approach to the landscape assessment of Selby District Initiative broadly reflects the advice contained in the Commission's publication 'Landscape Assessment Guidance' (CCP423). This builds upon earlier advice provided by the Commission (CCD 18 and CCP 332) and describes a systematic and structured process of landscape assessment that takes into account

*' subjective and qualitative aspects as well as physical, cultural and historical ones'.*

- 1.2 The study was steered throughout by officers of Selby District Council. In addition other planning officers were invited to contribute information and provide comment at a workshop session, and District Councillors were also consulted when the document was prepared in draft form. This consultation exercise was an important part of the overall process which helped to confirm both the extent and essential character of the local landscape character areas identified in the course of the assessment.

- 1.3 The basic steps in the landscape assessment process were as follows:

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Step 1	Planning the Assessment/Preliminary Survey
Step 2	Research and Desk Study
Step 3	Field Survey
Step 4	Analysis
Step 5	Preparation of character area descriptions

- 1.4 Prior to undertaking the assessment, the District Council indicated that the landscape assessment should include reference to recent changes that have occurred in the landscape of each character area, and that guidelines for the future management of the landscape would not initially be required. This was subsequently confirmed by the District Council.

#### Stage 1: Planning the Assessment

- 1.5 The question of scale, or level of detail of landscape assessment is an important one, for it needs to be appropriate to the purpose or end-uses of the assessment, and will influence the choice of methods and techniques adopted in carrying out the study.
- 1.6 Initially, a rapid study area familiarisation visit was undertaken to identify the general landscape character of the District and its context, and to gain an impression of the scale and degree of variation in character throughout the area, outside of the urban centres. The familiarisation visit also provided an opportunity to collate a schedule of local landscape features and elements which was useful in the subsequent design of survey forms and checklist used in the field survey stage.
- 1.7 In the course of this initial familiarisation survey a range of different types of landscape was observed. Most were essentially rural landscapes of varying topography, field pattern, land use and woodland cover. Rural fringe landscapes, still essentially rural in character but influenced by the presence of non-agricultural features or uses, such as pony grazing and caravan storage, occur on land adjacent to Selby. Elsewhere, particularly in the southern part of the district, coal-fired power stations, high voltage overhead transmission lines and prominent motorway corridors degrade the character of the landscape.

- 1.8 A full range of variation was compiled into a list which later formed the basis of a recording system for use in the field. Each category of landscape character was allotted a reference code which was used as a shorthand recording method of annotating plans in the field.

### Stage 2: Research and Desk Study

- 1.9 A great deal of 'baseline' information relevant to the assessment of landscape character was gained from a desk study of existing maps, plans photographs and documentary sources. This process included a literature review of published documents which provided a wealth of data on sites or features of special historic, archaeological, geomorphological and nature conservation interest within the area. These included the following principal sources:

#### Mapped information:

- Current Ordnance Survey 1: 50,000 and 1: 25,000 plans
- Current Geological Survey 1:250,000

#### Geology and Geomorphology information:

- British Regional Geology: *Northern England* (4th Edition) NERC/IGS 1971

#### Nature Conservation information:

- Designation plans and citations for SSSIs
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Local Environment Agency Plans
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)
- Current Re-survey of sites - North Yorkshire County Council

#### Historical/Archaeological information:

- Schedule of Ancient Monuments
- North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record
- Conservation Area information
- Extract from English Heritage's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest'

- 1.10 Overlay analysis of geological structure, landform and topography, urban development, woodland cover, distribution of parkland, and patterns of land enclosure as indicated by contemporary Ordnance Survey maps was also undertaken at this stage. Together these two stages of the desk study confirmed:

- *the influence of underlying geology on landform,*
- *the absence of marked topographic variation within the area;*
- *the influence of varying types of land use and land management on the landscape.*

- 1.11 The initial study area familiarisation visit and desk study stage provided the basis for the preliminary identification of local landscape character areas within Selby district. These were examined in further detail at the field survey stage.

### Stage 3: Field Survey

- 1.12 The primary purpose of field survey was to assess the visual character of the landscape, to confirm or refine the boundaries of the preliminary local landscape character areas identified and to record in more detail the range in variation in character (ie the constituent landscape character types) which occur within each area. The field survey also provided an opportunity to record subjective, emotional responses to the landscape, and to consider indications of landscape change and issues concerning its management.
- 1.13 Due to the constraints of the study it was not possible to record landscape character on a field-by-field basis. The survey was therefore designed to make the best use of the time allocated within the study through a process of 'sampling'. The landscape within the study area (outside of the urban centres) was recorded in three main ways:
- Completion of a field survey form from each selected viewpoint. The form provided for a brief summary description of the character of the landscape, a checklist of the key features and elements, together with aesthetic considerations, such as degree of enclosure or scale, and notes on possible measures which might be appropriate to strengthen and improve the landscape character of the area.
  - Annotation of 1:25,000 OS plans with a checklist reference code indicating landscape character
  - ~~Photographic Record of the local landscape, which were taken from most survey locations, in addition to a number of other viewpoints.~~

### Stage 4: Analysis

- 1.14 The results of the desk and field study stages of the assessment, together with the responses of the steering group to draft character area descriptions allowed the study team to refine the boundaries of 10 local landscape character areas within the study area, each of which, although of variable character at a more detailed level, has a distinctive and unifying overall identity. These are:
- The York Fringe
  - West Selby Ridge
  - The Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor
  - The Skipwith Lowlands
  - East Selby Farmlands
  - West Selby Plain
  - The Hambleton Sandstone Ridge
  - The River Aire Corridor
  - The Camblesforth Lowlands
  - Southern Farmlands

### Landscape Types

- 1.15 At a more detailed level, each character area contains a number of landscape character types, individually distinguished by the presence, absence or combination of landscape elements and features ie their characteristic patterns that make one area of landscape *different* from another. The landscape types are *generic* in nature, occurring in different locations throughout the study area (or elsewhere) rather than in specific geographical areas. Altogether 16 broad landscape types were identified as representing the range of variation in landscape character within Selby District. These are:



<b>Valley floor farmland</b>	typically arable farmland or occasionally mixed farmland that is generally open in character. Small patches of wetland occur in places.
<b>Open drained farmland</b>	extremely level and heavily drained open arable farmland in large fields divided by dikes. Few landscape features. Lies adjacent to the main river channels, protected by flood alleviation embankments.
<b>Pastoral valley</b>	narrow corridor of traditionally managed species rich flood meadows that fringe river channels. Riverside trees and willow scrub are frequent elements.
<b>Limestone valley</b>	narrow winding valley within the Magnesian limestone ridge. Varied linear landscape combining limestone pasture with woodland scrub and wetland. Of considerable conservation value.
<b>Lowland heath</b>	diverse range of semi-natural habitats including silver birch woodland, gorse, heather and damp and dry heath, and boggy mires developed on sandy acidic glacial drift
<b>Wooded hill</b>	distinctive locally elevated landform, characteristically cloaked in mixed mainly broad-leaf woodland.
<b>Rolling wooded farmland</b>	lowland farmland in which topography is distinct and varied, reducing wider intervisibility. Typically intensively managed arable farmland enclosed by low-cut hedgerows. Woodland, shelterbelts, copses are frequent landscape elements which provide a definite sense of enclosure. Often occurs within a landed estate. Wide views over surrounding lowland.
<b>Rolling open farmland</b>	rolling lowland of intensively managed arable farmland. Open, with large fields and minimal enclosure, often by fragmented remnant hedgerows. Woodland cover is generally relatively insignificant. Wide views over surrounding lowland.
<b>Semi-enclosed farmland</b>	lowland farmland that is flat or only gently undulating. Typically arable or mixed farmland intensively managed and enclosed by hedgerows with frequent mature hedgerow trees that provide a definite sense of enclosure. Woodland is very sparse or absent
<b>Flat wooded farmland</b>	lowland farmland that is flat or only gently undulating. Typically intensively managed arable farmland enclosed by low-cut hedgerows, in which woodland, shelterbelts, and copses are frequent and provide a definite sense of enclosure. Often occurs within a landed estate.
<b>Flat open farmland</b>	lowland farmland, open and large in scale with wide views across surrounding land. Intensively managed and typically cultivated for arable crops. Hedgerows usually fragmented, treeless and low cut or absent. Landscape lacks variety of natural features or relief.

<b>Open fringe farmland</b>	Flat lowland farmland, large in scale and offers wide views across surrounding land. Intensively managed and typically cultivated for arable crops. Hedgerows usually fragmented, treeless and low cut or absent. Landscape character is strongly influenced by the presence of large scale industrial and infrastructure development, in particular power stations and the motorway;
<b>Rural fringe</b>	lowland farmland that lies adjacent to settlements. Still essentially rural in character, it represents a transition zone to the wider farmland and often contains a variety of non-agricultural features or uses, incl. caravan and boat storage and pony grazing. Less intensively managed and smaller in scale, with patches of scrub.
<b>Modified Land</b>	Land within the open countryside which has an established non-agricultural use , including mines, power stations, industrial estates and airfields, or where the land has been modified to accommodate the disposal of waste material, typically ash derived from power stations
<b>Parkland</b>	'designed' amenity landscape typically combining extensive grasslands with distinctive tree and woodland cover, including ornamental species. Historic parkland often associated with country mansions may also include ornamental lakes, parkland walls and fencing. Modern equivalent represented by golf courses.
<b>Wetland/Ings</b>	Extensive low-lying areas of open water, marshy wetland, and seasonally inundated meadows, often fringed by trees. Typically occurs on floor of river valleys, and may be associated with mining subsidence.

1.16 Sometimes the boundary between adjacent types and between adjacent character areas may be clearly defined, for example where an incised wooded valley runs through rolling open farmland. Often however there is a more gradual transition in the landscape where the division is less distinct, and where a 'best-fit' boundary between types has been identified. The general distribution of landscape types within each local character area is indicated on the plans that accompany the character area descriptions. The boundaries should be regarded as indicative, not definitive, and reflect the district-scale nature of the landscape assessment.

#### Stage 5: Preparation of character area descriptions

- 1.17 Following completion of Stage 4: Analysis, outline descriptions of each local landscape character area were prepared by the study team to include the following standard elements:
- description of location within the study area in relation to adjacent character areas;
  - plan indicating the extent of the character area

- summary of key characteristics of landscape character, referring as appropriate to descriptions of the local geology, features of cultural heritage and nature conservation interest, patterns of land use settlement and access,

1.18 The draft assessment was circulated to officers of the District Council for comment and for use in the officer 'workshop' session held concerning the landscape assessment exercise. A fuller version of the assessment was also circulated to the Members of the District Council, following which a number of further minor amendments were made prior to its submission as a completed document to Selby District Council in January 1999.

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**APPENDIX 4**

**NATURE CONSERVATION  
RESOURCES**

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## YORK FRINGE

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINCS. Others are grade 2 / 3.

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Shire Oaks</b>	<b>SE 482454</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Field Nr Healaugh Manor Farm	SE 482469	District	LINCS
Healaugh Priory Marsh	SE 487466	District	LINCS
Healaugh Marsh	SE 492470	District	LINCS
Brickyard Pond, Tadcaster	SE 487442	District	LINCS
<b>Catterton Rash</b>	<b>SE 501451</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Catterton Wood</b>	<b>SE 503448</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Pallathorpe Farm</b>	<b>SE 519427</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>AWI</b>
<b>Catterton Marsh</b>	<b>SE 512469</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Billbrough Whin	SE 519454	District	LINCS
<b>Tadcaster Mere</b>	<b>SE 500430</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>Hagg Wood</b>	<b>SE 550459</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Grassland Nr Colton Bridge</b>	<b>SE 546438</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Great Marsh, Bolton Percy	SE 531412	District	LINCS
Meadow (E), Bolton Percy	SE 537413	District	LINCS
Meadow (W), Bolton Percy	SE 536413	District	LINCS
Station Yard, Bolton Percy.	SE 528417	District	LINCS
Brocket Wood	SE 568443	District	LINCS
Moreby Wood and Flareby Park Wood	SE 601428	District	LINCS
Stillingfleet Wood	SE 585410	District	AWI
Heron Wood	SE 616413	District	AWI
Gashouse Plantation	SE 634427	District	LINCS
Ponds in grounds of Queen Margaret's School	SE 629424	District	LINCS

The habitats of nature conservation interest in this character area tend to be woodlands however locally important grassland and wetland sites are found to the north of Tadcaster.

Shire Oaks is a sizeable area of ancient woodland. It is noted as containing one of the few remaining heronries in Yorkshire with up to 24 pairs of herons being recorded. The woodland attracts a number of characteristic lowland birds and woodpeckers in particular, are attracted to the many dead and over mature trees.

A number of sites are clustered around the old priory at Healaugh. Habitats include woodland, unimproved neutral grassland, marsh and pond. Species of note include greater bird's-foot trefoil, brooklime with dragonflies in the pond area. The area of marshy grassland at Healaugh Priory Marsh is noted for its wetland plant species including water chickweed, ragged robin, lesser pond-sedge and valerian. Healaugh Marsh, to the west of priory marsh, is noted for its marshy vegetation which includes purple small-reed, and emergent vegetation such as marsh marigold, around areas of open water. The site provides an important local wintering habitat for wildfowl. This group of sites is sympathetically managed as a private nature reserve and makes a significant contribution to the species diversity of the area.

The former brickyard to the north-east of Tadcaster is a botanically-rich area of neutral grassland with a water-filled ditch containing a variety of wetland plants including water

figwort, water plantain and fool's watercress. The grassland has a diversity of herb species but would benefit from a mowing regime to prevent tree encroachment.

Catterton Rash is an area of marsh which is of ornithological interest. The marsh is dominated by greater and lesser pond sedge, ragged robin, yellow flag and water forget-me-not. A diversity of wetland birds and wildfowl breed on the site including snipe, curlew, moorhen, reed bunting and mallard. Mallard and Wigeon are resident in winter. The site also includes five acres of rough grazing. To the east is Catterton Wood, a small fragment of ancient woodland. Catterton Marsh another small area of marshland near Healaugh Beck, to the north.

Bilbrough Whin is a small woodland largely of planted origin with some areas of Rhododendron and a generally poor herb layer including wood avens and woundwort. Another small areas of replanted ancient woodland is found near Pallathorpe Farm.

Tadcaster Mere SSSI is on the site of a former lake basin and has sediments which contain important pollen records from the vegetation of the Devensian glacial period in history.

Hagg Wood, near the northern boundary of the district is, in part, ancient woodland. The dominant trees are beech, oak and sycamore with a sparse understorey of hazel and elder.

A small, triangular field of marshy grassland beside the railway line near Colton is noted for the diversity of herb species in the sward including pepper saxifrage and purging flax. The wetter areas also have a diversity of characteristic species including reedmace, marsh horsetail, false fox-sedge and carnation sedge. Unfortunately, the site has become degraded by recent planting of poplar and by the encroachment of hawthorn, birch and willow scrub.

To the west of Bolton Percy is a wide and meandering stream with associated marshy grassland. The aquatic flora of the stream is quite diverse including water plantain and yellow water lily. The emergent vegetation is also diverse and includes creeping yellowcress, giant bellflower and purple loosestrife. The damp marshy grassland includes meadowsweet but is largely dominated by coarse grass species. East of Bolton Percy are areas of unimproved hay meadows with a good diversity of grasses including yellow oat-grass and herbs such as meadowsweet, common agrimony and common knapweed. A second, meadow, closely associated with the first, is more heavily grazed and has a less diverse sward.

A disused station at Bolton Percy has been colonised by a variety of tree and grassland species. The area is noted as a breeding site for birds such as willow warbler and yellow hammer, and is a feeding site for migrant redwings. The diversity of plant species provides a good habitat for a notable population of Lepidoptera. Great crested newt has also been found on the site.

Brocket Wood, near the northern boundary of the district, is an isolated oak/sycamore woodland with a moderately diverse herb layer. The woodland is on the site of an ancient woodland.

Moreby Wood, a sizeable wood, located to the west of Escrick, is a mixture of planted coniferous and broad-leaved trees on an ancient woodland site. The herb flora contains bluebell, foxglove, herb robert and wild strawberry. Further areas of woodland replanted on ancient sites are found West of Stillingfleet and at Heron Wood near Escrick.

Gashouse Plantation, in Escrick is a small, mixed woodland with a plantation of Scot's pine and small ponds. The site is noted mainly for the diversity and maturity of some of the broad-leaved trees but the ponds are threatened by drying out. The ponds in the grounds of Queen Margaret's School, Escrick are also noted as being wildlife sites.

**WEST SELBY RIDGE –(Northern Section)**

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINC.S. Others are grade 2 / 3.

<b>Ecological Resource</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Crag Wood</b>	<b>SE 464413</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Smaws Wood</b>	<b>SE 470436</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Whin Covert	SE 450431	District	AWI
Castle Hill, Tadcaster	SE 484437	District	LINCS
<b>Lords Quarry, Tadcaster</b>	<b>SE 465425</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Willow Carr, Cock Bridge</b>	<b>SE 486423</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Seavy Carr Wood</b>	<b>SE 480410</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Dalton Wood</b>	<b>SE 485410</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Area around Cock Beck</b>			
<b>Mill Lane</b>	<b>SE 483415</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Grassland by Cock Beck	SE 479411	District	LINCS
<b>Lower Wood, Upper Wood</b>	<b>SE 486414</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Stutton railway track</b>	<b>SE 483405</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Stutton Ings</b>	<b>SE 485405</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>Hazelwood</b>	<b>SE 440395</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Hayton Wood</b>	<b>SE 445385</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Wood Nr Wingate Hill Farm	SE 472411	District	LINCS
<b>Renshaw Wood</b>	<b>SE 475386</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Cocksford Wood</b>	<b>SE 473400</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>AWI</b>
<b>Towton Dale Fields</b>	<b>SE 474385</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Crow Hill - Lead Hall Farm	SE 460370	District	LINCS
Roadside Verge Nr Lotherton Park Farm	SE 432366 to 456367	District	LINCS
The Rein, south of Cock Beck	SE 370450	District	LINCS
<b>Castle Hill Wood</b>	<b>SE 467380</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
South of Cock Beck	SE 448378	District	LINCS
Bullen Wood	SE 457382	District	LINCS
<b>Newthorpe Quarry, Meadow and Verge</b>	<b>SE 460322</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Daniel Hartleys Wood</b>	<b>SE 457340</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Huddleston Old Wood</b>	<b>SE 465334</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Ringhay Wood	SE 455348	District	LINCS
Disused Quarry, Newthorpe	SE 471322	District	LINCS
<b>Copley Lane Quarry</b>	<b>SE 483361</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Bank on Laith Staid Lane, Sherburn in Elmet</b>	<b>SE 481336</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Sherburn Willows</b>	<b>SE 487325</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
Wood on Whin Lane Nr Steeton Hall	SE 478314	District	LINCS
Field at Betteras Hill Road	SE 497291	District	LINCS
Pond at Betteras Hill Road	SE 505291	District	LINCS
Meadow Nr Hillam Gates level crossing	SE 499289	District	LINCS
Field at side of Hillam Gates level crossing	SE 501292	District	LINCS
Churchyard, Monk Fryston	SE 505297	District	LINCS
Pond east of A63, Monk Fryston	SE 511296	District	LINCS
Meadow (Hillam Gates level crossing)	SE 514296	District	LINCS

**SELBY LIMESTONE RIDGE –(Southern Section)**

<b>Ecological Resource</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Wormersley and Cridling</b>			
<b>Stubbs Quarry</b>	<b>SE 522203</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Wake Wood</b>	<b>SE 504204</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Scrombeck Farm	SE 511202	District	AWI
<b>Woodland adjacent to Old Quarry</b>			
<b>Nr Northfield</b>	<b>SE 514206</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Bridleway- Cridling Stubbs crossing.</b>	<b>SE 512209</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Rows Wood</b>	<b>SE 514199</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Northfield Quarry	SE 518209	District	LINCS
Womersley Park Oak Plantation	SE 526183	District	LINCS
Belt Plantation along Church-field Lane, Womersley	SE 534176	District	LINCS
<b>Kingsland Wood</b>	<b>SE 515192</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Brockadale</b>	<b>SE 503174</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>Forlorn Hope Meadow</b>	<b>SE 543171</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>

The Selby Limestone Edge Character Area contains a very large number of sites which are considered to be of ecological important in the District - far more than any other single Character Area. The majority of the sites are woodlands which contain characteristic limestone herb layer. Naturally re-vegetated disused quarries are also a feature of this landscape as are areas of species-rich Magnesian limestone grassland. Wetlands and streams are scarce however Cock beck, near Stutton, is an important corridor linking many different sites and is a species-rich habitat in its own right. Sherburn Willows, on Mires Beck near Sherburn in Elmet, is an important area of limestone grassland and fen. To the south, Brockadale is a picturesque wooded valley which has a diversity of habitats and species.

Around the Tadcaster area are a number of woodlands which contain characteristic limestone species. No species information- Magnesian Limestone Woodland Smaws Wood is a small area of ancient woodland to the west of Tadcaster. Further west, on the boundary of the district is a further area of woodland (Whin Covert) which has been replanted on the site of an ancient woodland. Castle Hill, Tadcaster is a small area of semi-improved grassland adjacent to the River Wharfe. The herb layer is rich and the presence of stinking hellebore, clustered bellflower and past records of broad leaved-helleborine are of particular note. Willow Carr is a small wet woodland, the northern part of which is ancient woodland.

The area to the east of Stutton is diverse with a variety of habitats including mature deciduous woodland at Seavy Carr and Dalton Woods, scrub vegetation, calcareous grassland and a stream, Cock Beck. Part of Seavy Carr Wood is ancient woodland and part of Dalton Wood is also replanted woodland on an ancient woodland site. Lower Wood/Upper Wood is an area of ancient woodland. A disused railway runs to the south of the area. Stutton railway is a broad, disused railway embankment containing a wide variety of trees. The area is of botanical and ornithological interest. The presence of common meadowrue, teasel, purple loosestrife and giant bellflower are of note. The area is important for bird species and grass snakes have been noted in the stream. Renshaw Wood is a narrow strip of ancient woodland beside Cock Beck. Further north, near Cocksford is another area of ancient and replanted woodland. To the south, Towton Dale Fields and Castle Hill Wood are both replanted woodland on ancient woodland sites. Stutton Ings SSSI is a small remnant of traditionally managed fen grassland on Magnesian Limestone. The land is beside Cock Beck and is periodically flooded and has a rich flora. These sites make a significant contribution to the biodiversity of the area.



figwort, water plantain and fool's watercress. The grassland has a diversity of herb species but would benefit from a mowing regime to prevent tree encroachment.

Catterton Rash is an area of marsh which is of ornithological interest. The marsh is dominated by greater and lesser pond sedge, ragged robin, yellow flag and water forget-me-not. A diversity of wetland birds and wildfowl breed on the site including snipe, curlew, moorhen, reed bunting and mallard. Mallard and Wigeon are resident in winter. The site also includes five acres of rough grazing. To the east is Catterton Wood, a small fragment of ancient woodland. Catterton Marsh another small area of marshland near Healaugh Beck, to the north.

Bilbrough Whin is a small woodland largely of planted origin with some areas of Rhododendron and a generally poor herb layer including wood avens and woundwort. Another small areas of replanted ancient woodland is found near Pallathorpe Farm.

Tadcaster Mere SSSI is on the site of a former lake basin and has sediments which contain important pollen records from the vegetation of the Devensian glacial period in history.

Hagg Wood, near the northern boundary of the district is, in part, ancient woodland. The dominant trees are beech, oak and sycamore with a sparse understorey of hazel and elder.

A small, triangular field of marshy grassland beside the railway line near Colton is noted for the diversity of herb species in the sward including pepper saxifrage and purging flax. The wetter areas also have a diversity of characteristic species including reedmace, marsh horsetail, false fox-sedge and carnation sedge. Unfortunately, the site has become degraded by recent planting of poplar and by the encroachment of hawthorn, birch and willow scrub.

To the west of Bolton Percy is a wide and meandering stream with associated marshy grassland. The aquatic flora of the stream is quite diverse including water plantain and yellow water lily. The emergent vegetation is also diverse and includes creeping yellowcress, giant bellflower and purple loosestrife. The damp marshy grassland includes meadowsweet but is largely dominated by coarse grass species. East of Bolton Percy are areas of unimproved hay meadows with a good diversity of grasses including yellow oat-grass and herbs such as meadowsweet, common agrimony and common knapweed. A second, meadow, closely associated with the first, is more heavily grazed and has a less diverse sward.

A disused station at Bolton Percy has been colonised by a variety of tree and grassland species. The area is noted as a breeding site for birds such as willow warbler and yellow hammer, and is a feeding site for migrant redwings. The diversity of plant species provides a good habitat for a notable population of Lepidoptera. Great crested newt has also been found on the site.

Brocket Wood, near the northern boundary of the district, is an isolated oak/sycamore woodland with a moderately diverse herb layer. The woodland is on the site of an ancient woodland.

Moreby Wood, a sizeable wood, located to the west of Escrick, is a mixture of planted coniferous and broad-leaved trees on an ancient woodland site. The herb flora contains bluebell, foxglove, herb robert and wild strawberry. Further areas of woodland replanted on ancient sites are found West of Stillingfleet and at Heron Wood near Escrick.

Gashouse Plantation, in Escrick is a small, mixed woodland with a plantation of Scot's pine and small ponds. The site is noted mainly for the diversity and maturity of some of the broad-leaved trees but the ponds are threatened by drying out. The ponds in the grounds of Queen Margaret's School, Escrick are also noted as being wildlife sites.

On the western fringe of the district is a cluster of mainly woodland sites. Hazelwood and Hayton Wood are replanted woodlands on ancient woodland sites. The five metre-wide roadside verge of the B1217 is strip of unimproved calcareous grassland noted for the presence of hedge bedstraw, field scabious, common century, cowslip and greater knapweed. Wood small reed is found in a small ditch by the adjacent hedge. The hedge is diverse and includes blackthorn, wych elm and crab apple. Near to the verge is the remains of a linear earthwork which is now covered by scattered scrub and broad-leaved woodland. The herb layer includes dog's mercury, wild garlic, bluebell, cowslip and common violet - species typical of Magnesian Limestone woodlands. The site is of great value as a corridor of semi-natural habitat in the largely arable countryside. To the east, Bullen Wood is a smaller area of planted, mixed woodland on an ancient woodland site. To the south of Cock Beck is an bank of unimproved calcareous grassland with scattered scrub and broad-leaved woodland. The most species-rich areas of grassland are found in-between the areas of scrub and include characteristic calcicole species such as yellow oat-grass, quaking grass, burnet saxifrage, cowslip, field scabious, lady's bedstraw and restharrow. The banks of Cock Beck are also noted for the presence of brooklime and gipsy-wort although Himalayan balsam is invading some areas. Unimproved calcareous grassland at Crow Hill is noted for the presence of rest harrow, fragrant orchid, and deadly nightshade is abundant in the adjacent woodland.

A cluster of sites located between Micklefield and Sherburn in Elmet include calcareous grassland, deciduous woodland and disused quarries with unimproved calcareous grassland and scrub. Common spotted orchid, field scabious, small scabious, rest harrow and common rockrose are of particular note in the quarry at Newthorpe and the site is noted for its butterfly species. The quarry is an old limestone quarry which is colonising with a scrubby woodland and includes a variety of local rarities. Characteristic limestone plants such as bee orchids, twayblade, ploughman's spikenard and yellow wort are found. Daniel Hartleys Wood and Huddleston Old Wood are replanted woodland on an ancient woodland site. Ringhay Wood is located to the north of Daniel Hartleys wood and is a planted mixed wood dominated by ash, sycamore, larch and beech on an ancient woodland site. Ancient woodland indicator species such as wood anemone, primrose, wild garlic, and early purple orchid are present but not in any abundance. The woodland is actively managed with thinning and replanting.

A small area of calcareous grassland is located to the west of Sherburn in Elmet on a steep bank beside Laith Staid Lane. Blackthorn scrub is encroaching but the abundant calcicole herb species of note include wild marjoram, field scabious, harebell, greater knapweed, wild basil, twayblade and rest harrow. The site is also noted for a diversity of butterflies. A disused quarry close to a watercourse and railway line is found at Copley Lane.

Sherburn Willows SSSI is an area of Magnesian Limestone grassland beside Mill Dike, near Sherburn in Elmet. Part of the site is managed as a nature reserve by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Nearer South Milford is a very small area of broad-leaved woodland on Whin Lane near Steeton Hall. Herb flora includes bluebell, dog's-mercury, lords and ladies and wild basil.

A number of sites of nature conservation interest are found at the southern end of the northern section of the Selby Limestone Edge, near Monk Fryston and Hillam. Calcareous grassland has developed on the site of quarry at Betteras Hill Road, near Hillam and is noted for the good insect population it supports. Adjacent to the level crossing at Hillam Gates are two areas of unimproved grassland. The meadow to the south is calcareous grassland which supports good numbers of common butterflies. To the north, the field is managed for hay and contains species such as great burnet, black bryony and meadow vetchling. Nearby is a small pond surrounded by broad-leaved woodland. The churchyard at Monk Fryston is another area of unimproved calcareous grassland. The nature conservation interest of this site is maintained by annual mowing for a crop of hay. To the east of the village is a small pond which is surrounded an area of willow carr. The pond is inhabited by waterfowl such as mallard. Not far from the pond is a small area of unmanaged neutral grassland surrounded by tall hedges. The herb flora

includes betony, cowslip and crosswort. The variety of habitat types found in this location makes this an locally important area for nature conservation.

Around the Womersley area is a variety of habitats characteristic of the Magnesian Limestone. Woodland is found at Wake Wood and adjacent to the old quarry near Northfield. Hedgerows and grassland are found along the Bridleway near Cridling Stubbs crossing. Wake Wood is an ancient woodland and nearby at Scrombeck Farm, is a small areas of replanted ancient woodland. Rows Wood is a semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with a dominance of ash and an understorey of hazel, guelder-rose, holly and wild privet. This diversity of understorey species is combined with ancient woodland indicators such as wood millet, hedge woundwort, sanicle, early purple orchid, wood sedge, and lords and ladies. Disused quarries have developed limestone floras and several areas are filled with water. Northfield Quarry is a partly disused quarry which has developed scrubby woodland. Exposures of limestone form the northern edge of the site and it is noted for the diversity of calcareous flora and the abundance of insects and molluscs. Spring Lodge Quarry, or the former Cridling Stubbs quarry includes two disused limestone quarries which have developed scrubby woodland. Limestone flora is also present although this has been limited by some dumping of agricultural rubbish. The woodland adjacent to the Old Quarry near Northfield is semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with an assortment of ancient woodland indicator plants. Early purple orchid and cowslip are present in the wood.

Oak Plantation, to the south of Womersley is planted broad-leaved woodland on site of ancient woodland, as indicated by the diversity of ground flora which includes wood anemone, male fern and wood avens. Adjacent is a narrow shelterbelt dominated by ash with a diverse understorey and herb layer including field maple, wild privet, blackthorn, guelder rose, black bryony, sanicle. The Site of Special Scientific Interest at Forlorn Hope Meadow is an important example of an unimproved neutral grassland. This habitat type is threatened by agricultural improvements.

Brockadale in the south-west of the district is a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserve in the narrow Went Valley. It is noted for species-diverse Magnesian Limestone woodlands with outcrops and crags, limestone grassland and species-rich meadows beside the river Went.

## WEST SELBY PLAIN

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINCS. Others are Grade 2 or 3.

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Towton Spring</b>	SE	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Patefield Woods</b>	SE	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Carr Wood</b>	SE 491376	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Ulleskelf Mires</b>	SE 519388	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Paradise Wood</b>	SE 540372	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Great Lawn Wood</b>	SE 547366	<b>District</b>	<b>AWI</b>
<b>Bishop Wood</b>	SE 550330	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Pasture off Nanny Lane, Church Fenton	SE 521379	District	LINCS
<b>Pasture opposite Gypsum Works</b>	SE 508348	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Swamp on Selby Dam Nr Low Rest Park Farm	SE 548321	District	LINCS
Barber Rein	SE 588325	District	LINCS
<b>Burr Close</b>	SE 596340	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>

A cluster of woodlands is located north of Searthingwell. Towton Spring is an area of former ancient woodland site, largely cleared except for south-eastern corner. wet woodland with spring fed pond. Patefield Wood is an area of partially replanted woodland with some remaining areas of ancient woodland. Carr Wood is replanted woodland on an ancient woodland site.

Haighs Grass is another locally designated site to the south-east of Kirkby Wharfe. Ulleskelf Mires is marshy area of botanical and ornithological interest with sedges, rushes and willows and ditches which attract wetland birds.

Paradise Wood is a sizeable area of ancient woodland east of Church Fenton. Nearby is a small area of woodland, Great Lawn Wood, a replanted woodland on an ancient site.

Bishop Wood is the most extensive area of woodland in the Selby District. It is mainly replanted woodland on an ancient woodland site. Broad-leaved trees border the woodland rides. The site is noted for species-rich flora around a small pond. A small area of swamp to the south of Bishops Wood is noted for the its wetland vegetation and the variety of birds and amphibians recorded.

Barber Rein is a small fragment of ancient woodland to the east of Bishop Wood. Burr Closes SSSI, near Selby is a small, damp alluvial meadow which remains agriculturally unimproved and which is rich in flowering plants. The site is also noted for the presence of the Forester moth, a species characteristic of diverse, unimproved grasslands.

A small ridge-and-furrow pasture off Nanny Lane, near Church Fenton contains a diversity of herb species including betony, great burnet and knapweed. The hedges which surround the pasture are particularly diverse and include holly, field maple and hop.

A small area of species-rich pasture and scrub opposite the Gypsum works at Sherburn in Elmet, is surrounded by well grown hedgerows and has a neutral to mildly calcareous flora. Notable species include pepper saxifrage and cowslip with red bartsia, wild carrot and purging flax. Great burnet and meadow cranesbill are also present. Hawthorn scrub has been managed in order to prevent excessive invasion.

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## WHARFE-OUSE CORRIDOR

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINCS. Others are Grade 2 or 3

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Kirkby Wharfe</b>	<b>SE 510400</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
Haymeadow by Wharfe			
Ozedyke	SE	District	LINCS
<b>Bolton Percy Ings</b>	<b>SE 534401</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>Nun Appleton Ings and</b>	<b>SE 550395</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Sticklebit Wood</b>			
<b>Haymeadow at Ryther Ings</b>	<b>SE 562395</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Castle Garth	SE	District	LINCS
Small Lakes, Riccall Ings	SE 617360	District	LINCS
<b>Fields Nr Barlow Grange Farm</b>	<b>SE 629312</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Ross Carr Ponds	SE 637313	District	LINCS
Roadside Verge alongside	SE	District	LINCS
Ouse Near Barlow			
<b>Barlow Common</b>	<b>SE 633297</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Meadow East of Orchard	SE 649286	District	LINCS
Farm			
Disused railway embankment	SE 677276		
Long Drax	to 684280	District	LINCS
<b>Loftsome Ponds Nr Loftsome</b>			
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>SE 703300</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Ponds between Bielby and	SE	District	LINCS
River			

The key habitats of this character area are open water, wetlands and unimproved grasslands near to the River Wharfe - Ouse.

Kirkby Wharfe is an area of low lying land beside Derks Dike, a tributary of the River Wharfe and supports a rich marshland flora with areas of neutral grassland and managed osier beds. The site is a rare example of a sedge and rush-dominated marshland in the Vale of York.

South of the River Wharfe, at Ryther Ings, is an area of flood meadow which is managed traditionally by summer cutting and autumn grazing. The site is one of very few areas which remain unimproved and it contains a mix of grasses including marsh fox-tail and timothy grass. Tall herbs such as meadow cranesbill, great burnet and meadowsweet are found in the wetter areas. Another area of seasonally flooded neutral grassland with similar species is found near Ozedyke. Additional species of note are tansy, meadowsweet, hemlock, meadow vetchling, treacle mustard and star sedge. The site is suitable for breeding waders and wintering wildfowl. Lowland flood meadows containing marsh fox-tail and great burnet are included in the EC Habitat Directive as warranting special protection.

Nun Appleton Ings is an area of damp grassland on washland beside the River Wharfe. The grassland is cropped for hay and grazed. The site is mainly noted for its botanical interest but when in flood, the area is attractive to birds. Sticklebit Wood is an area of mixed woodland on an ancient woodland site. South of the river, at Ryther Ings, is a further area of hay meadow.

Bolton Percy Ings SSSI is noted for the neutral grassland plants found in the two alluvial flood meadows adjacent to the River Wharfe. This type of habitats is increasingly rare due to agricultural improvements. Nearby is the southern half of Great Marsh, Bolton Percy, a further area of diverse marshy grassland.

Castle Garth in Cawood is an area of neutral grassland and a seasonally wet pond. The pond is noted for its aquatic vegetation including water chickweed and ivy-leaved crowfoot, and for the presence of great crested newts.

Two small ponds south of Riccall provide important open water habitats with abundant floating and emergent vegetation. The eastern pond has a small island which is covered by dense scrub. These habitats are significant for birds and for invertebrates such as damsel and dragonflies.

Ross Carr Ponds are located in a bend of the River Ouse and were created during construction of flood banks on the river. The ponds are largely covered by dense reeds and are developing into willow-carr with only small patches of open water remaining. The site attracts a wide variety of birds and is important for invertebrates such as dragonflies and damselflies. The roadside verge alongside the Ouse near Barlow has a gappy hedge and ditch and a strip of neutral grassland with some marshy influences such as meadowsweet.

A stretch of disused railway embankment at Long Drax is noted as a wildlife corridor of scrub and grassland through an area of intensively managed agriculture. Brockholes, south of Drax, is a large stretch of open water surrounded by a narrow strip of woodland containing a diversity of tree species. The site is of value to wildfowl and migratory birds.

Flooded borrow pits beside the river Ouse at Bielby are significant wetland sites noted for the odonata and bird species recorded. These pits provide a combination of open water, marshy grassland and trees.



## HAMBLETON SANDSTONE RIDGE

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINC.S. Others are Grade 2 or 3

<b>Ecological Resource</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Importance</b>	<b>Status</b>
Brayton Barff	SE 585305	District	AWI

This very small character area contains no sites with national or local authority nature conservation designations however there is an area of ancient woodland. Brayton Barff, near Thorpe Wolloughby is a sizeable area of ancient and in part, replanted woodland located on the sides of a small hill.



## SKIPWITH LOWLANDS

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINCS. Others are Grade 2 or 3

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Hollicarrs Wood</b>	<b>SE 634400</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Common Wood	SE 645402	District	LINCS
Scruton Wood	SE 684402	District	LINCS
<b>Skipwith Common</b>	<b>SE 655373</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
Nightingale Wood	SE 651395	District	LINCS
Thorganby Common Wood	SE 666402	District	LINCS
Wood nr. Thornhill Farm	SE 663406	District	AWI
Disused railway line NE of Skipwith	SE 673388	District	LINCS
<b>Derwent Ings (Part)</b>	<b>SE 703466</b> <b>to 703347</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>River Derwent (Part)</b>	<b>SE 678287</b> <b>to 825757</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>Lower Derwent Valley (Part)</b>	<b>SE 695445</b> <b>to 702323</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>SPA/SAC</b> <b>RAMSAR</b> <b>NNR</b>
<b>Field at A163 and River Derwent</b>	<b>SE 704365</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>

The key habitats of this area are the sandy heathlands and woodlands and the grasslands and flood meadows of the Lower Derwent Valley.

Two replanted woodlands on ancient woodland sites are found at Hollicarrs wood and Common Wood. The extensive area of heathland at Skipwith Common, is the largest single tract of this habitat type in the north of England. The majority of the site is managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve. Habitat includes birch woodland and scrub, heather, and damp and dry heath. The site is extremely rich in terms of invertebrates and birds, reflecting the overall habitat diversity found.

North of Skipwith Common, Nightingale wood is a planted mixed woodland with limited herb layer diversity although the woodland rides are slightly more diverse. The wood is populated by long-tailed tits. To the east is Thorganby Common Wood, which is also mixed woodland and is dominated by silver birch with bracken dominating the ground layer. The wood has some marshy areas similar to those found on Skipwith Common. Another small area of woodland, replanted on an ancient site, is found to the west of Common Wood.

Scruton Wood is a planted mixed woodland on an ancient woodland site. It has a reasonably diverse ground flora of greater stitchwort, ferns, climbing corydalis, wood sorrel and wood millet suggesting an ancient woodland site. Bluebells and foxglove are also present.

A stretch of disused railway to the north east of Skipwith Common SSSI has scrubby woodland and grassland habitats and creates a wildlife corridor between the scattered woodlands to the north and the common to the south.

The eastern border of area f includes part of Derwent Ings and the River Derwent SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites. This consists of a series of neutral alluvial meadows, fen and swamp communities, and freshwater habitats adjacent to the River Derwent. The site represents one of

the most important examples of agriculturally unimproved species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. Species include great burnet, marsh foxtail, sneezewort, ragged robin, pepper saxifrage and the nationally scarce narrow-leaved water drop-wort. The site has an outstanding assemblage of invertebrates and is also nationally and internationally important for breeding and wintering wetland bird species including Bewick's swan.

The lowland section of the River Derwent supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. River water drop-wort, arrowhead and narrow-leaved water-parsnip are of particular note as is the diversity of invertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and damselflies. The riverine habitat also supports a diverse breeding bird community including common sandpiper, dipper, kingfisher, yellow and grey wagtails. The Derwent also supports breeding populations of otter. The Lower Derwent Valley SAC/SPA/ Ramsar site consists of many of the traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood-meadow covered by the Derwent Ings, Brighton Meadows and Melbourne Ings SSSI designations.

There is a small area of wet neutral grassland designated as a locally important site, adjacent to the Derwent Ings SSSI beside the A163. Ponds beside a stretch of disused railway line near Bubwith are also noted for their wetland flora which includes greater water parsnip, and an abundance of insect life such as butterflies.

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## East Selby Farmland

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINC.S. Others are Grade 2 or 3

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Derwent Ings</b>	<b>SE 703466 to 703347</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI/</b>
<b>River Derwent</b>	<b>SE 678287 to 825757</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI/</b>
<b>Lower Derwent Valley</b>	<b>SE 695445 to 702323</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>SPA/SAC RAMSAR NNR</b>
<b>Pond Nr disused railway line</b>	<b>SE 700352</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Brighton Meadows</b>	<b>SE 701324</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
<b>Ponds on West Bank of River Derwent Nr Woodhall Farm</b>	<b>SE 701318</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
Cliffe Wood	SE 664345	District	LINC.S
Haymoors Wood	SE 684321	District	LINC.S

The key habitats of this area are the wetlands and grasslands beside the River Derwent on the eastern boundary of the District. Small isolated woodlands are also scattered in the open farmland landscape.

The eastern boundary of the area is formed by Derwent Ings and the River Derwent. Derwent Ings SSSI consists of a series of neutral alluvial meadows, fen and swamp communities, and freshwater habitats adjacent to the River Derwent. The site represents one of the most important examples of agriculturally unimproved species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. Species include great burnet, marsh foxtail, sneezewort, ragged robin, pepper saxifrage and the nationally scarce narrow-leaved water drop-wort. The site has an outstanding assemblage of invertebrates and is also nationally and internationally important for breeding and wintering wetland bird species including Bewick's swan.

The lowland section of the River Derwent SSSI supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. River water drop-wort, arrowhead and narrow-leaved water-parsnip are of particular note as is the diversity of invertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and damselflies. The riverine habitat also supports a diverse breeding bird community including common sandpiper, dipper, kingfisher, yellow and grey wagtails. The Derwent also supports breeding populations of otter.

The Lower Derwent Valley consists of extensive areas of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood-meadow. The boundaries of the SPA, SAC Ramsar site include several SSSI sites which are in part in Selby District including Derwent Ings, Brighton Meadows and the River Derwent SSSI's. The site qualifies for these designations due to the nationally and internationally important numbers of winter and breeding birds. Species such as golden plover, ruff, shoveler, teal, wigeon, pochard and whimbrel are of particular importance. The site also has a rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates.

Brighton Meadows SSSI is notified for its nationally and internationally important flood meadow plant community and the assemblage of breeding birds associated with lowland damp

sneezewort, ragged robin, marsh marigold, pepper saxifrage and the nationally scarce narrow-leaved water-dropwort. Wading bird species including snipe, lapwing, redshank, curlew and wildfowl include shoveler, teal and mallard. Other species include yellow wagtail and reed, sedge and grasshopper warblers. A small part of the SSSI is located to the west of the River Derwent and is therefore within Selby District.

Several small scrub-fringed ponds located on the west bank of the River Derwent near Wressle are noted for their diversity of wetland plants and tall herbs such as wild angelica and water figwort. To the south of these ponds, near Loftsome Bridge, are two large ponds with a rich aquatic and marginal flora and a variety of amphibian, bird and in particular, insect species. Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native plant, threatens to invade some parts of the site.

Cliffe Wood and Haymoors Wood are both small, semi-natural, broad-leaved woodlands in a largely agricultural landscape. Cliffe Wood is on the site of an ancient woodland whilst Haymoors Wood is close to an ancient woodland site which has been cleared. Tree species include oak, ash, and silver birch. The understorey and herb layer of Haymoors wood is more diverse than Cliffe Wood and includes climbing corydalis, broad-buckler fern and foxglove.

## CAMBLESFORTH LOWLANDS

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINCS. Others are Grade 2 or 3

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
Oakney Woods and Ponds	SE 613305	District	LINCS
<b>Sturges Ponds</b>	<b>SE 613306</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Staynor Wood</b>	<b>SE 627308</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Staynor Hall	SE 624312	District	AWI
Field Nr Primrose Hill, Cat Babbleton	SE 621283	District	LINCS
Woodland on Barlow Pasture			
Botany Bay Farm	SE 619291	District	LINCS
<b>Cobble Croft Wood</b>	<b>SE 638268</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Sand Pit Wood and Barff			
Close Plantation	SE 633270	District	LINCS
Common Plantation	SE 638275	District	LINCS
Woodland south of Quosquo Hall	SE 630248	District	AWI
Joyland Whin, Nr Quosquo Hall	SE 627261	District	LINCS
Disused railway embankment	SE 677276		
Long Drax	to 684280	District	LINCS
<b>Brockholes, Drax</b>	<b>SE 675255</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>

The key habitats of this area include scattered woodlands and wood pasture, grasslands and a number of ponds and wetlands (often man-made). Wetlands and flood meadows beside the Aire are also important.

The habitats found at Sturges Ponds include three areas of open water with surrounding birch, willow and bramble scrub. The ponds are noted for their diverse bird population including great crested grebe, reed bunting and redpoll. The ponds and grassy paths have a species-rich flora. Common spotted orchid is found in one area. The site is managed for angling. Oakney Woods is a semi-natural broad-leaved wood dominated by silver birch and an understorey of bracken. This site is an important adjunct to the adjacent Sturges Pond.

Staynor Wood is an area of ancient, wet woodland adjacent to Barlow Grange Pastures. A further area of replanted ancient woodland is found to the west, at Staynor Hall. The pastures are species rich and contain field woodrush, oval sedge, lady's smock and greater bird's-foot trefoil. Other features of interest are the scattered mature oaks in the pasture and hedgerows, and the numerous woodland herbs such as wood sorrel, wild garlic, bluebell and male fern which indicate a transition from woodland. Curlew, redshank and snipe have been noted in the breeding season.

The small field of unimproved grassland near Primrose Hill, Cat Babbleton, is most notable for the vegetation in a dry ditch. This vegetation includes water forget-me-not, valerian and gypsywort. The semi-natural woodland at Barlow Pasture has a dense understorey and provides a good habitat for breeding birds. No habitat information was available regarding Barlow Common, nearby.

A number of woodlands are found to the north-east of Camblesforth. Sand Pit Wood and Barff Close Plantation is a area of deciduous woodland of sycamore, oak and ash with an understorey

of birch and willows. The herb layer is characteristic of the lighter soils east of the Magnesian Limestone and includes bluebells, climbing corydalis and bramble. A further area of deciduous woodland is found at Cobble Croft Wood. Common Plantation is a semi-natural broad-leaved woodland of oak, birch and sycamore with a diversity of understorey species. The herb layer includes wetter elements such as soft rush and yellow iris. Joyland Whin is a further area of woodland to the south. A small area of woodland replanted on an ancient woodland site is found to the south of Quosquo Hall, near Camblesforth.

Unimproved neutral grassland is found in isolated areas such as a meadow north east of Barlow. The site contains a moderate diversity of plant species and is bounded by a well-grown hawthorn and blackthorn hedgerow. The grassland is well populated by butterflies, moths and other invertebrates.

A stretch of disused railway embankment at Long Drax is noted as a wildlife corridor of scrub and grassland through an area of intensively managed agriculture.

## RIVER AIRE CORRIDOR

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINC.S. Others are Grade 2 or 3

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Fairburn and Newton Ings</b>	<b>SE 465275</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>SSSI</b>
Bank of River Aire along Brotherton and Fairburn Ings	SE 470270	District	LINC.S
<b>Frog Hall Quarry</b>	<b>SE 486271</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Byram Park</b>	<b>SE 493268</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Byram Park</b>	<b>SE 486268</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
Bywater Wood Nr Burton Common Farm	SE 507277	District	LINC.S
Staker Wood	SE 557283	District	LINC.S
Willow Scrub - Birkin House	SE 547266	District	LINC.S
Selby Canal Banks and Towpath	SE 598296	District	LINC.S
Disused Pit (Hensall)	SE 581228	District	LINC.S
Sand Quarry, Great Heck	SE 599202	District	LINC.S
<b>West Marsh</b>	<b>SE 627234</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Meadows Nr River Aire</b>	<b>SE 641228</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Newland Ings</b>	<b>SE 685237</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Meadow, south of Drax</b>	<b>SE 679239</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>
<b>Carlton Park Pond</b>	<b>SE 648233</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINC.S</b>

The key habitats of this area are the wetlands and flood meadows associated with the River Aire and scattered woodlands and parklands.

Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI, located in the Lower Aire Valley is an area of former Ings which has become permanently flooded as a result of mining subsidence. The site consists of a series of interconnected water bodies surrounded by extensive areas of marsh and wet pasture divided by dykes. The site attracts a large number of bird species and is particularly noted for wintering wildfowl. Nearby, the bank of the River Aire, beside Brotherton Ings is noted for its quite diverse neutral grassland which includes tall herbs such as meadow crane's-bill, great burnet, wild angelica and foxglove.

Frog Hall Quarry, near Burton Salmon, is an old Magnesian Limestone quarry which has developed species-rich grassland and scrub. Fairy flax, common twayblade, marjoram and cowslip are some of the more notable species on this site. Byram Park to the east is an area of parkland with woodland shelterbelts and mature trees important for invertebrate, bat and bird species.

Bywater Wood is an isolated, plantation woodland surrounded by intensive agriculture and dominated by sycamore and ash. The understorey of holly and wych elm suggests that the site has been wooded for some time although the herb layer is dominated with nettle and bramble and is therefore of limited diversity.

Staker Wood, near Gateforth, is an example of a semi-natural and planted woodland which still retains some ancient woodland features. The herb layer is particularly diverse and includes bluebells, wood anemone, broad-leaved helleborine and primrose. Willow Scrub to the south,

is a dense scrub with damp marshy areas containing yellow iris and marsh marigold. This site is a good habitat for breeding birds.

The banks of the Selby Canal, north of the village of Burn, provide areas of unimproved neutral grassland, tall herbs and a ditch with good aquatic and marginal vegetation. The site is a valuable habitat for birds, butterflies and wetland flora and acts as a significant wildlife corridor.

A former borrow pit beside the M62 near Hensall has developed a semi-improved neutral grassland flora and has a seasonally wet area at the centre of the site. Broom and gorse are common on the sloping sides whilst reed sweet-grass and reedmace dominate the swamp area. The site is noted for the abundance of butterflies present on the site is likely to be important for other invertebrates.

Great Heck quarry is a large, disused sand quarry which has developed an important area of neutral grassland and scattered scrub. Notable species include great mullein, wild lettuce and ploughman's spikenard. The site is likely to be an important site for invertebrate species. A pond, also located on the site, currently suffers from fluctuating water levels and pollution but could be improved to the benefit of wildlife.

The unimproved, damp, neutral grassland of West Marsh is located near to the river Aire near Carlton, but is now separated from the river by a flood bank. The species present are typical of good lowland wet grassland and the abundance of purple small-reed in the old ditches is of particular note. The adjacent hedgerows and fields are important for bird species and butterflies. Curlew have been seen in nearby fields. Two other meadows of unimproved neutral grassland with great burnet are also found beside the Aire near Carlton.

Brockholes, south of Drax, is a large stretch of open water surrounded by a narrow strip of woodland containing a diversity of tree species. The site is of value to wildfowl and migratory birds.

Newland Ings is a sizeable area of semi-natural habitat in otherwise intensively farmed countryside. This area of washland is situated within a loop of the river Aire and floods regularly. The land is rough grazing with pasture, willow scrub and tall vegetation which is ideal habitat for breeding birds and wintering wildfowl. Nearby is a small meadow of wet grassland located on the north bank of the River Aire.

Carlton Park Pond, in the grounds of the Carlton Park Estate, is a large area of open water noted for the aquatic vegetation which includes extensive beds of water-lily. The site is stocked with fish and is a good habitat for birds such as great crested grebe, coot, moorhen, mallard and swan.



## SOUTHERN FARMLANDS

Text in Bold refers to grade 4/5 LINCS. Others are 2 or 3

Ecological Resource	NGR	Importance	Status
<b>Grant Spring</b>	<b>SE 533208</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Woods near Ash Disposal Works</b>	<b>SE 530212</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Brown Ings Wood</b>	<b>SE 543213</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Birdspring Wood</b>	<b>SE 554184</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Ox Stocking Wood</b>	<b>SE 549179</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Saulcroft Wood</b>	<b>SE 556183</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Busky Wood</b>	<b>SE 560192</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Broadoak Spring</b>	<b>SE 553185</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Clipsall Wood</b>	<b>SE 549192</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Steel Spring Wood</b>	<b>SE 544188</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Balne Moor Ponds</b>	<b>SE 538193</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Disused Railway Line, Great Heck	SE 580199 to 587209	District	LINCS
Ditch west of Balne Moor Ponds	SE 579197	District	LINCS
<b>Parkshaw Wood</b>	<b>SE 582194</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
<b>Barn Fall Wood</b>	<b>SE 578192</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>
Fox Covert, Walden Stubbs	SE 593171	District	LINCS
<b>River Went Floodbank</b>	<b>SE 619175</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>LINCS</b>

The key habitats of this area are broad-leaved woodlands with wetlands and grassland habitats by the River Went.

Grant Spring is a small area of ancient woodland near to Womersley. Further fragments survive to the east and west of the ash disposal works near Cridling Stubbs. A series of mainly broad-leaved woodland are located to the east of Womersley. Species information was unavailable for these eight woodland areas, however woodland habitats will be of importance to a variety of bird, mammal and invertebrate species.

The two ponds separated by the old railway embankment at Balne Moor, near Great Heck, have areas of species-diverse marsh and swamp vegetation with fringes of scrub. The site is managed for fishing but is an important wetland site providing habitat for bird and invertebrate species. A species-rich ditch runs along the western side of the pond. The dry soils of the railway embankment supports notable communities of neutral grassland and scattered scrub. Kidney vetch and an abundance of common spotted orchid are of note.

Parkshaw Wood, south of Balne Moor is a mainly deciduous woodland including the site of a pond. Barnfall Wood is a plantation woodlands with moderately diverse herb layer dominated by bramble and some bluebells. To the north of Stubbs Common, is Fox Covert a small semi-natural broad-leaved woodland of limited diversity but with well established hedgerows which provide cover for bird populations.

A small area of unimproved moderately-rich neutral grassland with great burnet is found on an old section of flood bank north of the River Went near Topham. This site has associated linear wetlands in borrow bits created during the construction of the flood bank. The southern area floods in winter and is of interest for the bird species which it attracts.

**APPENDIX 5**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE  
RESOURCES**

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## YORK FRINGE

### Key Characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- Very little evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement, although a number of stray finds from these periods suggest some activity within the area. The main Roman feature is the remains of the road leading from Tadcaster to York. The line of the road survives as a landscape element in that its course is clearly defined by modern field boundaries, footpaths and lanes.
  - Many of the villages and farmsteads were recorded in the Domesday Survey suggesting that the framework of the modern settlement pattern was largely established prior to 11th century. Despite the placename and documentary evidence for occupation of the area during the early-Medieval period, the only recorded archaeological evidence is that of two late-Saxon coin hoards from near Bolton Percy.
  - A number of the villages such as Healaugh, Appleton Roebuck and Bilbrough have managed to retain features reflecting the character of the later medieval settlement. Despite the domination of post-medieval enclosure fieldsystems and the more recent open arable fields, the area also contains some of the better preserved examples of rigg and furrow earthworks within the District. These earthworks represent the remnants of the former openfield systems which once surrounded and supported the medieval settlements. Such remains, however, tend to survive only within the immediate environs of the villages or farmsteads and are under increasing threat from arable cultivation and development. The extent of recent destruction of these earthworks within areas beyond the village margins is apparent from aerial photographic sources.
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- Despite the extent of arable cultivation the area has the second highest recorded number of archaeological remains within the District. The majority of archaeological remains within the area date from the medieval period, they are varied in character and include a number of nationally or regionally important sites. The most important site is the late Medieval secular College of St Andrew near Acaster Selby. There are very few surviving examples of such colleges in England and this site is particularly well preserved with extensive earthworks of buildings, including the chapel and an associated moated enclosure. The area also includes Brockett Hall, which has been identified by English Heritage as the best surviving example of a moated site in North Yorkshire.
  - The area also contains a small but important number of late-Medieval and early post-Medieval buildings. Some are on or near, the site of earlier medieval buildings/settlements and some, such as Healaugh Priory and Steeton Hall are associated with early formalised landscaped parkland. Although few elements of the parkland and formalised landscaping survive at Healaugh, the building and its surrounding moat make a distinct and attractive landscape element. The boundaries of the former Park Pale at Healaugh can still be traced in modern field boundaries and the former layout of the landscaping in front of the house is apparent in soil mark evidence on aerial photographs. The archaeological remains at Steeton form a distinctive historic element in the modern landscape. The Great Stank fishpond at Steeton Hall was constructed along the main street of the former medieval village in the 16th century and together with the few surviving remains of the 13th century hall, its 15th century successor and former medieval village, provide important evidence of the type of change in occupation often associated with depopulated village sites during the late Medieval and early post-medieval periods.
  - Acaster Malbis Airfield was a bomber station of standard dispersed layout pattern. It was built quite late and was used as a fighter station in 1942 but rebuilt in 1943. Fog/mist conditions made it unsuitable for operations and it closed in 1946. As one of a number of WW II airfields within the region it has some group value, despite its fragmentary condition with only runways and some domestic accommodation surviving. As with many of the airfields it has had a localised influence on the landscape character in its immediate environs.

# YORK FRINGE

## Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Tadcaster-York	Road	Roman	Variable	SE 48704360 - SE 55004650	High	Regional	-	Unknown
2a	Healaugh Priory	Augustinian Priory	Medieval	Sub-surf.	SE 48554633	High	Regional	-	Unknown
2b	Healaugh Priory	Moated manor	16th cent.	Alt.build.	SE 48554633	High	Regional	LB II	Good
2c	Healaugh Priory	Deer Park	16th cent.	Doc.ref.	SE 48554633	Low	Local	-	V. poor
2d	Old Lodge Garth	Moated lodge	16th cent.	Sub.surf.	SE 49484657	Medium	Regional	-	Unknown
3a	Healaugh	Manor House?	Medieval	Ewks	SE 49984799	Medium?	Local?	-	Good?
3b	Healaugh	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 50005550	Medium	Local	-	Good
4	Woodhouse Farm	Moat?	Medieval	Cropmarks	SE 49594496	Medium?	Local	-	Unknown
5a	Catterton Hall	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51054546	High	National	SAM	V. good
5b	Catterton Hall	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51054546	High	National	SAM	V. good
5c	Catterton	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51104550	High	Local	-	V. good
6	White Hall	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51554685	High	Regional	-	Good
7a	Billbrough Hall	Manor House	Medieval	Sub.surf.	SE 52954640	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
7b	Billbrough Hall	Windmill mound	Uncertain	Ewks	SE 52934632	Medium	Local	-	Good?
7c	Billbrough	Rigg & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 53004670	Medium	Local	-	Good?
8a	Oxton Hall	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 50004350	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
8b	Oxton Hall	Rigg & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 49704350	Medium	Local	-	Good
9a	Pallathorpe Farm	Shrunken village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51624275	Medium	Local	-	Reasonable
9b	Pallathorpe Farm	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51624275	Medium	Local	-	Poor
9c	Pallathorpe Farm	Rigg & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 51624275	Medium	Local	-	Good

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
10	Ouston	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 50004250	Medium	Local	-	Good
11a	Steeeton	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 53304400	High	National	SAM	Good
11b	Steeeton	Rigg & furrow	Medieval	Cropmarks	SE 53304400	Medium	Local	-	Ploughed
11c	Steeeton Hall	Moat	15th cent.	Ewks	SE 53344407	High	National	SAM	Good
11d	Steeeton Hall	Manor house	15th cent.	Alt.building	SE 53344407	High	National	LB II*	Good
11e	The Great Stank	Fishpond	16th cent.	Ewks	SE 53304400	High	National	SAM	V. good
12a	Colton	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 54424498	Medium	Local	-	Ploughed
12b	Colton	Rigg & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 54304490	Medium	Local	-	Poor
13	-	Windmill	Post-medieval	Alt.building	SE 54404260	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
14a	Bolton Percy	Moated manor	Medieval	Sub.surf.	SE 53204110	Medium?	Local	-	Unknown
14b	Bolton Percy	Rigg & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 53204160	Medium	Local	-	Reasonable
14c	Bolton Percy	Tithe Barn	15th cent.	Building	SE 53144121	High	National	SAM LB II*	Poor?
15a	Brocket Hall	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 55654210	High	National	SAM	V. good
15b	Appleton Roebuck	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 55304220	Medium	Local	-	Good
16	Woolas Hall	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 56154354	Medium	Regional	-	Reasonable
17	Nun Appleton	Cistercian Priory	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 55633991	Medium	Regional	-	Unknown
18	St Andrew's College	College & moat	15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Ewks	SE 57844181	High	National	SAM	Excellent
19	Batridding Farm	Brick & tile kiln	16th cent.?	Ewks	SE 56504250	Medium	Local	-	Good
20a	Moreby Hall	Manor House	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 59604330	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
20b	Moreby Hall	Manor House	17th cent.	Sub.surf.?	SE 59604330	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
21	Acaster Malbis	Airfield	1942-46	Structures	SE 58004300	Local	Local	-	Poor
22a	Escrick	Deserted village	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 63104224	Medium	Regional	-	Unknown
22b	Escrick	Deer Park	Medieval	Doc.ref.	SE 63104224	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
22c	St Helen's	Church	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 63114226	Medium	Local	-	Unknown

Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey

Healaugh SE 50005550  
 Catterton SE 51104600  
 Bilbrough SE 53004660  
 Hornington (deserted) SE 51704170  
 Oxtou (deserted) SE 50004300  
 Pallathorpe SE 51624275  
 Ouston (deserted) SE 50004250  
 Steeton (deserted) SE 53304400  
 Bolton Percy SE 53204120  
 Appleton Roebuck SE 55304220  
 Acaster Selby SE 57404140  
 Stillingfleet SE 59304091  
 Moreby (deserted) SE 59604318  
 Escrick SE 63104224

**Grade I Listed Buildings**

Stillingfleet, Church of St Helen SE 59334101 12th/13th century. 14th to 16th century additions. 19th century alterations  
 Bolton Percy, Church of All Saints SE 53304130 Early 14th century

**Grade II\* Listed Buildings**

Healaugh, Church of St John SE 49904799 12th, 15th and 19th century  
 Moreby Hall, formal gardens and Park SE 59604330 19th century  
 Escrick Park SE 63304240 Late 17th century origins. 18th century alterations by J. Carr. 19th and 20th century additions. Surrounding park landscaped during 18th and 19th centuries.  
 Coach house and stables 18th century (J. Carr)  
 Church of St Helen 19th century (F.C. Penrose)

**Registered Historic Park and Garden**

Nun Appleton Hall and Park SE 55633991 Hall, late 17th century with 19th century additions - Grade II Listed Building. Extensive garden and landscaped park.



## WEST SELBY RIDGE

### Key Characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- The Neolithic henge and barrow cemetery at Newton Kyme (SAM) together with the large number of Iron Age/Romano British settlements and field systems indicates that the limestone ridge has traditionally been a very important area for settlement. The high ground has been used to by-pass the expanse of wet marshy wastelands to the east and this, together with the strategically important bridging points on the River Wharfe at both Tadcaster and Newton Kyme, accounts for the network of Roman and later roads in the north-west corner of the area and the development of Tadcaster and Newton Kyme as important military and civilian settlements from the Roman period onwards.
- Modern settlement pattern has early origins with many village names appearing in Anglo Saxon manuscripts and/or the Domesday Survey. Sherburn was a particular important religious estate centre from at least the 9th century and Hall Garth is traditionally regarded as the site of the palace of King Athelstan (895 -939 AD). For most modern settlements the earliest surviving visible elements are Norman or Medieval.
- From the late medieval/early post medieval period onwards, a number of villages appear to have been depopulated to make way for the construction of halls and landscaped parkland. ~~This has resulted in a number of deserted or shrunken medieval village sites surviving as either earthwork or cropmark features within 17th-19th century estate parkland.~~
- The extent of arable cultivation is such that the majority of archaeological remains are visible only as cropmarks. Those sites that survive as earthworks are primarily medieval in date and located in unploughed valley bottoms, on the fringes of settlements/farmsteads or within historic parkland. Many of the sites are reasonably well preserved and are of national or regional importance. They are varied in character and although invariably small in area, add an element of historic diversity to the landscape. Those sites which do not have statutory protection are under increasing threat from ploughing, development and agricultural diversification.
- Long history of limestone extraction with several large active quarries and numerous smaller disused sites, often partially revegetated. Quarries at Tadcaster and Huddleston were of particular importance during the Roman and Medieval periods.

## Contribution to Character Area

- Area extensively exploited during Iron Age/Romano-British period. Extent of exploitation not apparent in 'visible' record, only in form of cropmarks from aerial photography. The large number of cropmark enclosures together with associated fieldsystems and trackways form a buried landscape underlying present post-medieval enclosure landscape and indicate settlement and farming was well established on the limestone ridge area by the late-prehistoric/Roman period.
- The density of settlement makes a significant contribution to enhancing the archaeological value of the limestone ridge. The only other area within Selby District which has similar density of Iron Age/Romano-British remains is the Escrick Moraine area within Skipwith Wooded Estate Farmland (F).
- The three dykes (Sites 16 – 18, Hayton Wood, South Dyke and The Rein) are also the only surviving earthwork remains dating from this period to survive within the District.
- Early prehistoric exploitation of the area is attested through a number of recorded stray finds with a date range of Mesolithic to Bronze Age and the nationally important Neolithic and Bronze Age remains at Newton Kyme.
- The northern part of the limestone ridge area is important as the main focus for Roman military activity within the District. Bridging or fording points on the River Wharfe at both Newton Kyme and Tadcaster account for the network of Roman roads in this area as routes from Ilkley and Doncaster forts merge to cross the river to continue north towards Hadrian's Wall and north-east towards York. The need to defend these crossings resulted in the construction of a series of marching camps and then permanent forts and civilian settlement at Newton Kyme and probably Tadcaster.
- It is also likely that the river was also being used for the transport of goods and it would not be unreasonable to expect the remains of Roman wharves to be present at both Tadcaster and Newton Kyme.
- The area to the west and north-west of Newton Kyme village contain the most important archaeological remains within the District and is an area of some considerable regional and national importance. It contains the scheduled remains of a Neolithic henge monument, Bronze Age barrows, an Iron Age enclosure, ditched field system, two Roman camps, two Roman forts and an associated Roman vicus. 1st century AD earth and timber Roman fort replaced by 11 acre stone walled fort during the late 3rd century. The fort remained occupied throughout the 4th century AD.
- The area is under plough and the monuments are only visible on aerial photographs. Although few upstanding features survive, extensive buried deposits are present. Some areas have been partly excavated. The site is suffering some damage through illegal metal detecting activities.
- Tadcaster is the only settlement within the District that has the potential for a good range of urban archaeological remains dating from the Roman period onwards. It is strategically located on an important bridging point on the River Wharfe and on the boundary between



the West Riding and the Ainsty. It has developed as a regionally important military, civilian, trading and communication centre from at least the Roman period and maintained this strategic importance throughout the Saxon, Medieval and post-Medieval periods. The potential for archaeological remains within the historic core and for waterlogged deposits alongside the river is high and there is also a good possibility that Roman and Medieval wharves could be present.

- South of Tadcaster, the upstanding archaeological remains are primarily Medieval in date. Despite the extent of arable cultivation, the area has the highest number of nationally or regionally important medieval remains within the District. They are varied in character and include monastic or ecclesiastical grange sites, high status residences, chapels, churches, the occasional wayside cross and a number of deserted medieval village sites often with multiple elements such as castle, moat or manor site, fishponds, toft and croft earthworks, ridge and furrow field systems, trackways etc.,
- Hall Garth is probably one of the most important and interesting medieval archaeological sites within this character area. It is identified as the site of the palace of King Athelstan, who was one of the most influential and successful rulers of the early medieval period, he was the first king to have control over all of the English after overthrowing the Scandinavian kingdom of York in 927. In 937, Athelstan gave the manor of Sherburn to the Archbishop of York and the palace was used by the Archbishops as one of their main residences until the more conveniently located palace at Cawood was built. The Sherburn palace was demolished mid-14<sup>th</sup> century.
- The site of the palace is under pasture and consists of a number of well defined earthworks. The monument, together with the adjacent church, form a visually interesting historic feature on the north-west outskirts of Sherburn village.
- There is a long history of limestone extraction within the area. During the great building periods of the Middle Ages, the limestone from the area was in great demand. Stone from quarries at Tadcaster and Huddleston for example was used for York Minster, York City walls, Selby Abbey, Beverley, Howden and parts of Cambridge University. Stone from the quarries were transported mainly by river, that from Huddleston being transported to the River Ouse via the Bishop Dyke's Canal which ran between Sherburn and Cawood.
- The area also witnessed one of the most important and decisive battles of the Wars of the Roses. Towton Battle was fought in 1461 and saw the Yorkist Army under Edward IV defeat the Lancastrians under Henry VI. There were upto 28,000 killed in both the battle and ensuing retreat. The battle took place over open arable fields much like the modern landscape, with substantial woodland on both flanks. But for the absence of narrow strips within the fields, the modern scene is remarkably unchanged from 1461.
- There are good descriptions of the battle and reasonable access via public roads and/or footpaths across the battlefield area. A small number of visible features relating to, or commemorating, the event survive within the immediate vicinity of Towton. These include a number of burial sites for the battle victims and Lord Dacre's commemorative cross. The site of the battlefield is considered to be of national importance and has been included in the national Battlefields Register.

# WEST SELBY RIDGE

## Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1a	Newton Kyme	Henge	Neolithic/Br.Age	Cropmarks	SE 45954500	High	National	SAM	Ploughed
1b	Newton Kyme	Barrow cemetery	Neolithic/Br.Age	Cropmarks	SE 45604500	High	National	SAM	Ploughed
1c	Newton Kyme	Marching camps	Roman	Cropmarks	SE 45504550	High	National	SAM	Ploughed
1d	Newton Kyme	Forts	Roman	Cropmarks	SE 45504550	High	National	SAM	Ploughed
1e	Newton Kyme	Settlement	Roman	Cropmarks	SE 45604500	High	Regional	-	Ploughed
1f	Newton Kyme	Shrunken village	Medieval	Cropmarks	SE 46504530	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
1g	Kyme Castle	Fortified manor	Medieval	Ruin.building	SE 46604493	High	Local	-	Good/Poor
1h	Newton Kyme	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks/cropmark	SE 46504500	High	Regional	-	Unknown
2	Rudgate	Road	Roman	Various	SE 45854130	High	Regional	-	Unknown
					- SE 45054600				
3a	Toulston	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 45204400	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
3b	Toulston	Hall	Medieval	Ewks	SE 45204400	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
3c	Toulston	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 45204400	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
4	Smaws Hall	Manor House	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 47204360	Medium	Local	-	Ploughed?
5a	Calcaria	Fort	Roman	Sub.surf.	SE 48504350	High	National	-	Unknown
5b	Castle Hill	Motte & bailey	Norman	Ewks	SE 48544354	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
5c	Tadcaster	Town ditch	Medieval	Sub.surf.	SE 48504350	High	Regional	-	Unknown
5d	Old Vicarage	Building	13th, 15th/16th cent.	Alt.building	SE 48504350	High	Regional	LB II*	Reasonable
5e	Tadcaster	Civil war ditch	17th cent.	Sub.surf.?	SE 48704350	Medium	Regional	-	Unknown
5f	Tadcaster Bridge	Battle site	1642	Event	SE 48774348	Medium	Regional	-	-
5g	Brewery/Board	Burials - battle victims?	17th cent.	Exc.remains	SE 48704340	Medium	Regional	-	Excavated
6	School	Road	Roman	Various	SE 44954279	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
					- SE 47704303				

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
7	Scarcroft - Hazelwood	Road	Roman	Doc.ref.	SE 44954203 - SE 46954215	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
8	Doncaster-York	Road	Roman	Various	SE 45004100 - SE 50004405	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
9	-	Windmill	19th cent.?	Ruin building	SE 47604202	Medium	Local	-	V. poor
10	Wingate Hill	Wayside cross	Medieval	Structure	SE 47194108	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
11a	Grimston Park	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 50504130	High	Regional	-	Reasonable?
11b	Grimston Park	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 50004150	High	Local	-	V. good
12a	Cocksford	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 47103980	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
12b	Cocksford	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 47153976	High	Regional	-	Good
13a	Towton	Battle site	1461	Event	SE 48003800	High	National	Registered	Good
13b	Towton	Burial mounds	1461	Ewks	SE 47603820	High	National	-	Good
13c	Towton	Burial mounds	1461	Ewks	SE 47003780	High	National	-	Good
13d	Towton	Cemetery?	1461	Sub.surf.?	SE 48083858	High	National	-	Unknown
13e	Towton Hall	Cemetery	1461	Exc.remains	SE 48403950	High	National	-	Excavated
13f	St James	Chapel	1483	Sub.surf.	SE 48403954	High	National	-	Good?
13g	Lord Dacre's	Cross	15th cent.	Structure	SE 47813863	High	National	SAM	Good
13h	Towton	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 48303960	Medium	Local	-	Good
14	Roman Ridge	Road	Roman	Ewk/cropmark	SE 43553970	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
15a	Hazelwood	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 45003985	High	Regional	-	Reasonable?
15b	Hazelwood	Castle	13th, 15th, 18th cent.	Alt.building	SE 44993990	High	National	LBI	Good
15c	St Leonard's	Chapel	13th cent.	Building	SE 44993990	High	National	LBI	Good
15d	Hazelwood	Deer Park	Medieval	Doc.ref.	SE 44903990	High	Regional	-	Unknown
16	Hayton Wood	Dyke	L. Iron Age/Roman?	Ewk	SE 44533823	High	National	-	Reasonable?
17	South Dyke	Dyke	L. Iron Age/Roman?	Ewk	SE 44573767	High	National	SAM	Good
18	The Rein	Dyke	L. Iron Age/Roman	Ewk	SE 44313730	High	National	SAM	Good
19	Newstead Farm	Moat	Medieval	Exc/ewks?	SE 46053810	High	Regional	-	Unknown
20	Low Lead Farm	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46953757	High	Regional	-	Good

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
21a	Lead Hall Farm	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46353690	High	National	-	V. good
21b	Lead Hall Farm	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46403690	High	National	-	Good
21c	St Mary's	Chapel	Medieval	Alt. building	SE 46413689	High	National	SAM LB II*	Good
21d	Lead Hall Farm	Manor House	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46253692	High	National	-	Good
22a	Saxton	Motte & bailey	Norman	Ewks	SE 47703669	High	National	SAM	V. good
22b	Saxton	Manor House	Medieval	Foundations	SE 47703669	High	National	SAM	V. good
22c	Saxton	Shrunken village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 47703669	High	National	SAM	Good
22d	Saxton	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 47503660	High	Local	-	Good
23	Barkston Ash	Wayside cross	Medieval	Structure	SE 49153605	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
24	Coldhill Farm	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46603530	Medium	Local	-	Good
25a	Huddleston	Deserted village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46803400	High	National	-	Good
25b	Huddleston	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46903410	High	National	-	Good
25c	Huddleston Hall	House	16th cent.	Alt. building	SE 46803399	High	Regional	LB II*	Good
25d	Huddleston Hall	Chapel	15th & 16th cent.	Alt. building	SE 46803399	High	Regional	LB II*	Reasonable?
25e	Huddleston Hall	Stables	16th & 17th cent.	Buildings	SE 46803399	High	Regional	LB II*	Good
26a	Huddleston	Quarry	Medieval	Ewks	SE 47243365	High	National	-	Good?
26b	Huddleston	Eccles. Grange?	Medieval	Place name	SE 47303350	High?	National?	-	Unknown
27a	Newthorpe	Monastic grange?	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46753235	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
27b	Newthorpe	Fishponds?	Medieval	Ewks	SE 46753235	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
28a	Sherburn	Palace	Saxon	Ewks	SE 48853361	High	National	SAM	V. good
28b	Sherburn	Archbishop's hunting lodge	Medieval	Ewks	SE 48853361	High	National	SAM	V. good
29a	Steeeton Hall	Magnate's residence	Medieval	Ewks	SE 48363142	High	National	SAM	V. good
29b	Steeeton Hall	Hall	Medieval	Alt. building	SE 48363142	High	National	LB I	Good
29c	Steeeton Hall	Gatehouse	14th cent.	Building	SE 48363142	High	National	SAM/G LB I	V. good

30a	Monk Fryston	Hall	13th & 16th cent. 18th & 19th cent.	Alt. building	SE 50522975	High	Regional	LB II*	Reasonable
30b	Monk Fryston	Prependal House	15th cent.	Alt. building	SE 50502972	High	Regional	LB II*	Reasonable
31	Womersley	Wayside cross	Medieval	Structure	SE 52821920	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
32	Womersley Park	Fort?	Roman	Cropmark	SE 52801820	High	National	-	Unknown

**Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey**

- Newton Kyme SE 46504530
- Tadcaster SE 48504350
- Hazelwood (deserted) SE 45003985
- Towton SE 48503950
- Lead (deserted) SE 46353690
- Saxton SE 47703660
- Barkston Ash SE 49303630
- Sherburn in Elmet SE 49003360
- South Milford SE 49403150
- Monk Fryston SE 50602980
- Cridling Stubbs SE 52002140
- Womersley SE 53151905
- Kirk Smeaton SE 51891657
- Little Smeaton SE 52421677

**Grade I Listed Buildings**

Newton Kyme, Church of St. Andrew	SE 46604499	12th to 14th century
Saxton, Church of All Saints	SE 47573688	11th century. 14th/15th century additions. 19th century restoration
Sherburn in Elmet, Church of All Saints	SE 48803353	12th to 15th century. 16th and 19th century alterations and additions
Monk Fryston, Church of St Wilfrid	SE 50502980	Anglo Saxon. 13th to 17th century additions. 19th and 20th century alterations
Womersley, Church of St Martin	SE 53304900	12th to 15th century. 18th and 19th century alterations and additions

**Grade II\* Listed Buildings**

Newton Kyme Hall and Park	SE 46504450	House 17th century origins, now largely early 18th and 19th century. Interesting landscape park with formal elements
Grimston Hall and Park		SE 49004100 House early 18th century with 19th century rebuilding. Formal 19th century gardens. Extensive 400 ha landscape park.
Womersley Hall and Park	SE 53281901	House 17th century with late 17th/early 18th century alterations. Set in landscaped park
Stapleton Hall and Park	SE 50601930	18th century Coach House and stables listed. (18th century house demolished).
Kirk Smeaton, St Peter's Church	SE 52001670	12th to 15th century. Restored 1864.



## WEST SELBY PLAIN

### Key Characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- The archaeology makes little contribution to the character of the area. There are very few sites of archaeological interest and only Thorpe Hall and the Bishop's Dyke could be considered to be of national importance. The rest are small Medieval sites, the most important of which was the Episcopal manor of the Archbishop of York at Rest Park. Aerial photographs show reasonable earthwork remains of ridge and furrow around Biggin village and Church Fenton, it is not known whether these still survive. In an area increasingly being dominated by arable cultivation, the scheduled site at Paradise Lodge does, however, provide areas of statutorily protected pasture as well as features of local historic interest. All other sites have been damaged through either ploughing or development although there is good potential for below ground remains. The sites themselves therefore do not make any significant visual contribution to the landscape, however, the below ground remains will obviously contain information which would contribute to our understanding of the historical development of the area.
- Thorpe Hall was originally a grange of Selby Abbey located on the north bank of the medieval drainage channel Selby Dam. It is thought to have been a dependent farm of Selby from at least the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The monument is under pasture and includes a well-defined moat and central island.
- The Roman site at Cawood Park (now destroyed) maybe attributable to the fact that it lies on a navigable river near the point where the Escrick terminal moraine crosses the plain of York.
- Bishop's Wood is ancient replanted woodland with some areas of ancient woodland remaining. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century it was the favourite hunting ground for the bishop's, abbots and kings staying at nearby Cawood Castle and Rest Park.
- The Sherburn in Elmet airfield was used as a World War I RFC/RAI Aircraft Acceptance Park and by 1918 had covered 177 acres. It was run down between the wars but requisitioned by fighter command and used for hurricanes until May 1941. It is still used as a civil airfield for general aviation. Good road and rail access made it ideal for aircraft production so it never became an operational station. During WW I Blackburn's Cuckoo production was centred at Sherburn and during WW II Blackburn Aircraft Ltd. constructed a new factory for the production of the Swordfish. The production plant is thought to still survive on the west side of the airfield although it has been converted for re-use and its current condition is therefore unknown. The final surviving WW I hanger was unfortunately demolished within the last decade. The grass airfield and most of the taxiway are still intact and some airfield defences may possibly survive.
- Although still used as an operational RAF airfield, Church Fenton is one of the better surviving examples of an RAF expansion airfield and is considered to be amongst one of the most important surviving airfields in England. It was constructed as a fighter base under the pre-War expansion scheme and opened as a grass strip in June 1937 with two fighter squadrons. Positioned to protect York and the County's industry it became the most important fighter station in this area of Yorkshire and acted as a parent station for other airfields in the region.

- Many of the original buildings have survived relatively intact. These buildings include the main technical buildings, the Sector Operations Room, the Officer's Mess, the main entrance railings, guardroom and station headquarters. Many of the buildings have not been reused and lie derelict behind the modern RAF buildings. Perversely, it is this lack of reuse that has added to their value and has ensured that original features and to a lesser degree, internal fittings, have survived, whereas at other airfields such features have often been lost. Because of its strategic importance, Church Fenton had an interesting set of fighter defences and fighter pens and many of these features are believed to have also survived intact around the airfield and this too adds to its importance.
- The airfield is also an important and imposing landscape element. At the time of construction the Air Ministry had no powers for compulsory purchase and the development of the site had to be done by negotiated agreement with local landowners. In terms of building materials, layout, building design and landscaping, the Ministry therefore took great care to ensure that the airfield and its buildings blended well with the local architecture and landscape. Many aspects of the engineering and landscaping skills employed at the site to achieve this aim are still apparent today. Such features include the brick built architecture (in particular the hangers), the tree planting schemes of poplars and tree lined avenues and the imposing entrance aimed at impressing the visitor on arrival. The imposing impact of the site on the main approach is almost the same today as it was in the 1930's, with the original railings, guardroom and station headquarters surviving.
- There are very few well-preserved examples of pre-War expansion airfields surviving nationally and no other examples within the District. This fact, together with its recognised historic importance in terms of the role it played during the Second World War in protecting the County, in particular York and as a parent station commanding other airfields in the region, makes this site of considerable architectural, archaeological and historical importance. In order to ensure continued preservation of the site and avoid inadvertent damage or destruction to important remains, the airfield would greatly benefit from a detailed survey to provide a record of the full extent and condition of the original surviving buildings, defence structures, ancillary structures, equipment and fittings.



**WEST SELBY PLAIN**

**Archaeological Sites**

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Manor Farm	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewk	SE 51423704	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
2	Little Fenton	Moat	Medieval	Sub.surf.	SE 52403500	Medium	Regional	-	In-filled
3	Mattram Hall	Moated hospital	Medieval	Ewks?	SE 54193412	Medium	Local	-	In-filled
4a	Rest Park	Episcopal Manor	Medieval	Exc/Sub-surf?	SE 54023350	High	Regional	-	Unknown
4b	Rest Park	Episcopal Park	Medieval	Doc.ref.	SE 54023350	High	Regional	-	Unknown
5	Castle Hill	Motte	Medieval	Sub-surf?	SE 53073331	Medium?	Local	-	Ploughed
6	Reygate Shaw	Moat	Medieval	Cropmarks	SE 52583159	Low	Local	-	Ploughed
7	Bishop Dyke	Canal	Medieval	Ewk	SE 51003350	High	National	-	Reasonable
					- SE 57003720				
8	Sherburn	Airfield	1918-1941	Structures	SE 51803300	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
9	Paradise Lodge	Moated grange	Medieval	Ewks	SE 54133713	High	National	SAM	Reasonable
10	Uilskelf	Windmill	18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Alt.building	SE 51943899	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
11	Church Fenton	Airfield	1937-1998	Structures	SE 52803800	High	National	-	V-good
12	Thorpe Hall	Monastic grange	Medieval	Ewks	SE 57813165	High	National	SAM	Good

**Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey**

Church Fenton SE 51503700  
(Biggin village - earliest documentary reference is 14th century)

**Grade I Listed Buildings**

Church of St Mary, Church Fenton SE 51503700 13th - 15th century. 19th century restorations.

## **HAMBLETON SANDSTONE RIDGE**

### **Key characteristics of Cultural Heritage**

- Expanded settlements of Hambleton and Thorpe Willoughby both have pre-conquest origins, although the only recorded site of archaeological interest is Brayton Pumping Station. It is well preserved and believed to be the last steam engine to be constructed by the James Watt Co.
- Parkland and woodland associated with Gateforth Hall

**HAMBLETON SANDSTONE RIDGE**

**Archaeological Sites**

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Brayton (south)	Pumping Station	20th century	Building	SE 58623006	High	Regional	-	Good

**Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey**

Hambleton SE 55253070  
 Thorpe Willoughby SE 57503125

**Grade II\* Listed Buildings**

Gateforth Hall, house and park SE 55592958 Early 19th century. Ha-ha, coach house, cottages and lodge are Grade II listed



## WHARFE OUSE RIVER CORRIDOR

### Key characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- There is evidence for late Iron Age/Romano British occupation in the parish of Riccall. It probably represents the westward continuation of the concentration of enclosures and field systems present on the Escrick Moraine.
- There are a number of nationally important medieval archaeological monuments around Drax.
- The main settlements of Cawood, Kelfield, Riccall, Barlby Wistow and Hemingbrough all have pre-conquest origins, and the scheduled medieval moat at Mote Hill, and Ryther moat (ploughed) provide further evidence of medieval settlement away from higher ground. Throughout the medieval period until as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the river played an important role in settlement location, communications and trade for the area. Cawood was of particular significance being an inland port and an important crossing point of the Ouse for roads leading to and from York and the East Riding. Prior to the construction of the present bridge in 1872 a ferry crossed the river. The importance of the river in more localised movement of traffic and trade is apparent in the number of small trackways leading down to ferry and landing points on the river. The landing at Riccall is locally thought to be where the Norse anchored their fleet in 1066 before the Battle of Stamford Bridge, burials discovered nearby are thought to be associated with victims of this raid.
- The village of Hemingbrough (and Cliffe) were originally located on the River Ouse but the course of the river changed during the Middle Ages and left the villages isolated on slightly higher ground north-east of the river. Cartographic evidence for Hemingbrough shows that the village, its garths, roads and tracks were laid out to conform to the old course of the river.
- There is a very dominant ecclesiastical presence in this area. The medieval tenurial history of Cawood indicates that the main manor was that belonging to the archbishop of York. The centre of the archbishop's manor was the palace Cawood Castle and the village itself has three distinct parts which appears in part to be the result of deliberate planning by the archbishop. The port area in particular, was obviously planned on a large scale and is clearly consistent with the commercial exploitation of both river and road traffic. From documentary sources it is apparent that the archbishop maintained control both of waterborne traffic in the area and the ferry, both provided a valued source of revenue.
- Documentary sources also indicate a strong ecclesiastical presence at Riccall. Wheel Hall was a triple moated episcopal palace belonging to the Bishop of Durham and the manor house was a moated prebendal manor house. The medieval hall at Wheel Hall was replaced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the present brick farmhouse and only the north-west and north-east sections of one moat survives. There is, however, the potential for below ground remains. The manor house is located outside the built up area of Riccall and is surrounded by fields giving a rural feel to the area. The house was enlarged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to serve as a vicarage, however, elements of the 15<sup>th</sup> century manor house are still apparent in a three storied brick tower block with garderobe and stair turret.

- Although much of the area was probably dominated by ecclesiastical landholders, significant secular landholding is also apparent. A second manor at Cawood was held for much of the medieval period by the de Cawood family and the moated site of Kensbury opposite Cawood Castle marks the location of their manor house. The part of Cawood now known as Wistowgate is thought to have formed part of this manor. Although the de Cawoods certainly had fisheries on the Ouse they do not appear to have had involvement in any aspects of water-borne traffic.
  - Cawood Castle, Bishop Dike, Kensbury Hall and Riccall moated manor are all important historic landscape features. The dike, which was once a navigable artificial watercourse extending from the River Ouse at Cawood to Sherburn, is also the original south-eastern boundary of Cawood 'town'.
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## WHARFE – OUSE RIVER CORRIDOR

### Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Kirby Wharfe	Villa	Roman	Sub.surf.	SE 50564094	High	National	SAM	Ploughed?
2a	Mote Hill	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 55063983	High	National	SAM	V.good
2b	Mote Hill	Fishponds	Medieval	Ewks	SE 55063983	High	National	SAM	V.good
2c	Mote Hill	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 55063983	High	National	SAM	Slight
3	Ryther	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks/cropmark	SE 55413931	High	Regional	-	Under plough
4a	Cawood	Planned settlement	Medieval	Village	SE 57503760	High	Regional	-	Good
4b	Cawood Castle	Archbishop's Palace	Medieval	Ewks & buildings	SE 57383757	High	National	SAM	Excellent
		Gatehouse	15th cent.	Building		High	National	LB I	V. good
		Banqueting Hall	15th cent.	Building		High	National	LB I	V. good
5a	Castle Garth	Palace garden	Medieval	Open space		High	National	SAM	Good
5b	Castle Garth	Fishponds	Medieval	Ewks		High	National	SAM	Good
6	Bishop Dyke	Canal	Medieval	Ewk	SE 57003720 - SE 57403780	High	National	-	Good
7	Kensbury Hall	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 57553737	High	National	SAM	V. good
8	The Grange	House	16th & 17th cent.	Alt.building	SE 57633749	High	Regional	LB II *	
		Dovecote	18th cent.	Building	SE 57633749	High	Regional	LB II	
9a	Kelfield	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 59523854	High	National	-	Good
	Fishponds	Medieval	Ewks	SE 59523854	High	National	-	Good	
9b	Kelfield	Hall	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 59263833	High	Regional	-	Unknown
10	Green Hills	Brick & tile works	18th?19th? cent.	Ewks	SE 60803825	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
11	Pond View	Brick & tile works	18th?19th? cent.	Ewks	SE 60803825	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
12	Wheel Hall	Episcopal palace	Medieval	Ewks	SE 61003814	High	National?	-	Reasonable?
13a	Riccall	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 61573807	High	National	SAM	V. good
		Manor house	Late medieval	Building	SE 61573807	High	National	LB II*	V. good

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
13b	Tower House	Windmill	19th century	Building	SE 61703740	Medium	Local	LB II	Good
13c	Riccall Landing	Burials	Viking?	Exc./Sub.surf.?	SE 60733734	High	Regional	-	Unknown
7	Wistow	Chapel, St Hilda	Medieval	Sub.surf.	SE 59303570	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
14a	Barlow	Shrunken village	Medieval	Ewks	SE 64502910	High	Local	-	Good?
14b	Barlow	Fishpond?	Medieval	Ewks	SE 64602900	High	Local	-	Good?
14c	Barlow	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 64502920	High	Local	-	Good?
14d	Barlow Hall	Hall	Medieval/16th cent.	Alt.building	SE 64492899	High	Regional	LB II*	Good
15	Drax Abbey	Augustinian Priory	Medieval	Ewks	SE 66902840	High	National	SAM	Good
16a	Scurff Hall	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 68752640	High	National	SAM	V.good
16b	Scurff Hall	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 68752640	High	National	SAM	V.good
16c	St Wilfred's	Chapel	Saxon	Sub.surf.	SE 68972611	High	National?	-	Unknown
16d	Scurff Hall	Settlement/Villa?	Roman	Sub.surf.	SE 69012608	High	National	-	Unknown
17a	Babthorpe	Deserted village	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 69002990	Low	Local	-	Unknown
17b	Babthorpe	Moat	Medieval	Ewks?	SE 69002990	Medium	Local	-	Poor

**Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday**

Kirby Wharfe	SE 50604107
Ulleskelfe	SE 52004000
Ryther	SE 55003930
Cawood	SE 57503760
Wistow	SE 59153565
Kelfield	SE 59503840
Riccall	SE 62053790
Barlby	SE 63303440
Barlow	SE 64502880
Airmyn	SE 72402530
Hemingbrough	SE 67503070

Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor

**Grade I Listed Buildings**

Ryther, Church of All Saints,	SE 55503960	Late Saxon/Early Norman elements
Cawood, Church of All Saints	SE 57803790	12th to 15th century. 19th century restoration and refurbishment.
Wistow, Church of All Saints	SE 59303570	13th to 15th century.
Ricall, Church of St Mary	SE 62053785	12th/13th century. 15th to 19th century alterations and additions
Hemingbrough, Church of St Mary	SE 67353062	12th century. 13th to 15th century additions and alterations

**Grade II \* Listed Buildings**

Cawood, Yew Tree House and Cottage	SE 57633764	17th century house. 18th century stables.
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## SKIPWITH LOWLANDS

### Key Characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- The main archaeological resource of this area is the extensive and complex system of cropmarks relating to the enclosures, field systems, trackways and square barrow cemeteries of probable Iron Age and Romano-British date. These cropmarks are located primarily on the slightly elevated ground between Riccall Common, Adamson Farm, Skipwith and High Farm (south-west of Thorganby). They form a distinct buried landscape and indicate that this higher land was being intensively settled and farmed by the Iron Age and Roman periods. Given the limited evidence for settlement of this period elsewhere within the District east of the limestone ridge, this complex is of considerable regional interest and importance. It is, however, under continued threat from ploughing and the effect of arable cultivation on these remains is demonstrated by the fact that earlier in this century at the Danes Hill cemetery near Adamson Farm the mounds of between 29 and 36 square barrows were recorded, by 1972 only two are recorded as being extant, the remainder visible only as cropmarks.
- The principle settlements of Thorganby and Skipwith are both recorded in the Domesday Survey and the Church of St Helen at Skipwith contains some Anglo Saxon elements. There is no other recorded archaeological evidence for this early Medieval period although on the basis of evidence from other sites in Yorkshire, early Saxon remains may be present within the cropmark complexes.
- Archaeological evidence for the Medieval period is also limited. The only upstanding monument recorded in the area is the moated manor site at Skipwith which is scheduled as being of national importance. This former manor of the Skipwith family is said to survive well and significant archaeological remains are thought to be preserved within the central building platform and accumulated silts of the surrounding moat. The site has an integrated water management system using ponds for the exploitation of fish and to regulate the water supply to the moat and thus offers important scope for the study of the economic and domestic arrangements of medieval moated sites and their role in the wider landscape.
- The other medieval site within the area is Thicket Priory. The modern buildings are known to be on the site of the former Benedictine Priory and it is likely therefore that sub-surface deposits relating to the medieval monastic buildings and associated cemetery will be present within the area but their extent and condition is not known.
- The river Derwent is an important landscape feature that played a key role in the transport system of the area from at least the medieval period. Small tracks which lead down from many riverside settlements and Halls to landings and ferry crossing points are characteristic.
- Riccall Airfield was built in 1942 for use by heavy bombers. A proportion of the site is occupied by Riccall Mine, and most of the buildings within the Technical Site have been demolished and most of the runways, taxi-ways and dispersal area returned to plough. To the south of the airfield was the camp which contained the gym, the Operations Block, guard room and billets and a number of buildings within this complex are thought to remain and to have been adapted for agricultural purposes. Despite the fragmentary survival of this site, it still has some regional value because of association with the other group of airfields within the area and their overall strategic importance during WW II.
- The area around Skipwith and within the Escrick Estate have been subject to a recent archaeological survey by MAP Archaeological Consultancy, and it is hoped that the results of these surveys will be made available to the County Archaeology Service shortly. It is anticipated that as a result of this work, the number and variety of archaeological remains within this area will change.

- The A163 road is one of the main routes from Selby into the East Riding. Following the construction of the bridge at Selby during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the route through North Duffield became part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century turnpike system and joined with the Beverley turnpike at Market Weighton.



## SKIPWITH LOWLANDS

### Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Thicket Priory	Benedictine Priory	Medieval	Sub.surf.	SE 69924339	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
2	Danes Hills	Barrow cemetery	Iron Age?	Ewks/cropmarks	SE 66504000	High	National	SAM	Poor
3	Skipwith	Barrow cemetery	Iron Age?	Ewks/cropmarks	SE 65503770	High	National	SAM	Poor
4	Danes Hills	Barrow cemetery	Iron Age?	Ewks/cropmarks	SE 64503770	High	National	SAM	Poor
5a	Skipwith	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 65713836	High	National	SAM	V. good
5b	Skipwith	Fishpond	Medieval	Ewks	SE 65713836	High	National	SAM	V. good
6	Riccall Airfield		Domestic accom.	1942-46	Buildings	SE 64003600	Medium	Local	-Reasonable?
7	Giant Hill	Motte & bailey	Medieval	Ewk	SE 69283962	Low	Local	-	Poor
8	Giant Hill	Moat	Medieval	Ewk	SE 69353871	Low	Local	-	Poor
9	Duffield Castle	Moated manor	Medieval	Medieval	Ewks	SE 69183738	Low	Local	- Poor

### Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday

Thorganby SE 69004150  
 Skipwith SE 65703860  
 North Duffield SE 68503700

### Grade I Listed Buildings

Thorganby, Church of St Helen SE 68904170 15th and 17th century. 19th century additions  
 Skipwith, Church of St Helen SE 65703860 Anglo Saxon. 12th to 14th century

### Grade II\* Listed Buildings

Skipwith Hall SE 66003860 Early 18th century

Skipwith Lowlands

## EAST SELBY FARMLAND

### Key characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- Documentary references to a number of former medieval villages at locations now occupied by houses/halls with small, attached parkland, possibly indicates deliberate instances of depopulation, to make way for landscaped parklands from the late 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- The village of Cliffe was originally located on the River Ouse but the course of the river changed during the Middle Ages and left the villages isolated on slightly higher ground north-east of the river.
- Several moated sites are evidence of late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century reclamation of wasteland away from the main settlements. Although such sites are characteristic of the area, their survival as modern landscape features is very poor, most having been badly damaged by ploughing and/or the construction of the existing buildings. The moated site at South Duffield appears to be the best preserved example in the area, with both moat and central island surviving reasonably undisturbed.
- The rivers Derwent and Ouse are important landscape features, which played key roles in the transport system of the area from at least the medieval period. Small tracks which lead down from many riverside settlements and Halls to landings and ferry crossing points are characteristic.
- The area is bounded by the two main routes from Selby into the East Riding. Following the construction of the bridge at Selby during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the route through North Duffield became part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century turnpike system and joined with the Beverley turnpike at Market Weighton. Prior to the construction of the bridge, the ferry between Selby and Hemingbrough was one of the key means of crossing the river to routes leading into the East Riding.

## EAST SELBY FARMLAND

### Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Whitemoor Farm	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 66183555	Low	Local	-	Poor
2a	Osgodby Park	Duck decoy	19th cent.	Ewk	SE 64983426	Low	Local	-	Good
2b	Osgodby Hall	Oratory chapel	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 64583383	Medium?	Local	-	Ploughed
3a	South Duffield	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 68333341	High	Regional	-	Good
3b	South Duffield	Windmill	19th cent.	Ruin.building?	SE 67863334	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
4	Bowthorpe Hall	Deserted village	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 69703310	Low	Local	-	Unknown
5a	Holmes House	Moat	Medieval	Ewks	SE 69653263	High	Regional	-	Good
5b	Holmes House	House	Early 17th cent.	Alt.building	SE 69653263	High	Regional	LB II*	Good
6a	Woodhall	Deserted village	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 69503180	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
6b	Woodhall	Manor house	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 69503180	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
6c	Woodhall	Hall & park	19th cent.	Ruin.building	SE 69503180	Low	Local	LB II	Poor
7	Hagthorpe Hall	Moat	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 70173019	Medium	Local	-	Unknown

### Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey

South Duffield SE 68003335  
 Osgodby SE 64403375  
 Cliffe SE 66253215  
 Bowthorpe SE 69703310  
 Brackenholme (deserted) SE 70003050  
 Hagthorpe (deserted) SE 70173019

## **CAMBLESFORTH LOWLANDS**

### **Key characteristics**

- There are a number of nationally important medieval archaeological monuments around Drax. Elsewhere within the area, there are very few recorded archaeological sites.
- The rivers Ouse and Aire played key roles in the transport system of the area from at least the medieval period. Small tracks leading down to old ferry and landing points are characteristic.
- Until recently, Barlow Airfield was one of the better preserved examples of a WW I airfield in England. In 1917, this airfield with an area of 880 acres was leased to Armstrong Whitworth for the construction of airships and a large airship shed and other buildings were erected. With the end of the airship era Barlow was closed. Until the acquisition of the site by National Power and the development of the site as part of Drax Power Station much of the airfield and its associated structures survived reasonably in tact, including the large airship shed. Today, only some of the accommodation living quarters remain.

## CAMBLESFORTH LOWLANDS

### Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1a	Staynor Hall	Moated grange	Medieval	Ewk/sub.suf.?	SE 62273114	High	Regional	-	Good
1b	Staynor Hall	House	17th cent.	Alt.building	SE 62273114	Low	Local	-	Modernised
2a	Castle Hills	Moated manor	Medieval	Ewks	SE 67602603	High	National	SAM	Good
2b	Drax	Mill	19th cent.	Building?	SE 67152613	Medium	Local	-	Unknown
3c	Barlow Airfield	Domestic accomm.	1917	Buildings	SE 65902850	Low	Local	-	Poor

### Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey

Camblesforth SE 65002600  
 Drax SE 67502630  
 Carlton SE 64602340

### Grade I Listed Buildings

Camblesforth Hall SE 64802630 Early 18th cent.  
 Drax, Church of St Peter & St Paul SE 67582636 12th cent., 13th-15th cent., 19th cent additions  
 Carlton Towers, House and park SE 65002390 House - early 17th cent. with 18th and 19th cent. additions and alterations.  
 Park - landscaped mid 18th cent.



## RIVER AIRE CORRIDOR

### Key characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- Very limited evidence of settlement during the prehistoric to late Roman period. Pattern of historic linear villages fringe the river Aire, sited on higher land above typical flooding levels. Nearly all the settlements have pre-Conquest origins. There are a small number of moated sites on the margins of settlements indicating only limited reclamation of wastelands during 12th-14th centuries.
- The location of Roall Fort close to the River Aire and the lack of any known Roman routes through the area, suggests the River Aire has been an important transport route from at least the Roman period. The harbour at Hall Garth moat is evidence of its use during the Medieval period.
- There are two important medieval churches within the area, St Mary's at Birkin and St Edmunds at Kellington. Extensive excavation of the parish church at Kellington has revealed a developmental sequence which may be typical of many the churches within the area, particularly for those listed within the Domesday Survey. The earliest remains comprised a small cemetery with burials dating to the tenth and early eleventh century. The first church was constructed over this cemetery in the second half of the eleventh century. Built in timber, this church was succeeded by a stone structure built between 1080 and 1130. This was a two-cell structure from which the present church developed. The excavations discovered burials from the tenth to the nineteenth century.
- The construction of the Selby Canal in the late 18th century, gave Selby a direct access to the increasing trade from the developing industrial centres of Leeds, Bradford, Castleford and Knottingly. This resulted in a new wave of prosperity for Selby.
- Today, Burn Airfield survives within areas of arable cultivation, and its runways or taxiways are still in use by a local gliding club.



# RIVER AIRE CORRIDOR

## Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local.value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Byram Park	Copperous kilns	Early 19th cent.?	Ewks	SE 48602662	Medium	Local	-	Good?
2a	Birkin	Hall	12th cent.	Ewks?	SE 53092660	High?	Regional?	-	Unknown
2b	St Mary's	Church	11th/12th cent.	Alt.building	SE 53102650	High	Regional	-	V.good
3a	Kellington	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	Ewks	SE 55102460	Medium	Local	-	Good
3b	St Edmunds	Church	11th-15th cent.	Alt.building	SE 54792457	High	Regional	LB I	V.good
3c	Kellington	Corn windmill	18th/19th cent.	Alt.building	SE 54592418	Medium	Local	-	Good
4	Hall Garth	Moated manor	Medieval	Sub.surf.?	SE 58902580	High?	Regional?	-	Ploughed
5a	Temple Manor	Knights Templar Preceptory	Medieval	Alt.building	SE 59702510	High	Regional	LB II	Reasonable
5b	Temple Manor	Fishponds	Medieval	Ewks	SE 59702510	High	Regional	-	Good
6	Selby Canal	Canal	18th cent.	Structure	SE 57002630	Medium	Local	-	Good
7	Roall Manor	Fort & settlement	Roman	Cropmark	- SE 62403230 SE 56002500	High	National	SAM	Ploughed
8	Burn Airfield	Runways	1942-46	Structures	SE 60202810	Low	Local	-	Under plough

### Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey

Poole	SE 48402700
Birkin	SE 53302700
Beal	SE 53332550
Burn	SE 59252855
Kellington	SE 55102460
Low Eggborough	SE 56302335
Hensall	SE 59202340

**Grade II\* Listed Buildings**

Hensall, The Red House (Vicarage) SE 58302270 Mid 19th century  
Hensall, Church of St Peter SE 58302273 Mid 19th century

**Historic Parks and Gardens (proposed for listing on EH Register)**

Byram Hall and Park SE 49502600 Late 18th and early 19th century pleasure grounds with accompanying buildings

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Area J - River Aire Corridor

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## SOUTHERN FARMLANDS

### Key characteristics of Cultural Heritage

- Area forms part of the former Humber wetlands. Early prehistoric and late Iron Age/Romano British occupation/settlement is present but limited and concentrated primarily on the raised sand and gravel 'islands' within the low lying marsh and swampland.
  - Although Walden Stubbs, Balne and Whitley have their origins in the pre-Conquest period, the main period of drainage, clearance and cultivation was the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. Settlement during this period is characterised by several moated sites including the nationally important monuments of Wood Hall, Whitley Thorpe and Parkshaw Wood. The recent excavations at Wood Hall have demonstrated the excellent archaeological potential that these sites offer. Unfortunately, some of those sites that are not protected through scheduling, are suffering extensive damage through arable cultivation.
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## SOUTHERN FARMLANDS

### Archaeological Sites

No.	Site name	Site type	Period	Form	NGR	Local value	Nat.imp	Status	Condition
1	Wood Hall	Moated manor	Medieval	SE 53062063	Ewks/exc.	High	National	-	V. good
2a	Whitley Thorpe	Moated grange	Medieval	SE 55502050	Ewks	High	National	SAM	V. good
2b	Whitley Thorpe	Fishponds	Medieval	SE 55502050	Ewks	High	National	SAM	V. good
2c	Whitley Thorpe	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	SE 55502050	Ewks	High	National	SAM	V. good
3	Briery Rein	Moat	Medieval	SE 56241880	Ewks	High	Regional	-	V. good
4a	Stubb Hollins	Moat	Medieval	SE 55171743	Sub surf.	Medium	Regional	-	Ploughed
4b	Stubb Hollins	Moat	Medieval	SE 55371741	Ewks	High	Regional	-	Reasonable
5	Stubbs Hall	Hall	Medieval/17th cent.	SE 54991699	Alt. building	High	Regional	LB II*	Good
6	Walden Stubbs	Wayside Cross	Medieval	SE 54761633	Structure	High	National	SAM	Good
7	South End	Moat	Medieval	SE 58011772	Ewks	Medium	Local	-	Reasonable
8	Parkshaw Wood	Moat	Medieval	SE 58341823	Ewks	High	National	SAM	V. good
9	Yew Tree House	Moat	Medieval	SE 58321923	Ewks	Medium	Local	-	Poor
10	Cherry Tree Fm.	Moat	Medieval	SE 59171791	Ewk	Medium	Local	-	Poor
11	Balne Hall	Moat	Medieval	SE 61221832	Cropmark	Medium	Local	-	Ploughed

### Villages recorded either in Anglo Saxon manuscripts or Domesday Survey

Whitley	SE 56102100
Walden Stubbs	SE 55101680
Balne	SE 58801900