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Selby District Local Landscape Designation Review

Prepared by LUC for Selby District Council
December 2019

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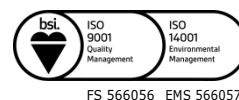
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1 Introduction

Background and Scope

- 1.1 In December 2018, Selby District Council commissioned a local landscape designation review (LLDR) to be undertaken alongside a new landscape character assessment and landscape sensitivity assessment for the District.
- 1.2 The relevant aims and objectives from the study brief were as follows:
 - *“To provide a Landscape Character Assessment a Landscape Sensitivity Study and review of Locally Important Areas for Selby District based on current best practice.*
 - *To review and describe the character and significance of Selby’s Locally Important Landscape Areas; and*
 - *To investigate and clarify the interrelationships between adjoining authorities landscapes.”*
- 1.3 The adopted Selby District Local Plan (2005) includes local landscape designations in the form of Locally Important Landscape Areas. Although these areas are shown on the adopted Proposals Map, there are currently no citations available for these areas, and the qualities or features that they are intended to protect are therefore unclear.
- 1.4 This LLDR presents a transparent and robust review of the landscape of Selby District, based on the 2019 Selby Landscape Character Assessment undertaken as part of the same contract. The document is structured as follows:
 - Section 2 reviews planning policy at national and local level, including a review of the established Locally Important Landscape Areas, and approaches to local landscape designation in neighbouring local planning authorities;
 - Section 3 presents a methodology based on available published guidance and current good practice;
 - Section 4 sets out the criteria-based evaluation of the landscapes of Selby, identifying first ‘areas of search’, and then refining these into ‘candidate Locally Important Landscape Areas’; and
 - Section 5 includes draft citations for each of the identified candidate Locally Important Landscape Areas, which provide justification for their selection and the qualities and features which require recognition.
- 1.5 The candidate areas identified in this report will be subject to consultation as part of the Development Plan process, prior to their adoption in future Local Plan documents. The LLDR has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects at LUC.

2 Review of Existing Policy and Designations

- 2.1 This section reviews national and local level policy in relation to the protection of landscapes for their scenic value. There are no national level landscape designations (National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) within or near to Selby District. A review has been undertaken of the landscape designations that are defined within local development plans in Selby District and in the neighbouring local authority areas.

National Planning Policy

- 2.2 The government's planning policies are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).¹ The NPPF does not offer any clear policy in relation to landscape protection at a local level.
- 2.3 Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states that "*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by*", among other things, "*protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)*." This implies that any landscape which is to be considered 'valued' should have some status or definition within the local development plan.
- 2.4 Paragraph 171 states that plans should "*take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries*." This introduces two aspects that can be applied to a review of local landscape designation: green infrastructure; and a cross-boundary approach.
- 2.5 Green infrastructure is defined in NPPF as "*A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities*." While generally seen as static areas in the past, local landscape designations can form part of this green infrastructure by forming wider links across rural areas. The two concepts are different, as green infrastructure does not recognise landscape quality, but they can complement one another. As the online Planning Practice Guidance notes:
- "The components of green infrastructure exist within the wider landscape context and should enhance local landscape character and contribute to place-making. High quality networks of multifunctional green infrastructure provide a range of ecosystem services and can make a significant contribution to halting the decline in biodiversity."*²
- 2.6 A cross-boundary approach is an important element of landscape scale planning. Particularly in an open area such as Selby, changes in the landscape may be widely perceived across areas that do not relate to administrative boundaries. Such boundaries may divide areas of continuous landscape quality. Recognising these interrelationships is a key element of identifying local landscape designations and determining their special qualities.

¹ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework. [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>]

² MHCLG (2016) Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 030 Reference ID: 8-030-20160211. [<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>]

Locally Important Landscape Areas

- 2.7 The development plan for Selby comprises the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (CSLP, 2013) and the saved policies of the Selby District Local Plan (SDLP, 2005). The emerging PLAN Selby Sites and Policies Local Plan has not yet been published.
- 2.8 The SDLP describes the Locally Important Landscape Areas (LILA), which are shown on the Policies Map, as follows:
- "The most attractive landscapes [in the District] are associated with the belt of limestone country in the western part of the Plan area. Here, the landscape exhibits a more undulating topography and richer tree cover than that encountered elsewhere, including remnants of ancient woodland and parkland. Settlements are characterised by the use of local limestone in traditional buildings, including a number of prominent stone walls."* (paragraph 4.102).
- "Two other landscape features are considered worthy of local recognition in an otherwise low lying landscape. These comprise Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff located to the south-west of Selby. Their significance is attributable to the outcropping of Triassic sandstone above the glacial till of the surrounding area. Both are extensively wooded, further enhancing their prominence."* (paragraph 4.103).
- 2.9 The associated saved policy ENV15 explains that
- "Within the locally important landscape areas, as defined on the proposals map, priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the character and quality of the landscape. Particular attention should be paid to the design, layout, landscaping of development and the use of materials in order to minimise its impact and to enhance the traditional character of buildings and landscape in the area within locally important landscape areas, which are defined on the proposals map, priority will be given to conservation and enhancement of the character and quality of the landscape."*
- 2.10 The SDLP refers to the 1999 Selby Landscape Character Assessment for information on 'the character and quality of the landscape'. The focus of the policy wording is on securing design quality within these areas, as well as more general 'conservation and enhancement' of the landscape.
- 2.11 There is no further detail in the SDLP on how or why these LILAs were selected. The 1999 Selby Landscape Character Assessment indicates that the LILAs were identified within the 1997 Draft Selby District Local Plan. Research into these earlier documents has not been undertaken.
- 2.12 The CSLP does not further update policy in relation to the LILAs. It confirms the general picture that within the District the *"more sensitive higher quality landscape is generally confined to the limestone ridge"* (paragraph 2.18) and notes that the *"villages in this area are set against the backdrop of the designated Locally Important Landscape Area"* (paragraph 2.49). LILAs are among the 'environmental/cultural assets' identified on Map 8, though the two smaller LILAs are not clearly shown. The LILAs are shown more clearly on the Council's interactive policy map.³
- 2.13 In summary, though the LILAs are clearly identified as having policy protection, the reasons for their designation and the qualities which merit protection are not consistently set out.
- 2.14 In order to develop this further, a review of the LILAs is presented in Table 3.1. This notes the extent of each area, the landscape character area(s) (LCA) into which it falls, and a description of the key landscape characteristics of the area. Existing LILAs are shown on Figure 2.1.

³ Selby District Council. Interactive Planning Policy map. [<https://www.selby.gov.uk/interactive-planning-policy-map>]

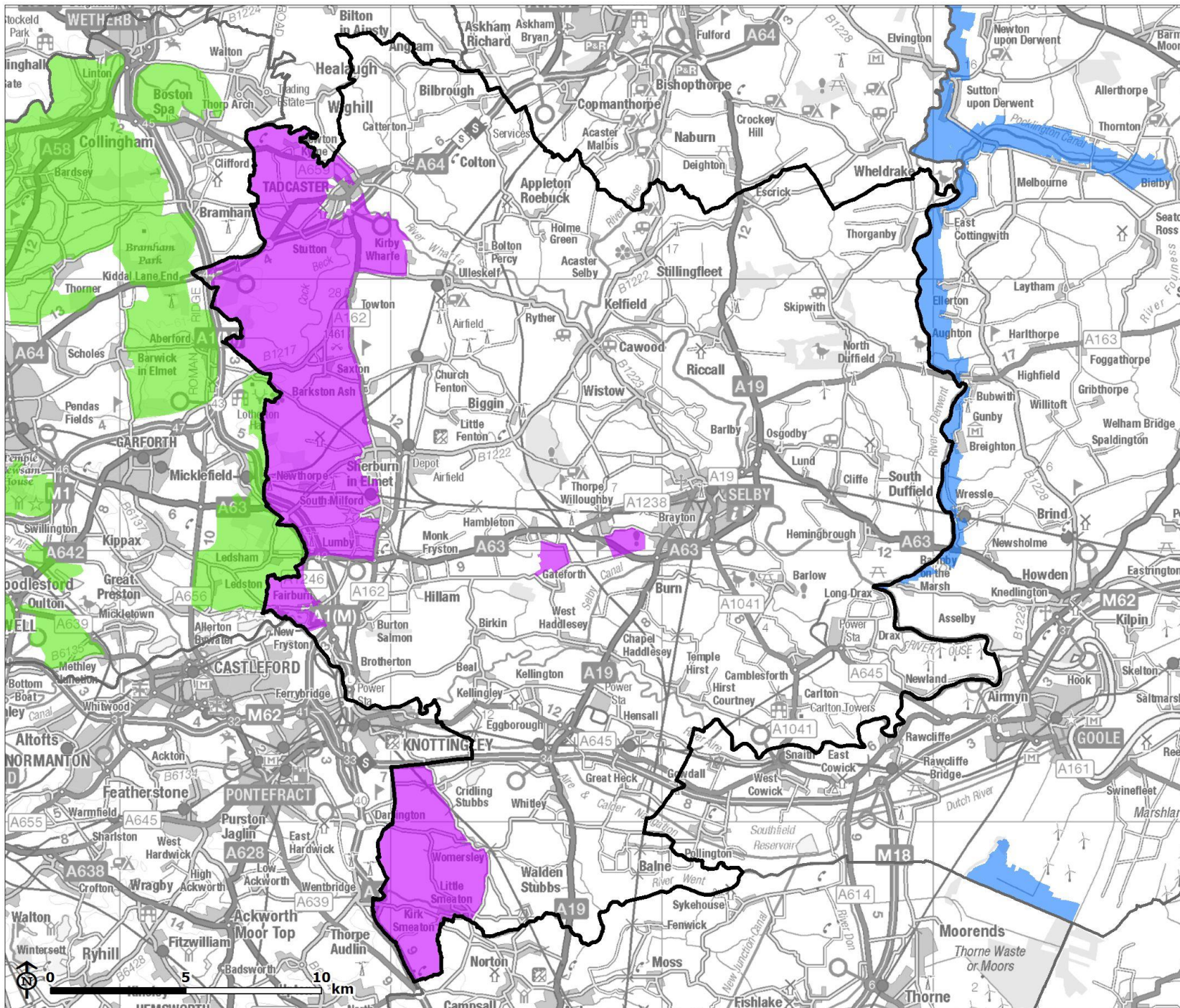
Table 2.1 Review of LILAs

Limestone ridge	
Area: 64.93 km ² (north) 20.13 km ² (south)	Landscape character areas: West Selby Limestone Ridge (north); Smeaton Ridge (south); small sections of adjacent areas
<p>The LILA covers most of the Magnesian Limestone ridge within the District, and comprises two separate sections.</p> <p>The north area of the LILA extends from Tadcaster and the River Wharfe in the north, to Fairburn Ings and the River Aire in the south. To the west the LILA boundary follows the District boundary, excluding only Junction 44 of the A1(M). To the east the LILA boundary largely follows the A162, skirting the edges of Sherburn in Elmet and South Milford. In the north-east, the LILA includes all of the estate landscape of Grimston Park, which occupies an elevated spur of the limestone ridge east of the A162, as far as the River Wharfe and Kirkby Wharfe. In the south, a section of limestone landscape between Brotherton, Fairburn and the A63 is excluded from the LILA: this area is more developed and has less distinct landform than the areas to north and west. The villages of Stutton, Saxton and Lumby are within the LILA. The Cock Beck valley runs through the area.</p> <p>The smaller southern area is bounded by the District boundary to west and south, and by minor roads to the east. This eastern boundary follows the edge of the limestone ridge, through the village of Womersley. The neighbouring villages of Kirk Smeaton and Little Smeaton are within the LILA, as is the River Went valley and Brockadale nature reserve.</p>	
Hambleton Hough	
Area: 1.07 km ²	Landscape character area: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge
<p>The boundaries of this LILA are drawn quite tightly around the wooded summit of Hambleton Hough, and the parkland associated with Gateforth Hall. The long avenue running east from the Hall is included, as well as the fields to the north and south that provide some foreground to the hill in views from minor roads.</p>	
Brayton Barff	
Area: 1.19 km ²	Landscape character area: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge
<p>The north boundary of the LILA is formed by Barff Lane, and the south boundary by Mill Lane. The east and west boundaries follow field boundaries, with the golf course forming the western limit. The LILA includes the wooded hill and reservoirs, as well as the former water works to the south, and open fields to the east. A section of the A63 Selby Bypass passes through the LILA in a cutting, creating a degree of severance although footbridge access is provided.</p>	

Selby District
Local Landscape
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Figure 2.1: Local
Landscape Designations

-  Selby District
-  Neighbouring Authority boundary
-  Locally Important Landscape Areas
-  Important Landscape Areas (East Riding)
-  Special Landscape Areas (Leeds)



Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000

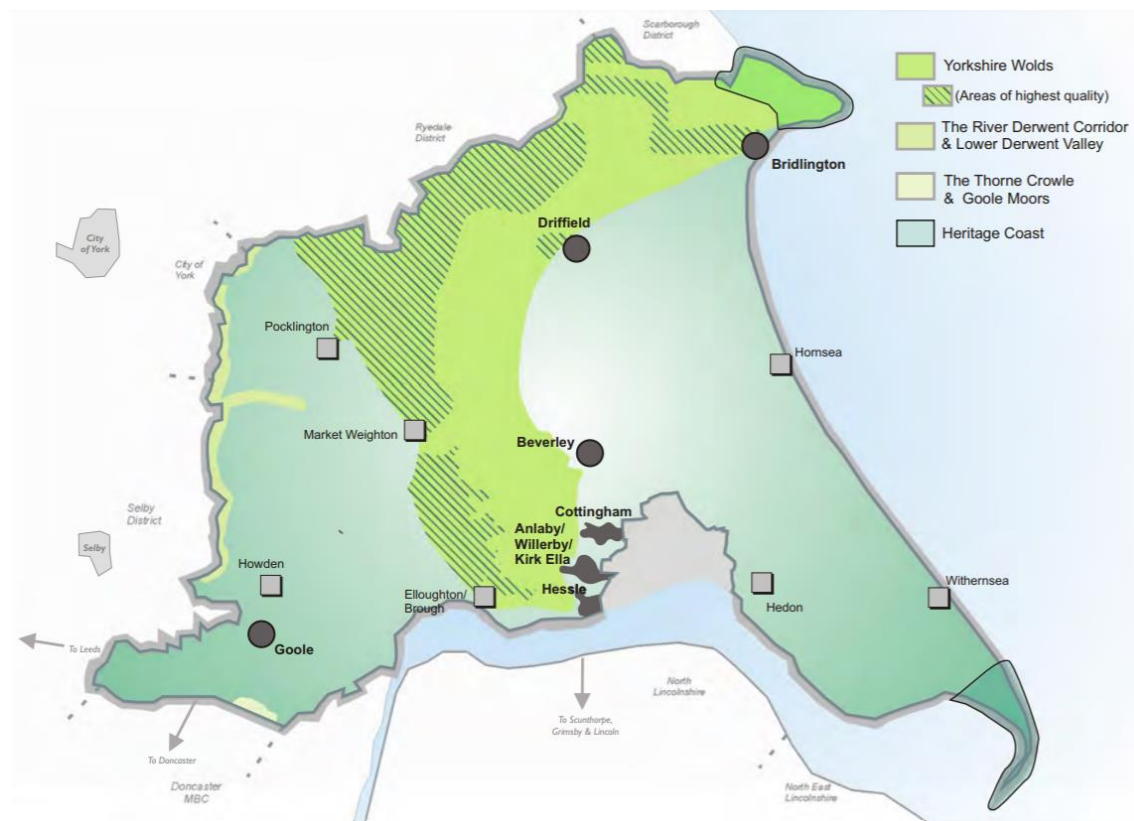


Neighbouring Areas

- 2.15 The following sections briefly review the current approaches to local landscape designation within the local planning authorities that share a boundary with Selby. Landscape designations in these areas are shown in Figure 2.1.

East Riding of Yorkshire

- 2.16 The East Riding Local Plan Strategy Document (adopted 2016) refers to a number of Important Landscape Areas (ILA) which are shown on the proposals map and offered protection under Policy ENV2.⁴ Of the four ILAs, the most important for this study is the River Derwent Corridor, which includes the Derwent valley along the eastern boundary of Selby District, from the Pocklington Canal down to the confluence with the Ouse. The ILAs are shown in Figure 11 of the Strategy Document, which is reproduced below.



- 2.17 The Strategy Document (paragraph 8.35) states that this area *“is important for the traditionally farmed flood plain meadow landscape of the river and canal corridors which support the internationally and nationally important habitat and species of the designated Natura 2000 sites,”* and, further south, for the *“traditional riverine landscape with pasture, species rich meadows and well vegetated field drains, framed by occasional small woodlands and waterside willows with a strong sense of tranquillity and serenity from the traditionally farmed areas.”* The Strategy Document continues: *“In this area it is important that development and management activity has particular consideration of the character and setting of the low lying flat floodplain, and the villages, hamlets and farmsteads that line the corridor just above the floodplain.”*
- 2.18 East Riding of Yorkshire Council has published a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on the Lower Derwent Valley.⁵ Produced in collaboration with Selby, York City and North Yorkshire Councils and Natural England, this document sets out a cross-boundary approach to protection

⁴ East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2016) East Riding Local Plan 2012 – 2029: Strategy Document. [<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/what-is-the-east-riding-local-plan/>]

⁵ East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2018) East Riding Local Plan: Lower Derwent Valley Supplementary Planning Document.

and enhancement of the Derwent Valley landscape. It focuses on an area within 1km of the natural heritage designations along the river.

- 2.19 The boundaries of all the ILAs have been reviewed in detail against a series of criteria, in order to ensure that, where possible, they follow defined geographical features, and take account of the key characteristics of the landscape and the objectives of the designation.⁶

Doncaster

- 2.20 Areas of Special Landscape Value were identified in the Doncaster Unitary Development Plan (1998), including part of the limestone ridge to the south of Kirk Smeaton. However, this designation is not referenced in either the Core Strategy (adopted 2012) or the Consultation Draft Policies & Proposed Sites document (2018).

Wakefield

- 2.21 Neither the Core Strategy (adopted 2009) nor the Initial Draft Wakefield District Local Plan 2036 (2019) makes reference to the designation of specific areas for landscape reasons.

Leeds

- 2.22 Saved Policy N37 of the Leeds Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2006) defines Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) as the 'most attractive' areas of the landscape, and provides protection in order to safeguard their 'attractive character and appearance'. Brief descriptions of each of the 18 SLAs are provided in Appendix A26 to the Plan.⁷ The Proposals Map shows that several of these relatively small areas lie within the limestone ridge area close to the Selby District boundary, including the Ledsham/Ledston area which extends along the boundary from the Aire Valley north to Lotherton Hall. The description for this area refers to the well wooded parklands, dry valleys and dramatic views from above the Aire Valley.

Harrogate

- 2.23 Special Landscape Areas are identified in the Harrogate District Local Plan (adopted 2001), and are retained in the emerging Harrogate District Local Plan (Publication Draft 2018), but none are close to the boundary of Selby District.

York

- 2.24 Neither the City of York Local Plan (2005) nor the City of York Local Plan (Publication Draft 2018) makes reference to the designation of specific areas for landscape reasons.

⁶ Golder Associates (2014) East Riding of Yorkshire Important Landscape Areas Boundary Refinement. East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

⁷ Leeds City Council (2006) Unitary Development Plan (Review 2006) Volume 2: Appendices. [https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/FPI_UDP_002%20Volume%202%20Appendices.pdf]

3 Methodology

Introduction

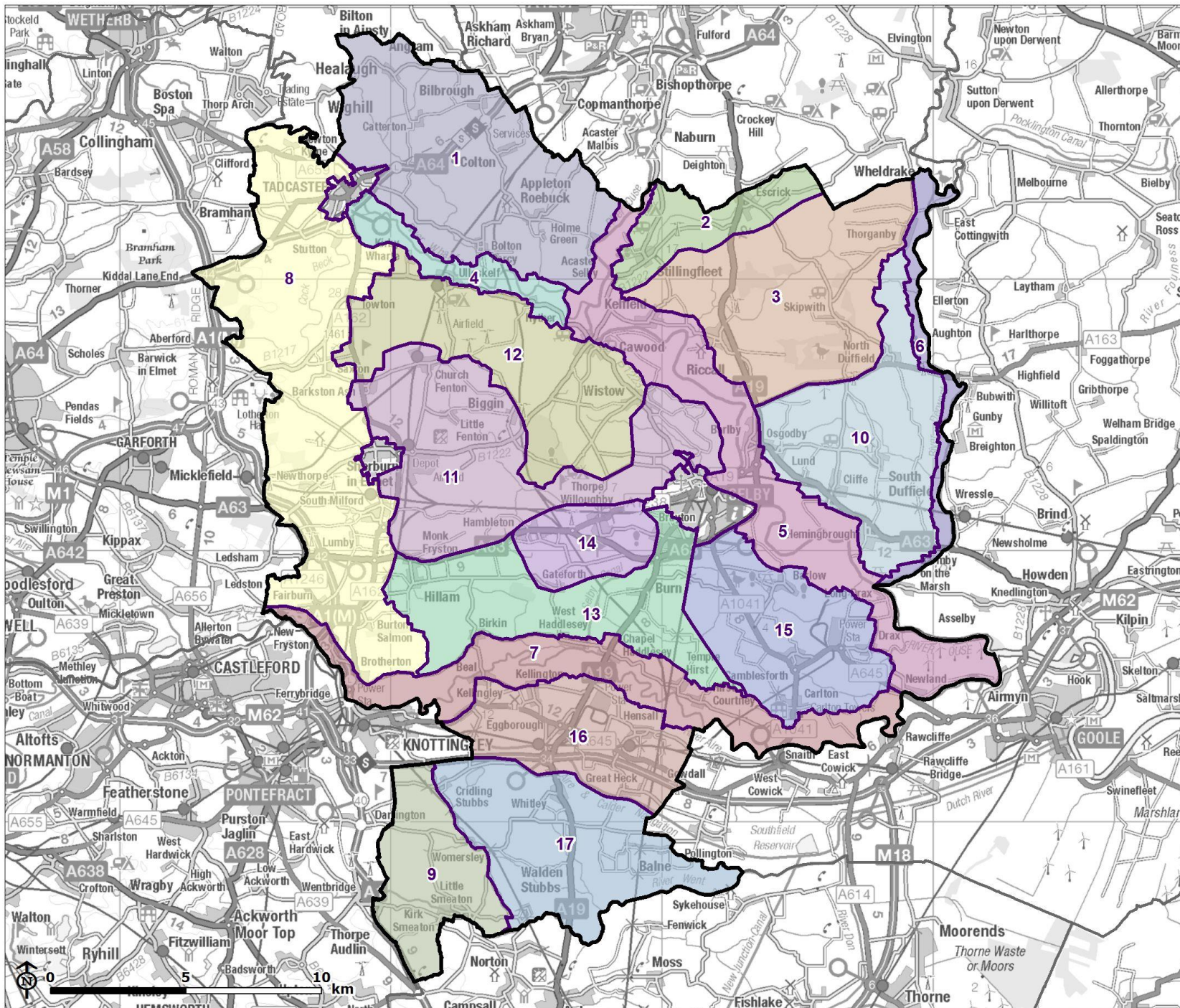
- 3.1 There is no generally accepted methodology for reviewing or updating local landscape designations in England.
- 3.2 In Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland have published Guidance on Local Landscape Designations (SNH and Historic Scotland, 2006), the revision of which (SNH and Historic Environment Scotland, 2017) is being finalised following consultation. This document ('the SNH/HS Guidance') includes recommendations on the key steps to follow and criteria to use when undertaking local landscape designation studies. Although developed in Scotland, the general principles set out can be applied in any landscape context.
- 3.3 The current Natural England recommended Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014) includes a definition of landscape value in Annex 1, stated as: "*The relative value or importance attached to a landscape... which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness, cultural associations or other conservation issues*".
- 3.4 The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2013) also includes a helpful summary of the range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes. These include landscape quality/condition, scenic quality, rarity, representativeness (important examples of characteristic features), conservation interests, recreation value, perceptual aspects and associations.
- 3.5 The following methodology was developed from the above sources, drawing on past experience of reviewing local landscape designations for other local planning authorities in England.

Definitions

- 3.6 For the purposes of this study, local landscape designations are defined in relation to NPPF (see Section 2) as:
Landscapes of value in relation to NPPF paragraph 170 that could benefit from protection not provided by other existing designations.
- 3.7 The term Locally Important Landscape Area (LILA) has been retained to reflect current naming and policy context of local landscape designations in Selby District. New or amended areas in this report are referred to as 'candidate LILAs' to reflect their emerging status, and to distinguish them from the currently adopted LILAs.

Evaluation

- 3.8 An essential element in reviewing the local landscape designations is the adoption of a systematic and transparent process for selecting areas for designation.
- 3.9 While all landscapes have their individual character, there will be a number of landscape qualities which are likely to be particularly relevant to the identification of valued landscapes for designation. The assessment criteria shown in Table 3.1 were developed for the purposes of this study. They are drawn from the SNH/HS Guidance and from the Brief, but have been amended to focus on criteria that are key to identifying valued landscapes in Selby.
- 3.10 The criteria-based evaluation is applied to the 17 landscape character areas (LCAs) described in the Selby Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2019), which are shown in Figure 3.1.



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Figure 3.1: Landscape Character Areas

- Selby District
- Neighbouring Authority boundary
- Landscape Character Area
- 1: York Fringe west
- 2: York Fringe east
- 3: Skipwith Lowlands
- 4: Wharfe Valley
- 5: Ouse Valley
- 6: Derwent Valley
- 7: Aire Valley
- 8: West Selby Limestone Ridge
- 9: Smeaton Ridge
- 10: East Selby Farmland
- 11: Sherburn Farmland
- 12: North Selby Farmland
- 13: Haddlesley Farmland
- 14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge
- 15: Camblesforth Farmland
- 16: Eggborough
- 17: Southern Farmland

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000

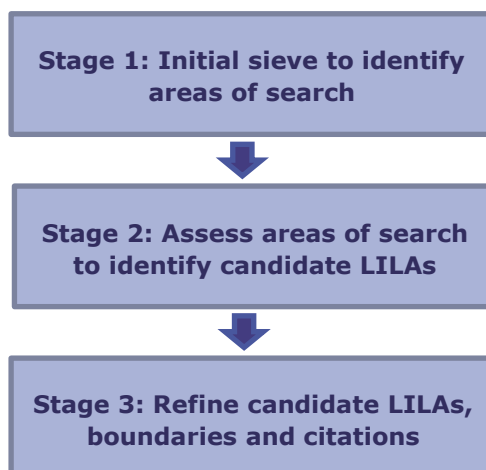


Table 3.1 Criteria for the evaluation of landscape

Criterion	Definition	Considerations
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Is the landscape particularly rare/unique or special in the local context? Does the landscape provide an important contribution to local distinctiveness/ sense of place?	An area with coherent landscape character conferring a recognisable sense of place. A distinct landform or topography forming a discrete and recognisable area.
Intactness / Condition	Does the proposed area contribute to important landscape qualities associated with the local landscape?	An intact landscape with characteristic landscape elements well represented throughout. Characteristic elements in good condition . A lack of incongruous elements or features.
Scenic qualities	Does the landscape have particular scenic and aesthetic qualities and appeal to the senses?	Special perceptual qualities such as strong sense of relative tranquillity or remoteness . Strong visual character, with memorable, important or distinctive views .
Access and enjoyment	To what extent is the landscape valued by local people and/or visitors for access and enjoyment?	Opportunities for access and recreation e.g. access rights, rights of way, visitor attractions/facilities. Close proximity to, and access/rights of way linking to, centres of population .
Cultural qualities	To what extent does the landscape provide strong cultural or historical associations?	A strong character linked to cultural factors – which contribute to understanding of its historic character and wider cultural record. A sense of time depth , i.e. the visible layering of past and present land uses.
Naturalness	To what extent does the landscape have a particular sense of naturalness?	A strong character linked to natural factors – which create a strong degree of naturalness and a lack of human presence.

Evaluation process

3.11 The evaluation of Selby’s landscapes to determine those areas that might merit local designation was based on a three stage process: firstly an initial ‘sieving’ exercise of each LCA to identify ‘areas of search’; secondly a more detailed review and application of practical criteria to areas of search to identify candidate LILAs; and thirdly refinement of candidate LILAs including drawing boundaries and drafting citations. The process is illustrated in the following flow chart:



Stage 1: Defining areas of search

- 3.12 The study will assess all areas of Selby against the LILA criteria, using the LCAs in the updated Landscape Character Assessment as a framework in order to separate those landscapes that are thought to potentially merit designation from those unlikely to do so. Our approach recognises that landscape quality or value can vary considerably within individual character areas, and that value can be derived from the juxtaposition of landscapes with different character
- 3.13 A standard evaluation sheet was completed for each LCA, and these are included in Appendix 1. Each LCA was evaluated on a 3 point scale (high, medium, low) in relation to each of the criteria in Table 3.1, with a brief justification. In addition, two further aspects were considered in completing the evaluations:
- Consistency, which identifies any significant variations in the evaluation within and across the LCA in question; and
 - Connections, which looks at key relationships between the LCA in question and adjacent landscapes.
- 3.14 These additional aspects are not assigned an evaluation, but are useful in determining the extents and boundaries of LILAs, which may not be the same as LCA boundaries. The evaluation sheets draw on baseline information gathered during preparation of the LCA, and verified through field work.
- 3.15 The collated results give an indication as to which areas may be taken forward for more detailed evaluation and which can be sieved out. Areas of search are drawn up to focus on the LCAs, or groups of LCAs, that are evaluated more highly against the criteria.

Stage 2: Identifying candidate LILAs

- 3.16 The areas of search identified in the previous stage are evaluated in more detail to identify candidate LILAs. The process of finalising the candidate LILAs takes account of the 'practical' criteria tests set out in the SNH/HS Guidance in order to inform choices over inclusion. These criteria and associated considerations are set out in Table 3.2. The additional aspects of consistency and connections, noted during the criteria evaluation, are used at this stage to examine the key interrelationships between LCAs, and any variation within LCAs. Candidates LILAs may represent whole LCAs, multiple LCAs, or areas within an LCA.

Table 3.2 Practical criteria

Criterion	Definition	Considerations
Integrity / cohesiveness of landscape character	Is the area to be designated both coherent enough (in terms of character) and of sufficient size to make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and planning?	Size – a candidate LILA should be more than an individual landscape feature or site. Recognisable as a cohesive area – noting the consistency and connections identified in the evaluation – and having distinct boundaries
Need	To what extent will designation provide for the more effective management and planning of the character and attributes of the area being considered for designation?	Presence/absence of other local or national landscape designations (there may be no need to designate if the area is already designated) Areas where the local planning authority has identified particular pressures and need for positive planning and management to conserve special character.

Stage 3: Refinement of candidate LILAs

- 3.17 The candidate LILAs identified were refined further, in discussion with the Steering Group. Field survey was used to gather additional information on key characteristics and special qualities and to identify potential boundaries.
- 3.18 Boundaries have been drawn using GIS, following physical features in the landscape in all cases. Where no physical feature is available, it is necessary to move outward to the next feature, thereby including additional land, rather than pulling the boundaries inward which may result in important landscape areas being excluded from the candidate LILA. Boundaries were defined against Ordnance Survey maps at 1:25,000 scale, and a GIS shape file of the agreed boundaries was supplied to Selby District Council with the final report.
- 3.19 For each of the candidate LILAs a draft citation has been prepared containing:
- Ordnance Survey base map showing the extent of the candidate LILA area;
 - Representative photographs;
 - Boundaries – a description of the chosen boundaries and reasons for their selection, particularly where these differ from existing LILA boundaries;
 - Special qualities – short statements setting out the key defining characteristics for which the candidate LILA merits protection under local planning policy;
 - Description – consistent, robust summary analysis of the candidate LILA in terms of the selection criteria from Table 3.1, i.e.: local distinctiveness and sense of place; intactness and condition; scenic qualities; access and enjoyment; cultural qualities; and naturalness; and
 - Management guidelines – brief recommendations focused on recognising the special qualities of the candidate LILA in development planning and land management decisions.

4 Landscape Evaluation

- 4.1 The following section presents a summary of the landscape evaluation, which is set out for each LCA in Appendix 1. Table 4.1 shows the individual criteria evaluations for each LCA. Justification for these evaluations is provided in the appendix. These evaluations are relative judgements and do not imply any given area is of low quality, or could be suitable for development.
- 4.2 As set out in Section 3, the evaluation is a sieving process aimed solely at identifying areas that may be more or less likely to merit designation as LILAs, and does not indicate sensitivity to development.

Table 4.1 Landscape evaluation summary

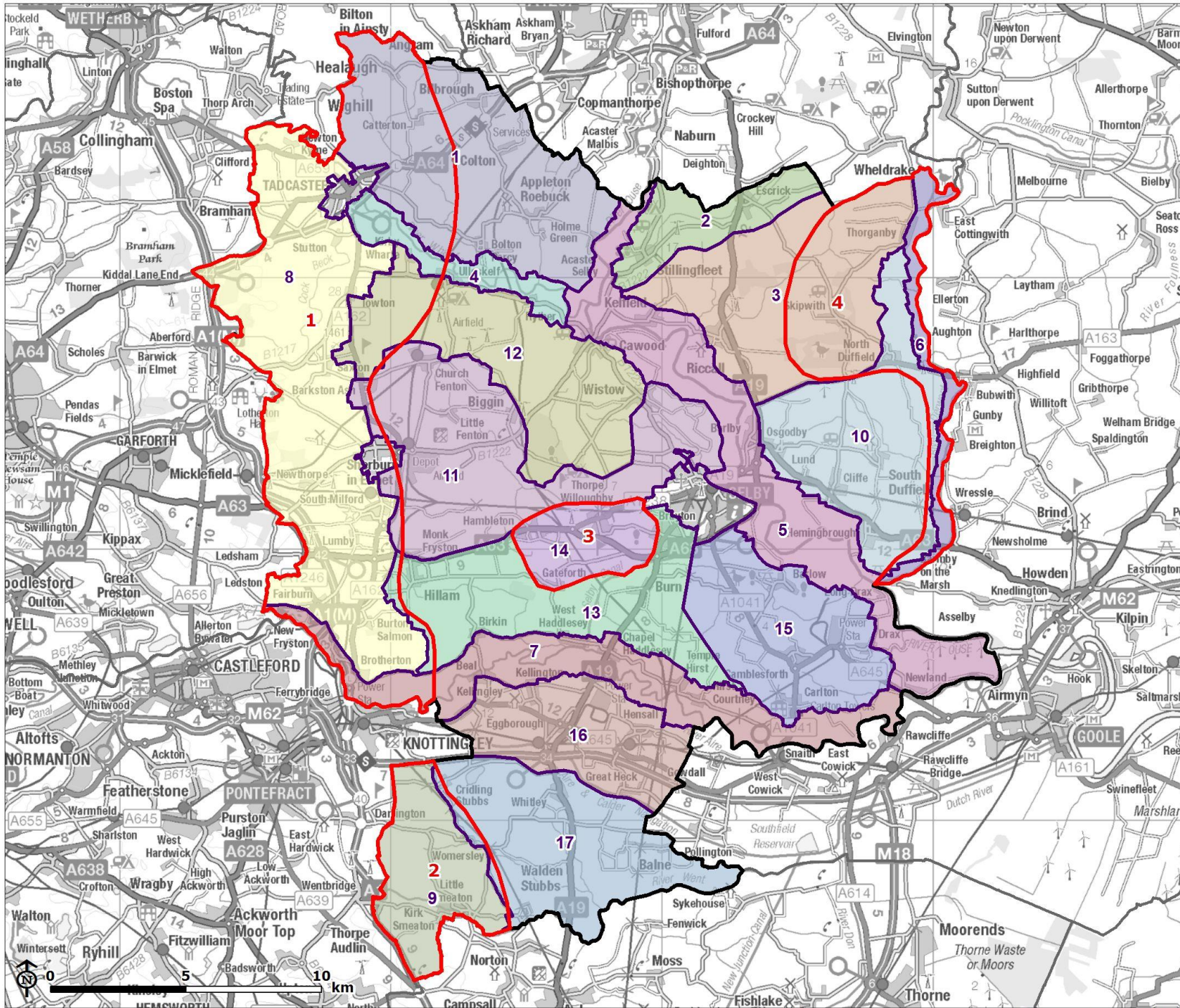
	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Intactness / Condition	Scenic qualities	Access and enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness
1 York Fringe West	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low
2 York Fringe East	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low
3 Skipwith Lowlands	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium
4 Wharfe Valley	High	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
5 Ouse Valley	High	Low	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
6 Derwent Valley	High	High	High	High	Medium	High
7 Aire Valley	High	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
8 West Selby Limestone Ridge	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
9 Smeaton Ridge	High	High	High	Medium	High	High
10 East Selby Farmland	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low
11 Sherburn Farmland	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
12 North Selby Farmland	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
13 Haddlesey Farmland	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	High	High	High	High	High	High
15 Camblesforth Farmland	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
16 Eggborough	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
17 Southern Farmland	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low

Discussion

- 4.3 Only one area was evaluated as *high* against all of the six criteria: this was the Hambleton Sandstone Ridge (LCA 14). Other LCAs that were evaluated as *high* against most criteria were the Derwent Valley (LCA 6) and the two areas of the Magnesian Limestone ridge (LCA 8 and 9). None of these four areas was evaluated as *low* against any criterion. Based on the evaluation, these LCAs are therefore considered most likely to merit designation as LILAs, either in whole or in part. These areas represent the more visually diverse landscapes of the District, including elevated landscapes and the intact river valley farmland of the River Derwent.
- 4.4 Several LCAs were evaluated as *high* against one or two criteria, with other criteria assessed as *medium*. These were: the Skipwith Lowlands (LCA 3) including the attractive Skipwith Common; the Wharfe Valley (LCA 4) which is relatively distinctive and tranquil; and the Camblesforth Farmland (LCA 15) which was judged to have more visible historic character and time depth than other lowland farmed areas. These areas may merit designation as LILAs, but likely in part and in combination with other areas noted above.
- 4.5 LCAs with a mix of *high*, *medium* and *low* evaluations included the river valleys of the Ouse and Aire (LCAs 5 and 7), and the more undulating landscapes of the York Fringe (LCAs 1 and 2). The North Selby Farmland (LCA 12) was evaluated as *medium* for all criteria. These areas are unlikely to merit designation as LILAs in their own right, but parts of these areas may merit inclusion in LILAs focused on adjacent landscapes.
- 4.6 The larger-scale and more man-modified areas of intensive farmland were assigned a mix of *medium* and *low* evaluations. These were East Selby Farmland (LCA 10), Sherburn Farmland (LCA 11), Haddlesey Farmland (LCA 13) and Southern Farmland (LCA 17), while Eggborough (LCA 16) was the only area to be evaluated as *low* across all criteria. These areas are unlikely to merit designation as LILAs either in whole or in part, though localised areas may be included within LILAs focused on adjacent landscapes.

Areas of Search

- 4.7 Based on the sieving exercise discussed above, areas of search have been identified. Each area of search is centred on one of the four LCAs noted in paragraph 4.2 which were evaluated as *high* against most criteria. Parts of adjacent LCAs have been included where they received a higher or mixed evaluation, and where they could potentially contribute to a wider LILA. Areas with medium or low evaluations are not included.
- 4.8 The following areas of search have been identified for further examination:
- The north part of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, between Tadcaster and Brotherton (LCA 8), including adjacent areas of the upper Wharfe and Aire (LCAs 4 and 7), the western York fringe (LCA 1), and the North Selby Farmland (LCA 12);
 - The south part of the Magnesian Limestone ridge, around Smeaton and Womersley (LCA 9);
 - The Hambleton Sandstone Ridge (LCA 14); and
 - The Derwent Valley (LCA 6) and the adjacent parts of the Skipwith Lowlands (LCA 3).
- 4.9 These search areas are shown indicatively in Figure 4.1, and are examined further in the following sections.



**Selby District
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**Figure 4.1: Areas of Search
(indicative only)**

- Selby District
- Neighbouring Authority boundary
- Landscape Character Area
- 1: York Fringe west
- 2: York Fringe east
- 3: Skipwith Lowlands
- 4: Wharfe Valley
- 5: Ouse Valley
- 6: Derwent Valley
- 7: Aire Valley
- 8: West Selby Limestone Ridge
- 9: Smeaton Ridge
- 10: East Selby Farmland
- 11: Sherburn Farmland
- 12: North Selby Farmland
- 13: Haddlesey Farmland
- 14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge
- 15: Camblesforth Farmland
- 16: Eggborough
- 17: Southern Farmland
- Areas of Search

Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



Identification of Candidate LILAs

Search area 1

- 4.10 This area includes the north part of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, between Tadcaster and Brotherton (LCA 8), including adjacent areas of the upper Wharfe and Aire (LCAs 4 and 7), the western York fringe (LCA 1), and the North Selby Farmland (LCA 12).

Integrity and cohesiveness

- 4.11 The evaluation notes that the Magnesian Limestone Ridge (LCA 8), which is the predominant LCA within the existing Limestone Ridge LILA, is generally consistent throughout, although there are localised areas where the character differs, primarily due to field amalgamation and proximity to major transport routes. The small areas of LCA 4 (Wharfe Valley) and LCA 12 (North Selby Farmland) included in the north of the LILA are considered to be consistent with the main character, due to the strong presence of woodland which is a key characteristic of LCA 8.
- 4.12 The evaluation for LCA 8 highlights the connection with neighbouring landscapes beyond the District boundary. This section of the limestone ridge is just a small area of the wider limestone landscape, and any designation would be limited to within the District boundary. The ridge is identified as a linear connection along the western boundary of the District, providing connections with the River Wharfe and Aire to the north and south, respectively.
- 4.13 Although the Limestone Ridge is generally consistent, the most southerly extents of the LILA show a distinctly different character around the Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve. Whilst the Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve is part of the existing LILA and could merit continued inclusion, it is considered that the landscape character of the area does not conform to that of LCA 8. A LILA that included both these areas is unlikely to be a cohesive area with a clear set of key characteristics. As the site is already designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), it is concluded that it would be acceptable that this area (LCA 7) is excluded from the LILA. The Limestone Ridge is a coherent area with a consistent landscape character, with only localised variations noted in the evaluation.

Consideration of need

- 4.14 There is a high concentration of woodland areas across LCA 8, with many identified as areas of Ancient Woodland, particularly in the north and west of the LILA. In addition, most of these areas of Ancient Woodland are also designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). There are three SSSIs within the LILA; Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve, Sutton Ings and Sherburn Willows.
- 4.15 Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve, in the south of the existing LILA is protected by national biodiversity designation (SSSI) that covers the site in its entirety, and is unlikely to face development pressure. Although an attractive landscape, it is not consistent with the landscape of the rest of the LILA and it is not clear that LILA status would further enhance the protection and management of this area. The area is largely within the West Yorkshire Green Belt, though this is a planning designation that is not designed to protect or enhance the quality of the landscape.
- 4.16 Development pressure in this area is likely to include further housing proposals around Sherburn in Elmet and South Milford in the south, and Tadcaster in the north. In addition, further proposals for quarrying can be anticipated across LCA 8.

Conclusion

- 4.17 The continued designation of this area as a LILA would assist with the continued management of built development proposals and further minerals development across the northern section of the Limestone Ridge. The designation of a LILA would recognise the distinguishing qualities of the area, which form a distinctive landscape within the District, alongside the southern sections of the ridge near Smeaton.
- 4.18 It is considered that the area at Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve and SSSI does not need to be included within the LILA, as it is distinctly different from the rest of the landscape within the LILA and it is already protected from development pressures.

Search area 2

- 4.19 Search area 2 covers the south part of the Magnesian Limestone ridge, around Smeaton and Womersley (LCA 9).

Integrity and cohesiveness

- 4.20 The evaluation for LCA 9 highlights the connection with landscapes outside the District boundary, with the Limestone ridge being a continuous feature that extends north, south and west into Doncaster and Wakefield. As such it is an isolated fragment of the wider limestone landscape, and any designation would not cover the whole landscape area. However, within Selby District, this is a coherent area with a consistent landscape character and only local variation noted in the evaluation.

Consideration of need

- 4.21 There are biodiversity designations within this area, focusing on the Brockdale area along the River Went, and conservation areas are defined for Smeaton and Womersley. The area is within the West Yorkshire Green Belt, though this is a planning designation that is not designed to protect or enhance the quality of the landscape. There are no local landscape designations in either neighbouring authority.
- 4.22 Development pressure in this area is likely to include further quarrying proposals, which will require consideration at the landscape scale. Pressure for built development is likely to be more limited and smaller in scale. The long-term reuse and restoration of mineral extraction sites will need careful consideration in terms of landscape and visual effects.

Conclusion

- 4.23 The continued designation of this area as a LILA would assist with management of minerals development and with positive planning for landscape-scale enhancement. LILA status would recognise the particular qualities of this area which, along with the northern section of the limestone ridge discussed above, represents a distinct landscape within the District and the wider area.

Search area 3

- 4.24 This search area comprises the Hambleton Sandstone Ridge (LCA 14).

Integrity and cohesiveness

- 4.25 The evaluation notes that the area is largely consistent, though the valued features such as intactness, access and tranquillity, are generally focused on the two hills, which are currently defined as separate LILAs despite their very small (<1.2 km²) extent.
- 4.26 The current boundaries of the Brayton Barff LILA are defined by Barff Lane in the north, Mill Lane to the south, Selby Golf Club to the west and a field boundary near Brayton in the east. Hambleton Hough LILA is defined by Field Lane to the north, Gateforth New Road and the grounds of Gateforth Hall to the south, Moreton Lane to the east, and Haugh Lane and the boundary of woodland in the west.
- 4.27 The characteristics of the two hills are consistent with one another, although the landscape between the two hills has some slight inconsistencies, most notably the presence of the derelict Gateforth Farm. Despite this, it is considered that the overall character of the landscape between the hills is complementary to that of the nearby hills due to the strong presence of woodland.

Consideration of need

- 4.28 There are biodiversity designations within this area, notably the area of Ancient Woodland covering Brayton Barff. Brayton Barff is also identified as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). However, there are no designations covering the wider area, including Hambleton Hough and the intervening landscape.
- 4.29 Development pressure for new housing is relatively high in the area around Selby, Thorpe Willoughby and Hambleton, with a number of potential development sites being put forward in the areas around both hills. It is likely that this development pressure will continue in future, and there is therefore a clear need to promote positive planning and management of this area for

landscape gain, not only to protect the setting of the hills, but also to promote landscape enhancement and enjoyment in the area for the benefit of local residents.

Conclusion

- 4.30 The two hills of Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff would merit designation as a combined LILA, including the landscapes between the hills. The inclusion of the landscape between Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff could be used to contribute towards green infrastructure in the area, improving access between the two hills, and between neighbouring settlements.
- 4.31 Sufficient additional area should be considered for inclusion in order to maintain the setting of the hills, particularly along the western boundary of Hambleton Hough, where currently the LILA skirts the boundary of the woodland. Inclusion of additional fields to the west of Hambleton Hough is recommended to safeguard the setting of the hills.

Search area 4

- 4.32 Search area 4 includes the Derwent Valley (LCA 6) and the adjacent parts of the Skipwith Lowlands (LCA 3).

Integrity and cohesiveness

- 4.33 The evaluation notes that although the Skipwith Lowlands is generally consistent, areas of woodland and Skipwith Common in particular show a different character, and the latter is noted in relation to several criteria. It is concluded that while Skipwith Common could merit consideration as part of a LILA, the remaining areas of the LCA are less likely to do so. The Derwent Valley is a consistent area, with only localised variations noted in the evaluation.
- 4.34 The evaluation notes that the two LCAs have some connection, but this is not described as being important to either area. There is no clear landscape relationship between the Derwent Valley and Skipwith Common. A LILA that included both these areas is unlikely to be a cohesive area with a clear set of key characteristics.
- 4.35 The Derwent Valley area would be of sufficient size to function as a LILA, particularly when considered as a cross-boundary area with the Lower Derwent Valley Important Landscape Area in East Riding of Yorkshire. Skipwith Common is more limited in extent, and is also self contained with limited relationship to the surrounding landscape.

Consideration of need

- 4.36 Skipwith Common is protected by national and international biodiversity designations that cover the site in its entirety. It is currently managed as a National Nature Reserve, and is unlikely to face development pressure. Although an attractive landscape, it is not clear that LILA status would further enhance the protection and management of this area.
- 4.37 The lower Derwent Valley area includes a number of national and international biodiversity designations, which cover specific areas on both sides of the river and extend along the length of LCA 6. In places these designations are extensive, but in others they are more intermittent and focused on the watercourse rather than its setting. As noted in Section 2, East Riding of Yorkshire Council have identified the Lower Derwent Valley as an Important Landscape Area, and have published an SPD setting out a cross-boundary approach to protection and enhancement of the Derwent Valley landscape, focused on an area within 1km of the river. This document recognises that the Derwent has a wider setting beyond the extent of the natural heritage designations, and indicates a perceived need for positive landscape-scale planning. LILA designation would assist in identifying special qualities and management aims for the Selby section of this landscape, and would complement approaches being taken in the East Riding.

Conclusion

- 4.38 The Derwent Valley area, focusing on LCA 6, would merit designation as a LILA, being a coherent area with a distinct identity. LILA status would complement the existing biodiversity designations, and the aims of the SPD published by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. This area is examined further in the next section. It is considered that positive management of Skipwith Common would not benefit from LILA status, and that this area could not be integrated into a Derwent Valley LILA. The Skipwith Common area is not considered further.

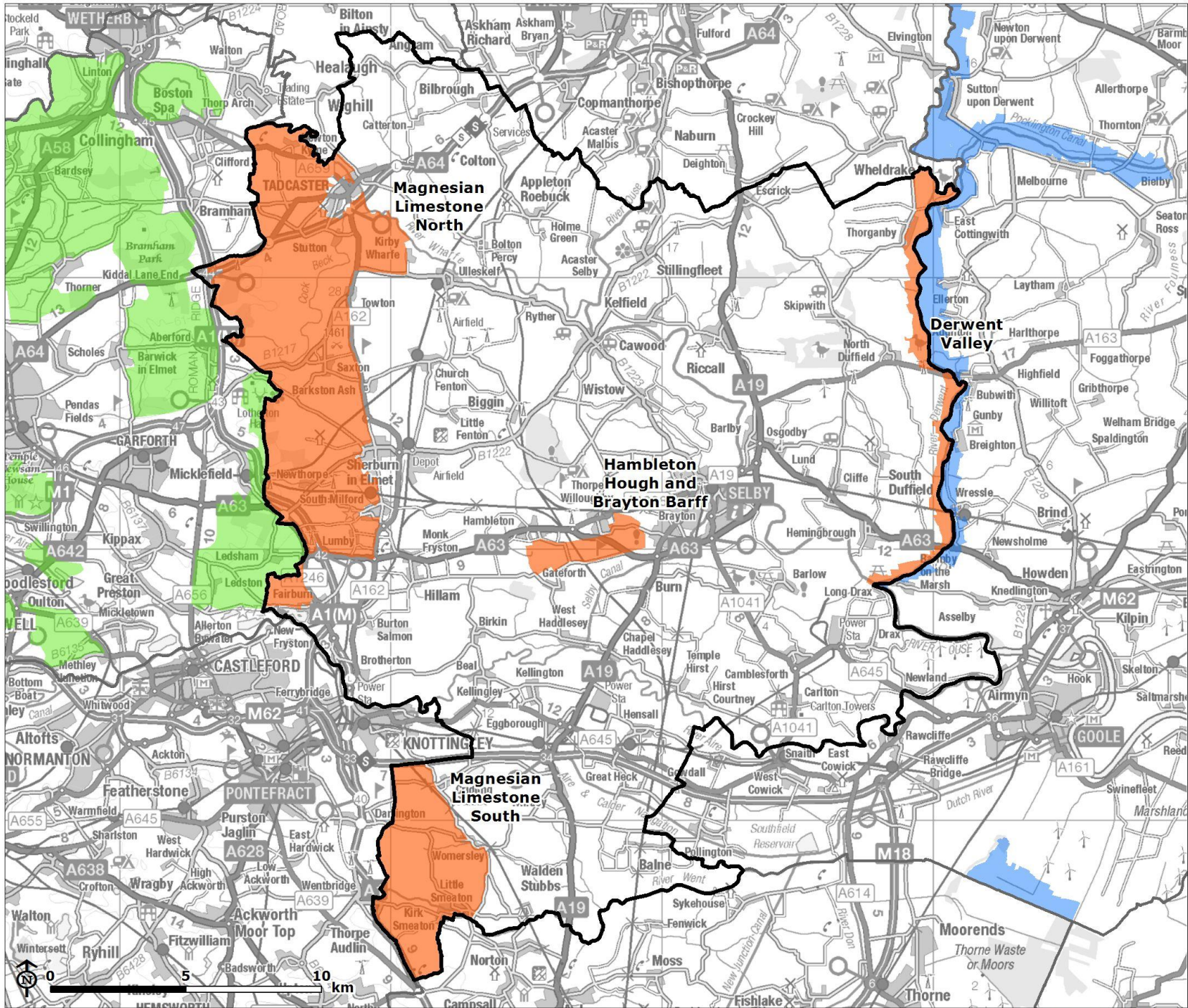
5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Based on the evaluation presented in Section 4, four distinct areas are considered to merit recognition under a local landscape designation policy. These four areas are described in this section as candidate LILAs, and have been named as follows:
- Magnesian Limestone North;
 - Magnesian Limestone South;
 - Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff; and
 - the Derwent Valley.
- 5.2 A draft statement of importance for each of these candidate LILAs is presented below, including a proposed boundary, description, and special qualities. The special qualities are those features and elements that make the landscape worthy of additional protection, and which development proposals within the LILAs must seek to conserve and enhance. It is recommended that the LILA policy should make direct reference to the special qualities.
- 5.3 Boundaries have been selected on the following basis:
- Boundaries follow a physical landscape feature wherever possible, such as a road, field boundary, watercourse, etc.;
 - Where settlements lie on boundaries, areas within defined Development Limits are excluded;
 - By preference, boundaries follow the edge of established landscape character areas;
 - Boundaries are selected to ensure the designated area remains a coherent whole, avoiding potentially vulnerable narrow corridors; and
 - All boundary judgements are made with regard to the landscape characteristics or features that form the focus of the candidate LILA.
- 5.4 The candidate LILAs are shown on Figure 5.1, and individually on Figures 5.2 to 5.5.

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Figure 5.1: Candidate
Locally Important
Landscape Areas

-  Selby
-  Neighbouring Authority boundary
-  Candidate LILAs
-  Important Landscape Areas (East Riding)
-  Special Landscape Areas (Leeds)



Map Scale @ A4: 1:200,000



Magnesian Limestone

- 5.5 This candidate LILA includes two discrete areas in the north and south, separated by the River Aire and the urban area of Knottingley. Although physically separate, the areas share a similar landscape character and have been found to have the same special qualities. They are therefore discussed together below.

Candidate LILA boundary: Magnesian Limestone North

- 5.6 The candidate LILA boundary follows the District boundary to the north and west, excluding the A1(M) junction 44. It generally follows the A162 to the east but excludes areas within the defined development limits of the settlements of Tadcaster, Towton, Sherburn in Elmet and South Milford. To the south the A63 forms the boundary, although the area west of the A1256 is included. This area is bounded to the south by the Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve (SSSI).
- 5.7 The candidate LILA boundary is identical to the existing LILA boundary in most areas, as the existing boundary meets the criteria outlined at paragraph 5.3. There are two exceptions:
- Major road infrastructure around A1(M) junction 42 has been excluded, as these features do not contribute to the landscape of the candidate LILA; and
 - The Aire Valley section has been excluded, including the ponds of Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve, as this area is of different character to the limestone ridge that is the focus of the candidate LILA, and in addition is separately protected as a SSSI.

Candidate LILA boundary: Magnesian Limestone South

- 5.8 The candidate LILA boundary follows the District boundary to the north, west and south. To the east the boundary follows Northfield Lane and Churchfield Lane, excluding the areas within the defined development limits of Womersley.
- 5.9 The candidate LILA boundary is identical to the existing LILA boundary, which meets the criteria outlined at paragraph 5.3.

Special qualities

- 5.10 The special qualities for which the Magnesian Limestone candidate LILA is recommended are as follows.
- Underlying geology of Magnesian dolomitic limestone rocks of Permian age (c.272-252 million years ago).
 - Geology is expressed at the surface through species-rich Magnesian limestone grasslands, for example at Sherburn Willows SSSI.
 - Magnesian limestone used as a distinctive local building material, in contrast to other parts of the District, including prominent stone walls.
 - Small villages where limestone predominates, such as Womersley and Saxton.
 - Long association with mineral extraction for building, aggregates and lime.
 - Important parkland influences associated with settlements and country houses, particularly extensive where associated with the River Wharfe, at Newton Kyme and Grimston.
 - Large-scale rolling farmland, elevated above the low-lying plain to the east, and offering wide views across the adjacent landscape.
 - A modest but distinctive eastern escarpment, forming a backdrop and setting to a string of settlements from Tadcaster south through Towton, Sherburn and Womersley.
 - Deep valleys featuring pasture and calcareous woodlands, including sections of ancient semi-natural woodland.

Description: Magnesian Limestone candidate LILA

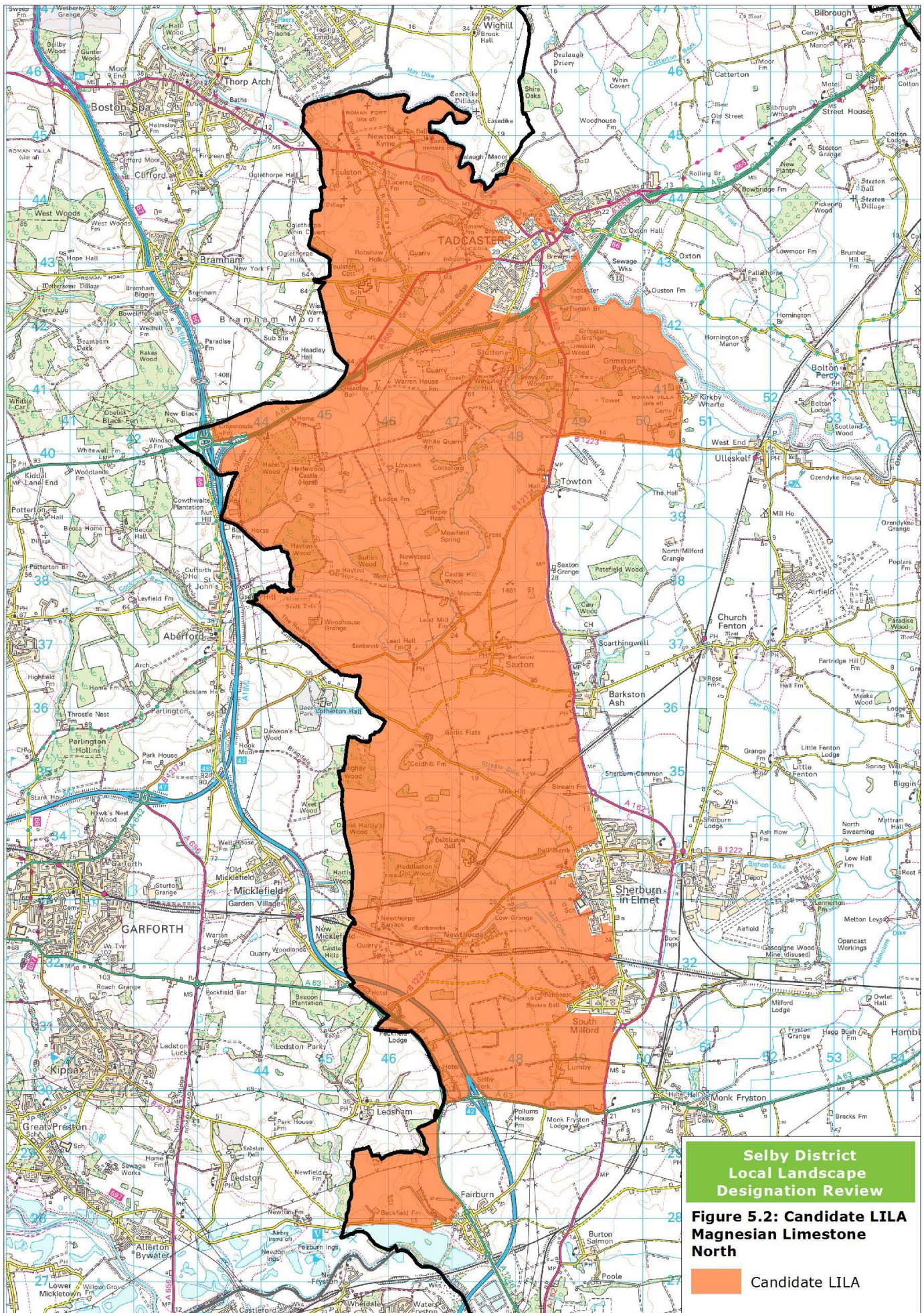
Criteria	Summary description
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	In comparison with other areas of Selby District, the highly undulating nature of the landscape is distinctive, and creates locally enclosed areas that are unusual within the context of the generally flat open farmland to the east. The candidate LILA is strongly wooded, also in contrast to other parts of Selby, and woodlands are often denser and better connected. The ubiquity of limestone as a building material ties the area together and lends a further layer to the strong sense of place.
Intactness / Condition	While there is some evidence of human alteration of the landscape, this is on a lesser scale to that seen elsewhere in Selby. There has been some field amalgamation and overhead lines pass through the area, as well as several limestone quarries. However, there are also intact conservation villages, and parkland landscapes which include natural and built features in good managed condition. Areas of woodland and shelterbelts throughout generally remain intact, particularly where linked to parkland.
Scenic qualities	The more undulating topography and variety of woodland, pastoral and arable land creates visual diversity. Parkland landscapes offer a range of scenic views and there are attractive traditional limestone buildings in the landscape. Away from the major roads and overt human influences there is a strong sense of tranquil rurality, most closely associated with the wooded and locally enclosed areas of landscape. Elevated locations offer panoramic views across the low-lying neighbouring landscapes.
Access and enjoyment	There are a number of public rights of way throughout the landscape, giving access to woodlands and farmland from the settlements in and around the candidate LILA. The Ebor Way long-distance route passes through the area, and the Brockadale Nature Reserve is located in the south of the area.
Cultural qualities	A sense of time depth is most evident within the historic settlements and conservation villages. More localised are the areas of parkland, though these remain intact. Historical land use patterns also include areas of strip fields. The battle of Towton (1461), a major engagement of the Wars of the Roses, was fought in the area. Archaeology in the area includes prehistoric, Roman and medieval features.
Naturalness	Some parts of the area are intensively farmed, but there are areas of less intensive pasture, and a strong presence of woodland, shelterbelts and hedgerows throughout the landscape. A sense of naturalness is most associated with woodlands such as the Brockadale Nature Reserve, and Magnesian limestone grasslands at Sherburn Willows SSSI.

Management recommendations

- 5.11 The purpose of identifying the Magnesian Limestone candidate LILA is to protect the special qualities outlined at paragraph 5.10, and development management decisions affecting the area should be made with these in mind. Planning decisions in the area should promote high-quality designs that respond positively to, and where possible enhance, the local landscape character as described in the Selby Landscape Character Assessment 2019.
- 5.12 Specific recommendations are provided below.
- Promote use of local limestone as a visible building material.
 - Seek opportunities to provide access to and interpretation of Magnesian limestone geology and Magnesian limestone grasslands.
 - Ensure sensitive restoration of limestone quarries, securing long-term gains for the landscape, biodiversity and recreation.
 - Seek positive management of extraction sites during operation, and ensure that future extraction works do not adversely affect sensitive aspects of the landscape.
 - Promote further enhancement and extension of woodlands to create habitat networks and improve visual diversity.
 - Resist encroachment of urban areas, and/or large scale commercial development, on to higher, more visible ground.
 - Protect parkland landscapes and seek to ensure the long-term viability of parkland trees and estate woodland.
 - Protect the special character of the limestone valleys, including their management, appearance and undeveloped nature, and promote recreational access.



Undulating wooded farmland of the Magnesian Limestone candidate LILA



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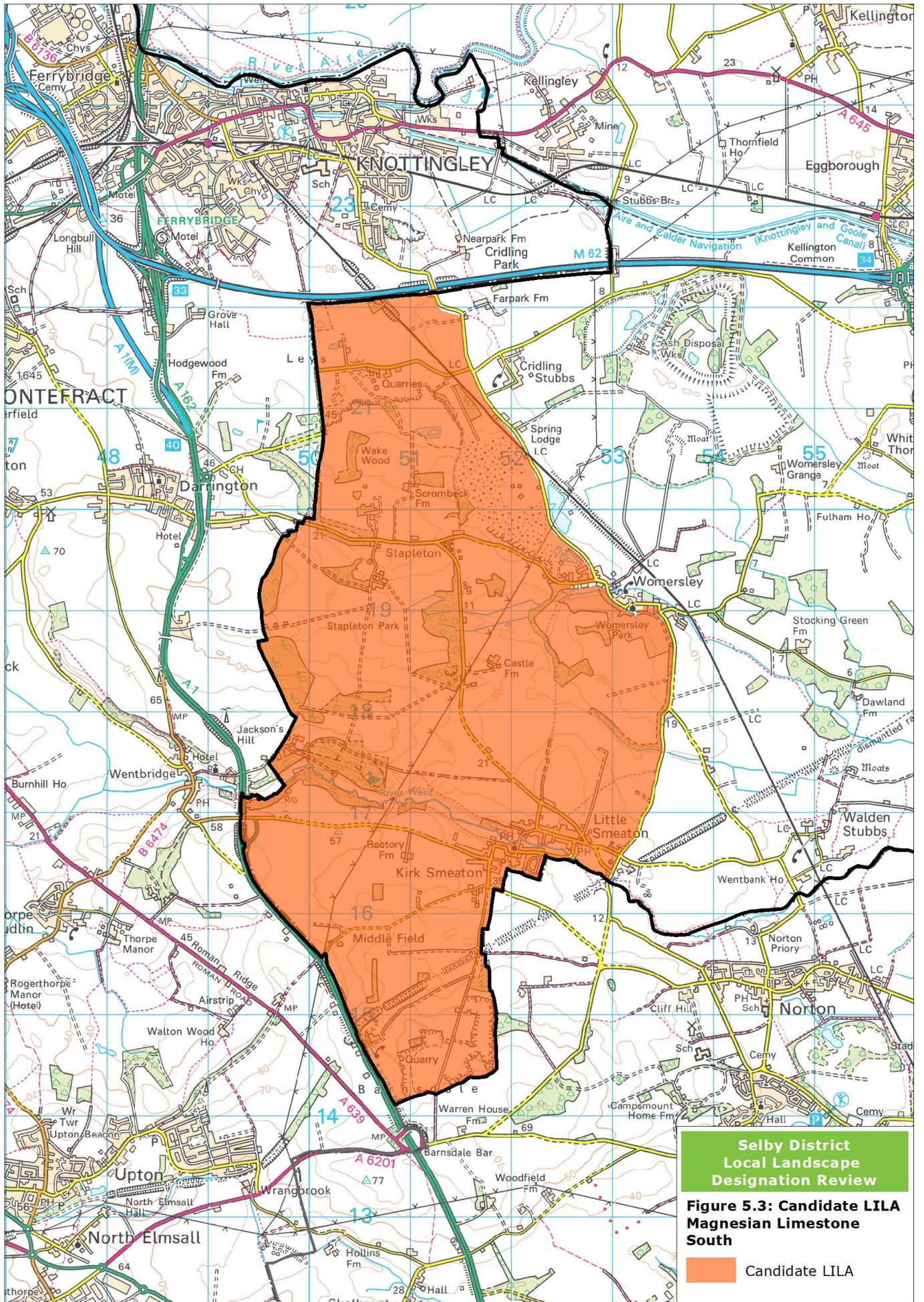
**Figure 5.2: Candidate LILA
Magnesian Limestone
North**

Candidate LILA



0 2.5 5 km

Map Scale @ A4: 1:80,000



**Selby District
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**Figure 5.3: Candidate LILA
Magnesian Limestone
South**

Candidate LILA



0 1 2 km

Map Scale @ A4: 1:50,000

Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff

Candidate LILA boundary

- 5.13 The candidate LILA boundary follows Field Lane to the north, between Hambleton and Thorpe Willoughby. East of Thorpe Willoughby it skirts the settlement boundary and then follows the line of a dismantled railway and field boundaries that define the setting of the hill. To the south the boundary follows Mill Lane and Gateforth New Road, and to the east again follows field boundaries that define the setting of the hill.
- 5.14 The candidate LILA incorporates two existing LILAs, and preserves sections of the existing LILA boundaries where these meet the criteria outlined at paragraph 5.3. The choice of altered boundaries is justified as follows:
- The addition of the area between the two hills aims to preserve their combined value as noted in Section 4;
 - The expansion to the north-east includes more of the fields that form the setting of Brayton Barff when viewed from Barff Lane and locations to the north; and
 - The expansion to the west includes more of the fields that form the setting of Hambleton Hough and the designed landscape around Gateforth Hall.

Special qualities

- 5.15 The special qualities for which the Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff candidate LILA is recommended are as follows.
- Two hills, modest in elevation but unusual in the otherwise low-lying context of the surrounding flat farmland.
 - Outcropping geology of Triassic sandstone of the Sherwood group, a red sandstone that underlays the district but rarely outcrops.
 - Pockets of pinkish Devensian sand, originating in glacial lake deposits, are exposed in several places;
 - Woodland is a key feature, including ancient woodland across Brayton Barff, regenerating native woodland on Hambleton Hough, and mixed woodland between.
 - Parkland landscape features associated with Gateforth including the long avenue connecting to Morton Lane, and listed gate lodges.
 - Association with water works, from the Edwardian building south of the hill to the modern reservoir across the summit.
 - A popular recreational resource for the neighbouring settlements, offering a range of walking routes, cycle paths and golf.
 - Both summits offer views across the surrounding landscape, and form the only accessible elevated vantage points in the area.
 - Local landmark features, the hills are clearly visible from the surrounding area and, combined with the intervening fields, contribute to the setting of the adjacent settlements of Brayton, Thorpe Willoughby, Hambleton and Gateforth.

Description: Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff candidate LILA

Criteria	Summary description
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	The two low hills are highly distinctive, being the only high ground within the otherwise flat landscape forming the southern Vale of York. Their sandstone geology and gently raised profile sets them apart, and the extent of woodland cover adds to their character. Associated with the adjacent settlements of Hambleton, Thorpe Willoughby and Brayton, and anchored by views to nearby landmarks, they have a strong sense of place
Intactness / Condition	The landscape is generally intact, particularly the wooded areas on Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough which are positively managed for recreation and biodiversity. Much of the designed landscape on the latter is also intact. The A63 cutting severs the area but connection is maintained via footbridge and roadside planting. The derelict Gateforth Farm occupies the central part of the area, offering an opportunity for enhancement.
Scenic qualities	The two hills offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, and serve as local landmarks in their own right. Their wooded forms offer visual diversity in an otherwise flat landscape, and provide locally attractive views and setting for the adjacent settlements. The foreground of open fields, in views from nearby locations, is an important part of the scenic setting of the hills. Within the more mature woodlands there is a strong sense of tranquillity notwithstanding the reservoirs on Brayton Barff.
Access and enjoyment	There are car parks at both hills, and marked footpaths offering a range of walking and cycling routes. Footpaths and minor roads also link to the adjacent settlements, enabling wider circular walks and cycle rides. The area is clearly well used by local people who value the opportunity for outdoor recreation within a scenic and relatively tranquil setting.
Cultural qualities	The influence of Gateforth Hall, built in 1812 and later used as a hospital, extends across Hambleton Hough, with distinctive avenues as well as the estate buildings and lodges, several of which are listed. The hall landscape has a relationship with Gateforth village to the south. The cultural value of Brayton Barff is more industrial, with the historic pumping station to the south as well as views to Brayton church spire.
Naturalness	Naturalness is most strongly expressed in the native woodland. Brayton Barff is identified as ancient woodland, and is a site of importance to nature conservation for the flora and fauna within. Woodland extends across the area, and lends a degree of naturalness to a largely man-modified landscape. The undulating ground retains more of its inherent character than the intensively farmed surroundings.

Management recommendations

- 5.16 The purpose of identifying the Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff candidate LILA is to protect the special qualities outlined at paragraph 5.15, and development management decisions affecting the area should be made with these in mind. Planning decisions in the area should promote high-quality designs that respond positively to, and where possible enhance, the local landscape character as described in the Selby Landscape Character Assessment 2019.
- 5.17 Specific recommendations are provided below.
- Retain the recreational focus of this landscape, seeking to enhance provision of walking and cycling routes that are accessible from adjacent settlements.
 - Promote recreational links between the two hills, connecting neighbouring settlements with the hills and with Selby to create green infrastructure links.
 - Protect the setting of the hills, as well as that of the settlements, by maintaining the openness of the fields that provide foreground in key views to the hills.
 - Seek to maintain a degree of separation between the core wooded areas of the hills, and the nearby settlements of Hambleton, Thorpe Willoughby and Brayton.
 - Resist development on the farmland close to the hills where this would reduce their visual prominence within the wider landscape setting.
 - Promote the extension of woodland in the area, providing a green network of linked habitats, and where feasible seek the creation and enhancement of a variety of habitat types.
 - Ensure high-quality reuse of the Gateforth Farm site, securing landscape, biodiversity and recreational gains, and ensuring that proposals do not detract from the landscape of the ridge by severing connectivity across the LILA.
 - Seek to secure the long-term viability of woodland, particularly the designed avenues around Gateforth Hall.
 - Maintain open views from recreational routes within the area and on the hills, that look out to the landscape generally and to the adjacent settlements.

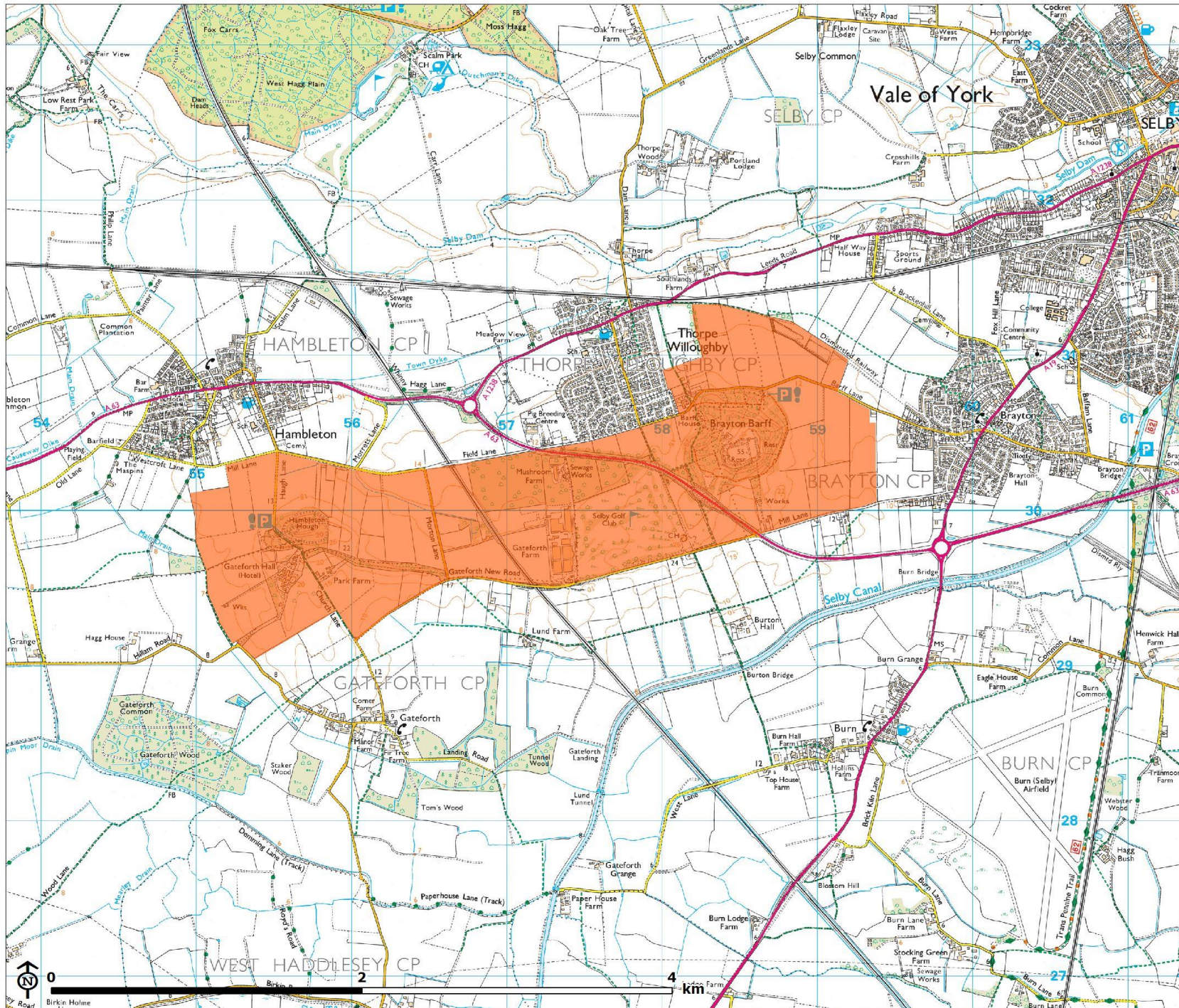


Wooded skyline of Hambleton Hough, seen across farmland from Field Lane

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**Figure 5.4: Candidate LILA
Hambleton Hough and
Brayton Barff**

 Candidate LILA



Map Scale @ A4: 1:35,000

LUC

Derwent Valley

Candidate LILA boundary

- 5.18 The candidate LILA boundary follows the District boundary to the east and north. The western boundary follows minor roads and field boundaries that mark the transition from the Derwent Valley character area to the neighbouring farmland areas.
- 5.19 As a new LILA, the boundary was defined based on the landscape character area boundary as this is established, generally follows physical landscape features, and reflects the extent of the Lower Derwent Valley and Pocklington Canal Important Landscape Area in East Riding. These boundaries are generally considered to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 5.3, though were varied in a small number of locations:
- North Duffield Carrs, to include additional ponds and grazing associated with the flood meadows;
 - Menthorpe, to include the whole area of pasture round Menthorpe Hall and farm, as distinct from the surrounding farmland; and
 - Between Woodhall and the A63, where the LCA boundary follows a contour line rather than a physical feature, and was amended to follow the closest available field boundaries.

Special qualities

- 5.20 The special qualities for which the Derwent Valley candidate LILA is recommended are as follows.
- Flat floodplain landscape with a high degree of openness and long views.
 - Traditionally managed floodplain meadow landscape that is among the more extensive of the few remaining examples in the country.
 - A patchwork of species-rich flood meadows, farmland and grassland provide a range of habitat types which are protected at local, national and international levels.
 - Habitats support a diverse range of plant and animal species, particularly waterfowl and farmland birds.
 - Small areas of alluvial and riparian woodland including alder and willow trees.
 - Opportunities for access to wildlife including bird hides and walking routes.
 - Recreational boating is an important local activity, with facilities for mooring along the river and a history of navigational access.
 - A tranquil river landscape, with limited road access and few large modern developments.
 - Conservation villages, riverside manors and occasional parkland along the river corridor.
 - Cross-boundary relationships with the Lower Derwent Valley Important Landscape Area in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Description: Derwent Valley candidate LILA

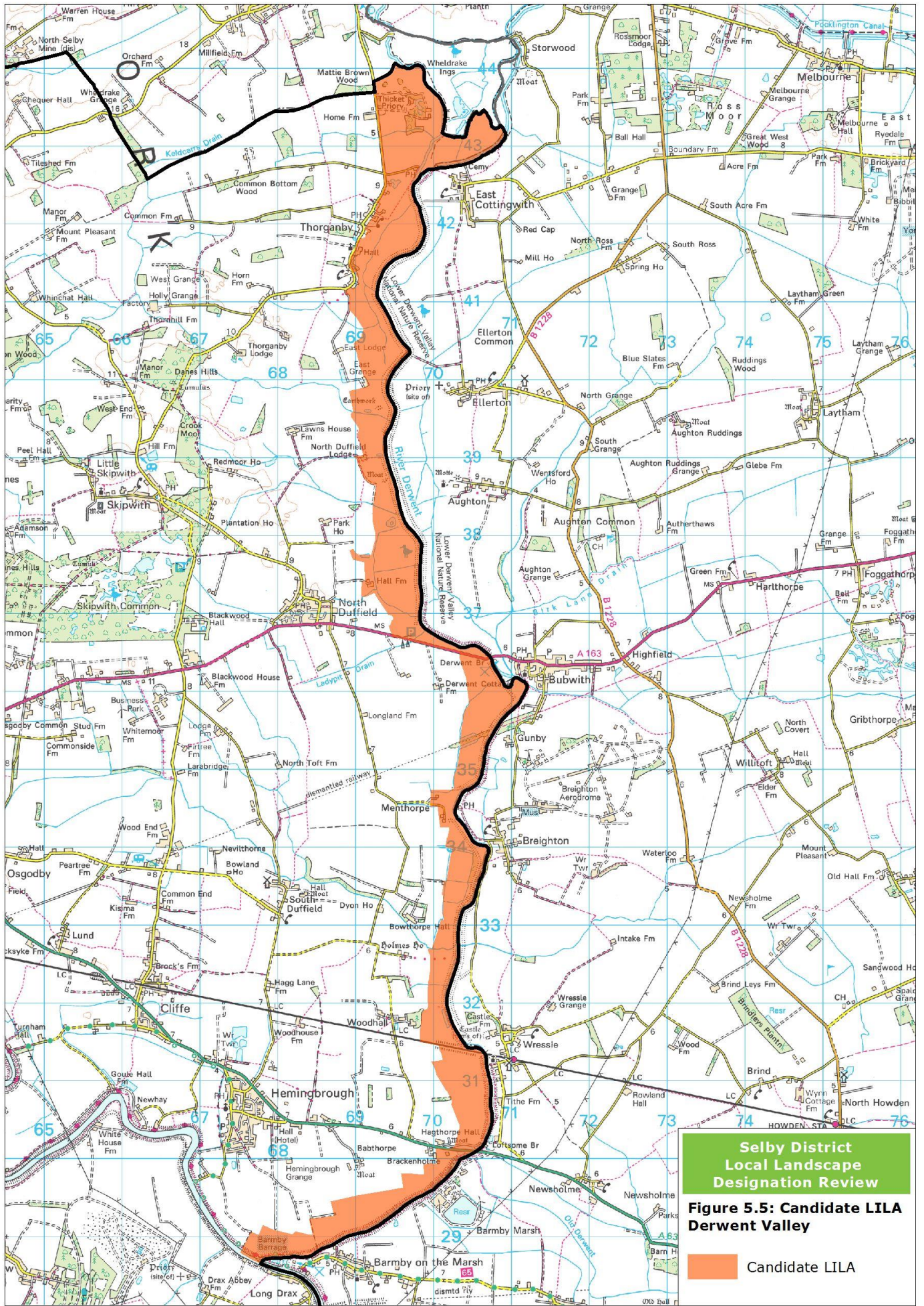
Criteria	Summary description
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	A very flat landscape: like the rest of the District there are no distinctive landforms although the meandering River Derwent provides a focal element. Patterns of smaller fields across the flood plain contrast with the wider arable fields elsewhere. There are flood banks that mark the river course, as well as riparian willows in places. Traditional management of flood meadows and species-rich grasslands provides local distinctiveness, and views to nearby riverside settlements anchor the area into place.
Intactness / Condition	This is an intact, traditionally managed landscape, with very little intrusive modern development other than road crossings. The area preserves a sporadic network of trees and hedges. In the south, the flood meadows give way to more intensive farmland, though occasional ponds and trees remain. Intactness is greatest where the land remains positively managed for its nature conservation value.
Scenic qualities	Although largely flat, the pattern of trees, woodland and pasture offer more visual diversity than is apparent in more intensively managed areas of the District. In locations away from main roads, this is a strongly rural and tranquil landscape. Long views along the valley are framed by attractive riverside woodlands, and feature church spires and nearby villages as focal points.
Access and enjoyment	The Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve provides highly valued access to the landscape and opportunities to view the rich wildlife, with provision of bird hides and viewing platforms. Footpath access to the river is limited in places, though is more continuous to the south. River access is also available by boat, with several mooring facilities, and opportunities for onward navigation to the Ouse and the Pocklington Canal.
Cultural qualities	The continuation of traditional land management practices provides a general sense of time depth, particularly in the more physically intact areas. Although less settled than the eastern side of the river, there are clusters of listed buildings and small areas of parkland, as well as the conservation village of Thorganby. A broader area of parkland surrounds Thicket Priory, a 19 th -century house on the site of a 12 th -century priory. There is much evidence of historic settlement on both sides of the River Derwent.
Naturalness	A large area of the LILA is designated for its nature conservation value, at local, national and international levels. The general perception of the area is more natural and intact than the intensively managed farmland elsewhere in the District. Opportunities for viewing wildlife emphasise the naturalness of the area, and this value is promoted by the National Nature Reserve designation. The river itself, although contained by flood banks in places, maintains its naturally meandering form with narrow tributary channels and ponds. There are areas of native riparian woodland including large mature willows.

Management recommendations

- 5.21 The purpose of identifying the Derwent Valley candidate LILA is to protect the special qualities outlined at paragraph 5.20, and development management decisions affecting the area should be made with these in mind. Planning decisions in the area should promote high-quality designs that respond positively to, and where possible enhance, the local landscape character as described in the Selby Landscape Character Assessment 2019.
- 5.22 Specific recommendations are provided below.
- Promote measures that will ensure continuation of traditional land management practices.
 - Seek to secure landscape and biodiversity benefits as part of any appropriate development proposals that are brought forward.
 - Promote further responsible access, where this can be balanced against the need to protect bird populations from disturbance.
 - Aim to expand small-scale native woodland cover, using locally appropriate species to extend existing networks particularly into the southern section of the area.
 - Resist large-scale developments that would impact on the tranquillity of the river corridor, steering these towards less sensitive intensive farmland sites outside the LILA.
 - Ensure landscape management decisions are in line with the aims and objectives of natural heritage designations, and any management plans or action plans that may be developed in relation to these.
 - Collaborative working with conservation agencies including Natural England, and coordinated actions across local authority boundaries, are essential to secure landscape protection and enhancement in this LILA.



View from North Duffield Carrs bird hide, across wetland towards the River Derwent.



**Selby District
Local Landscape
Designation Review**

**Figure 5.5: Candidate LILA
Derwent Valley**

Candidate LILA



0 2 4 km

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

6 References

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Appendix 1

Criteria evaluation

LCA 1 York Fringe West

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Locally distinctive landform of moraine, with some sense of place
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Few incongruous elements, some more intact areas of farmland and parkland
Scenic qualities	Medium	Some open views over the flat landscape to the south, a sense of rurality
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	High	Important but localised time depth associated with parklands.
Naturalness	Low	An intensively farmed landscape
Consistency		Generally consistent across the area, some higher levels of tranquillity away from roads
Connections		Important connection across the Ouse to the moraine landform to the east. Also a relationship with the limestone ridge to the west around Tadcaster

LCA 2 York Fringe East

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Locally distinctive landform of moraine, with some sense of place
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Rural character with few relatively few human elements. Some more intact areas of parkland.
Scenic qualities	Medium	Some open views over the lower-lying wooded landscape to the north provide a sense of rurality
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	High	Important but localised time depth associated with parklands and conservation areas
Naturalness	Low	An intensively farmed landscape
Consistency		Generally consistent throughout the area
Connections		Important connection across the Ouse to the moraine landform to the west

LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Locally distinctive area at Skipwith Common, with a greater sense of place
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Generally intact with relatively little human influence. Localised areas which are less intact, including the settlement edge of Riccall
Scenic qualities	High	Strong rural and natural character with a sense of tranquillity, particularly within Skipwith Common
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	High	Important but localised time depth associated with Riccall Conservation Area and Skipwith Common
Naturalness	Medium	An agricultural landscape, with distinctive natural landscapes including heathland at Skipwith Common and areas of woodland throughout the area
Consistency		Some variety in landcover e.g. at Skipwith Common and areas of woodland, but otherwise generally consistent
Connections		Provides connections to the moraine in the north, and the River Ouse and Derwent to the east and west

LCA 4 Wharfe Valley

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	Generally flat landscape with no distinct landforms. The River Wharfe is a key element within this landscape, providing a sense of place
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Generally intact along the river, although floodplains have been modified for agricultural use
Scenic qualities	High	Strong rural and natural character, with associated sense of tranquillity
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Medium	Generally limited time depth within this landscape. Important but localised time depth is associated with parklands and medieval strip fields
Naturalness	Medium	Intensively farmed, although areas of meadow, woodland and water bodies do increase the perceived naturalness of the landscape
Consistency		Generally consistent throughout the area
Connections		The river corridor provides a connection throughout Selby, joining the River Ouse in the east. The river also provides connection to the limestone ridge in the west.

LCA 5 Ouse Valley

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	Generally flat landscape dissected by the meandering River Ouse, which is a focal feature within this landscape
Intactness / Condition	Low	Floodplains have been largely altered for intensive farming purposes, including the creation of flood embankments. Dense riparian planting remains in some locations, although is generally quite sparse
Scenic qualities	Medium	Extensive open views over the flat floodplains, create a vast sense of rurality and isolation, particularly in the south
Access and enjoyment	High	Highly valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Medium	Generally limited time-depth within this area, although are concentrations of heritage assets within Cawood Conservation Area
Naturalness	Medium	Intensively farmed landscape, although locally important woodlands, grasslands and waterbodies contribute to the perceived naturalness of the area
Consistency		Generally consistent throughout the landscape
Connections		Provides a key corridor through the district of Selby before joining with the River Aire in the south-east

LCA 6 Derwent Valley

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	Very flat landscape with no distinctive landforms. The meandering River Derwent is the focal element within this area
Intactness / Condition	High	Landscape is largely intact, particularly in the north where it is managed for its nature conservation value. Farmed floodplains become more common downstream, however maintain largely natural in appearance
Scenic qualities	High	Strongly rural and tranquil landscape largely contained by mature vegetation, with long distance views along the valley
Access and enjoyment	High	Highly valued by visitors to the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve, and by local residents for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Medium	Traditional land management practices provide a general sense of time depth. Historic settlements and heritage assets have locally increased time depth
Naturalness	High	Highly natural environment, of which a large area has been internationally designated for its nature conservation value.

LCA 6 Derwent Valley		
Consistency		Relatively consistent throughout the landscape, although tranquillity is reduced in localised areas near roads crossing the river
Connections		Provides a connection down the river corridor to the River Ouse

LCA 7 Aire Valley		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	Very flat landscape dissected by the meandering River Aire, which is a focal feature within this landscape
Intactness / Condition	Low	Floodplains have been largely altered for intensive farming purposes, and river banks are largely lacking riparian planting
Scenic qualities	Medium	Long ranging open views across the landscape, particularly further west, create a sense of vastness and rurality especially in more isolated areas. Landscape is generally quite tranquil, especially further from the roads which cross the river
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Low	Limited time depth within this landscape
Naturalness	Medium	Intensively farmed and open landscape, with localised areas with a greater presence of woodland and mature vegetation further east
Consistency		Generally consistent throughout, although sense of enclosure is greater in the east
Connections		River corridor acts as a passageway between the west and east of the district, providing connections to the limestone ridge near Knottingley in the west and the River Ouse in the east

LCA 8 West Selby Limestone Ridge		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	Highly undulating nature of the landscape, and strongly wooded and enclosed character of the area creates a strong sense of place
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Evidence of alteration to the landscape through field amalgamation. Areas of woodland and shelterbelts throughout remain intact, as do watercourses.
Scenic qualities	High	Strong sense of tranquillity and rurality associated with the wooded and locally enclosed landscape. Elevated locations offer panoramic views across the low-lying

LCA 8 West Selby Limestone Ridge		
		neighbouring landscapes
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreation access
Cultural qualities	High	Great sense of time depth throughout this landscape, particularly within the historic settlements with Conservation Areas. Important but localised time depth associated with parklands and strip fields.
Naturalness	High	Intensively farmed landscape with a strong presence of woodland, shelterbelts and hedgerows throughout the landscape. Natural features such as watercourses, wetlands and marshes increase the overall natural feel of the landscape
Consistency		Generally consistent throughout, although sense of tranquillity is reduced locally near main roads including the A1, A64 and A162
Connections		Provides a linear connection along the ridge to the west of the District, and provides connections to the Rive Aire and Wharfe corridors to the north and south, as well as areas beyond Selby to the west

LCA 9 Smeaton Ridge		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	The wooded and highly undulating character of the landscape creates a strong sense of place
Intactness / Condition	High	Largely intact and natural landscape, although some evidence of alteration for farming land uses.
Scenic qualities	High	Wooded and largely undeveloped skylines create a sense of isolation and rurality, which is highly tranquil
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreation access and by visitors to the Brockdale Nature Reserve
Cultural qualities	High	Great sense of time depth throughout this landscape, particularly within the historic settlements of Womersley, Little Smeaton and Kirk Smeaton
Naturalness	High	Semi-intensively farmed landscape with a strong presence of woodland, shelterbelts and hedgerows throughout the landscape
Consistency		Generally consistent throughout, although sense of tranquillity is reduced locally near main roads and quarries
Connections		Provides a linear connection along the ridge to the west of the District, and provides connections to the neighbouring areas beyond Selby

LCA 10 East Selby Farmland		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Low	Few locally distinctive features within the landscape
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Intact farmland landscape with few incongruous elements
Scenic qualities	Low	Extensive open views over the flat landscape provide a strong sense of openness. Localised areas with shelterbelts and hedgerows provide more natural features
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Low	Generally limited sense of time depth across the landscape, although more localised areas within the settlements of Cliffe, South Duffield and Hemingbrough
Naturalness	Low	An intensively farmed landscape, with localised areas of shelterbelts and hedgerows
Consistency		Generally consistent across the area, some higher levels of tranquillity within the interior, away from main roads
Connections		Wedge between the River Ouse and River Derwent

LCA 11 Sherburn Farmland		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Flat open landscape with one notable and distinctive hill located in the south, near the disused mine
Intactness / Condition	Low	Largely altered landscape, with few natural features and large areas of industry
Scenic qualities	Low	Extensive open views over the flat landscape provide a strong sense of openness. Localised areas of industry introduce large scale human elements which are highly visible within the landscape, detracting from the rural character
Access and enjoyment	Low	Little opportunity for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Low	Generally limited sense of time depth across the landscape, although small concentrations of heritage assets are found within some settlements
Naturalness	Low	An intensively farmed landscape, with localised areas of industry
Consistency		Consistent across the area, although some greater levels of tranquillity within the interior, away from main roads and industry
Connections		Provides a connection between Selby and the surrounding flat farmland, and the prominent limestone ridge in the west

LCA 12 North Selby Farmland

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Flat farmland with no distinctive landforms. Strong presence of woodland and shelterbelts throughout the area creates a sense of place
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Some areas of intact farmland with a strong presence of natural features, including extensive areas of Ancient Woodland
Scenic qualities	Medium	Semi-enclosed nature of the landscape with little human influence creates a sense of remoteness and tranquillity, particularly away from the few roads that cut across the area
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Medium	Sense of time depth across the landscape is focussed within settlements and in areas of Ancient Woodland
Naturalness	Medium	An intensively farmed landscape, with strong presence of woodland, shelterbelts, trees and hedges
Consistency		Generally consistent across the area, although some areas near the Wharfe Valley are considerably more open with less tree cover
Connections		Network of woodland and tree belts provide a habitat connection to the surrounding landscapes

LCA 13 Haddlesey Farmland

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Low	Flat open landscape which offer extensive views throughout the area
Intactness / Condition	Low	Largely altered landscape, with few natural features
Scenic qualities	Medium	Extensive open views over the flat landscape provide a strong sense of openness and isolation, especially from within the interior, away from the main roads
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Low	Generally limited sense of time depth across the landscape, although the Selby Canal and associated bridges provide historic context
Naturalness	Low	An intensively farmed landscape with few natural features
Consistency		Generally consistent across the area
Connections		Provides limited connection to neighbouring landscapes

LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	High	Two low but distinctive hills are located at the heart of this character area, surrounded by flatter farmland. The hills contribute to a strong sense of place.
Intactness / Condition	High	Landscape is generally intact, particularly the areas of woodland on Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough which are positively managed
Scenic qualities	High	The two key landmark hills, Brayton Barff and Hambleton Hough, offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, and offer a strong sense of tranquillity
Access and enjoyment	High	Highly valued for local recreation and visitors to the area
Cultural qualities	High	Important but localised time depth associated with the parkland and estate at Gateforth Hall
Naturalness	High	The densely wooded hills are important natural features within this landscape, connected by a network of mature hedges and hedgerow trees in the farmland surrounding the hills
Consistency		Generally consistent, although sense of tranquillity and naturalness is more concentrated around the hills
Connections		Provides strong habitat connection for the surrounding landscapes

LCA 15 Camblesforth Farmland

Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Generally flat across the area. The exception is the Barlow Mound ash-disposal site which is creates a prominent landform visible throughout the area
Intactness / Condition	Medium	Landscape has been largely altered for intensive farming and the construction of Drax Power Station. Some natural features remain, including areas of woodland and mature hedgerows
Scenic qualities	Medium	Open views over the flat landscape often include the power station which reduces the overall sense of isolation and tranquillity. More distant localities have a greater sense of rurality and tranquillity.
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreation, including the highly valued Skylark Centre and Nature Reserve
Cultural qualities	High	Strong sense of time-depth within the small traditional settlements

LCA 15 Camblesforth Farmland		
Naturalness	Medium	Intensively farmed landscape with a strong presence of mature hedgerows and areas of woodland. Waterbodies provide additional natural features within in the landscape; however the presence of the highly visible Drax Power Station detracts from the natural feel of the landscape
Consistency		Inconsistent across the area, with the sense of tranquillity, remoteness and naturalness decreasing around Drax Power Station
Connections		Wedge between the River Ouse and River Aire

LCA 16 Eggborough		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Low	Generally flat open landscape with no notable landforms or distinctive natural features
Intactness / Condition	Low	Largely altered landscape, with few natural features and large areas of industry – notably the Eggborough Power Station
Scenic qualities	Low	Extensive views over the flat landscape provide a strong sense of openness, interrupted by large-scale human elements such as Drax Power Station which is highly visible throughout the landscape. Some localised areas of greater tranquillity and isolation further from the M62 and power station
Access and enjoyment	Low	Little opportunity for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Low	Generally limited sense of time depth across the landscape, although localised areas of strip fields and assets such as St Edmunds Church, Kellington provide additional cultural qualities.
Naturalness	Low	An intensively farmed landscape, with localised areas of energy industry including Eggborough Power Station
Consistency		Consistent across the area, although some greater levels of tranquillity away from main roads and the power station
Connections		Provides a connection between the valley of the River Aire in the north, and the farmland to the south

LCA 17 Southern Farmland		
Criterion	Evaluation	Detail
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Medium	Flat relatively open landscape, with a dramatic landform at the Gale Common ash disposal site which is visible across the area
Intactness / Condition	Low	Highly altered farmland with generally few incongruous elements
Scenic qualities	Medium	Open views over the flat landscape, with a strong sense of rurality and tranquillity
Access and enjoyment	Medium	Locally valued for recreational access
Cultural qualities	Medium	Intensively farmed landscape with some time depth associated with strip fields and traditional settlements
Naturalness	Low	Intensively farmed landscape with natural features limited to woodland and waterbodies.
Consistency		Generally consistent across the entire area
Connections		Important connection to the limestone ridge to the west around Little Smeaton and Stapleton