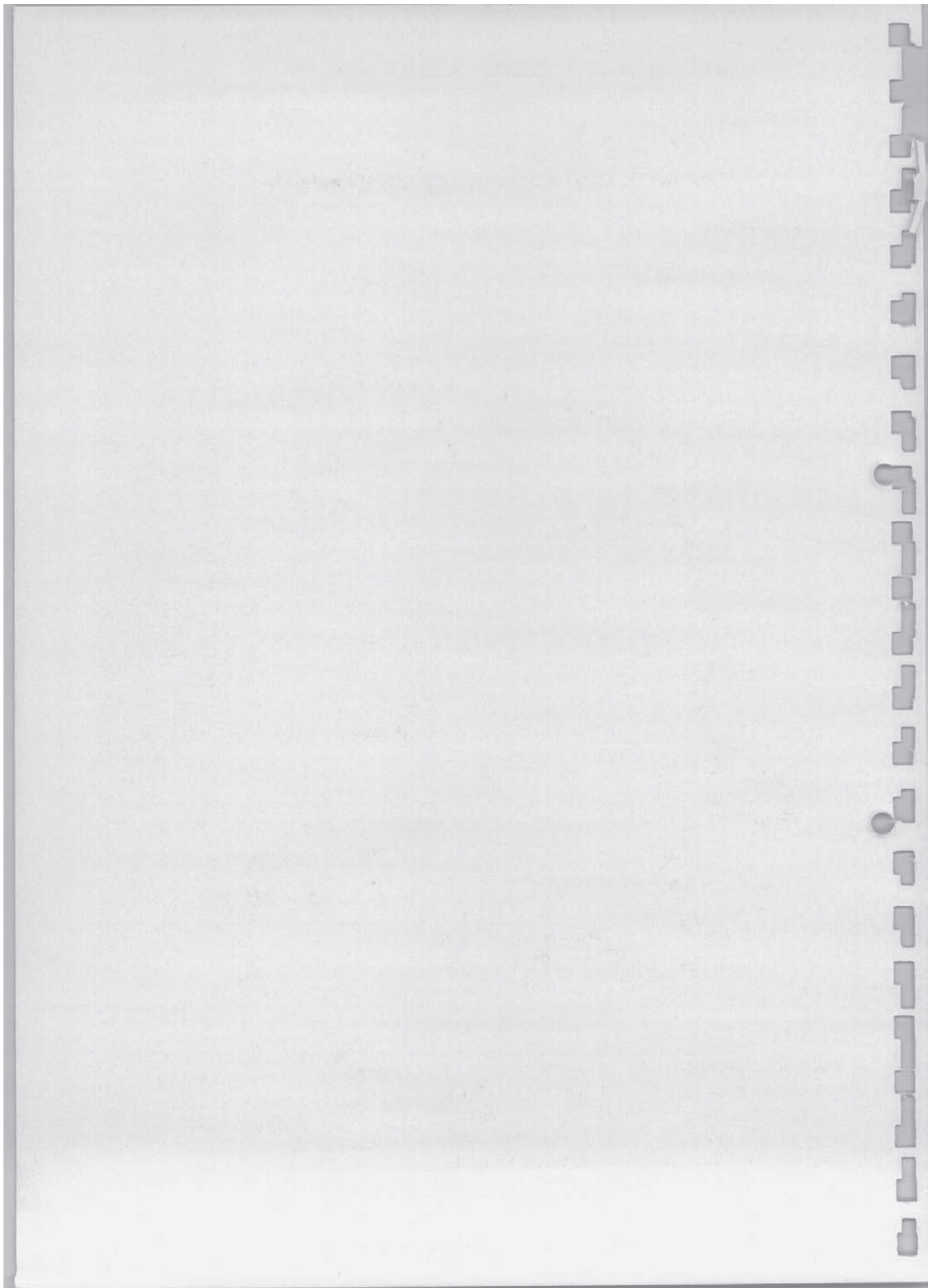


SUMMARY
OF LANDSCAPE
ASSESSMENT

S E C T I O N 3

SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



SUMMARY

PART 1 : SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Introduction

3.1.1 The landscape assessment is shown on a simplified 'key-plan' provided below.

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



- A - Yorkshire Wolds
- B - Holderness
- C - Vale of York
- D - Jurassic Hills
- E - Ouse & Trent Levels

- F - Humber Estuary
- G - Lincolnshire Edge
- H - Ancholme Valley
- I - Lincolnshire Wolds
- J - Lincolnshire Drift

- County Boundary
- - - RLCA Boundary
- Northern extension Study Area

PART 2 : REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

3.2.1 The ten Regional Landscape Character Areas identified are as follows:-

1: Yorkshire Wolds:

Chalk upland agricultural area of escarpment, dip slope and plateau, dissected in places by narrow incised valleys. The landscape is expansive with outer views controlled by the presence of regular-shaped woodland blocks, most of recent planted origin, set in a landscape of open fields bounded for the most part by robust hedgerows. Villages are largely absent with built elements restricted to isolated farmsteads, transmission lines and transportation corridors.

**2: Holderness:**

Wide low-lying drained basin lying within the catchment area of the River Hull. Solid rock is extensively overlain by glacial till and recent alluvium resulting in the presentation of a gentle, softly undulating and restrained landscape. Arable production dominates with local diversity provided through the disposition of woodlands, villages, estates, quarries and the coastline.

**3: Vale of York:**

Agricultural landscape dominated by a drift geology of glacial till and lake sediments. Flatter land in the south gives way to more undulating terrain to the north. Arable production dominates with local variety being provided by the distribution of villages, woodlands and hedgerows. Landscape features such as the narrow River Derwent Valley and Church Hill at Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, together with proximity to the Wolds, provide additional local variety.



4: Jurassic Hills:

Rural landscape of low rolling hills lying against the Wolds. The Wolds impart a considerable visual presence acting with the higher than average distribution of woodlands, to create a relatively enclosed landscape. Villages, often strung along the base of the Wolds, commonly include many buildings constructed of locally derived limestone.

**5: Ouse and Trent Levels:**

Exceptionally flat and low-lying drained agricultural landscape with a strong sense of remoteness. The scenery is open with trees and woodlands only occupying a small percentage of the view. Villages are generally absent with large farmsteads being locally dominant.

**6: Lincolnshire Edge:**

Agricultural landscape lying on a prominent and complex double ridge system of Jurassic rocks overlain by glacial till and aeolian sand deposits. The scenery is varied with complex local topography influencing the patterns of woodland cover, arable production and the distribution of settlements.

**7: Ancholme Valley:**

Gentle valley landscape set between the Lincolnshire Edge and Wolds. Good quality alluvial soils result in the land being intensively farmed. Extensive drainage results in a regular arrangement of large fields bounded by generally poor quality hedgerows and few woodland blocks.



8: Lincolnshire Wolds:

Rounded chalk upland area of escarpment and dip slope, locally dissected by steeply incised valleys. Arable production dominates, set in an open, exposed landscape of extensive outer views. Woodland blocks are regular, often of a recent shelterbelt origin and villages are generally restricted to the edge of the area.



9: Lincolnshire Drift:

Slightly undulating agricultural landscape flowing off the Lincolnshire Wolds toward the coast. Local landscape diversity is provided by a varied distribution of woodlands, villages and towns.



10: Humber Estuary:

Though geomorphologically perhaps the most dominant natural feature, within Humberside the visual presence of the estuary is relatively slight other than at a few prominent vantage points. In a local context the estuary is mostly contained by dominant flood alleviation berms; in many situations the extent of these delineates the estuarine boundary.



3.2.2 Details of each RLCA in terms of physical, human, ecological and visual influences are provided in Section 5 to 14 of this report. These also address the principal landscape issues and guidelines relevant to each RLCA.

PART 3 : LOCAL LANDSCAPE TYPES

3.3.1 The great majority of Humberside is an agricultural landscape but, although land use is extensively arable, there remains a diversity of local landscape character, reflecting differences in underlying geology, settlement patterns, topography, relationship to the North Sea and Humber Estuary. A total of twenty-six Local Landscape Types are identified, of which twenty are predominantly farmland eg **High Farmland** of the Wolds; **Open Farmland**, covering the greater majority of the undulating and rolling terrain of areas such as Holderness, Vale of York and the Lincolnshire Drift; **Drained Farmland**, describing the extensive areas of land lying more or less at sea level, dominated by deep drainage channels and usually derived from extensive 18th Century reclamation.

3.3.2 There are a number of type-specific farmland landscapes eg **Coastal Farmland** on the Holderness coast, with specific pressures of tourism and erosion; **Farmed Urban Fringe**, characterised by recreational pressures, urban expansion and neglect.

3.3.3 There are also landscapes unique within the County eg the **Goole and Crowle Lowlands**, with their vast open skies and peat bogs; the narrow, incised wooded **Kirkham Gorge**; the pasture and flood marshes of the **Lower Derwent Valley**, the atmospheric coastal landscape of **Spurn**, and the dramatic chalk cliffs at **Flamborough Head**. These latter two areas are recognised as nationally significant landscapes, hence their Heritage Coast definition.

3.3.4 In summary the twenty-six Local Landscape Types are as follows:-

1: **Farmed Escarpment**: Broad elegant and sinuous escarpment slope rising from the flatter vale lowlands. Slopes are intensively farmed with variety provided by intermittent woodlands.

2: **Wooded Escarpment**: Similar local landscape to Farmed Escarpment but with a higher distribution of woodlands, often orientated along valleys cutting through the escarpment.

3: **Complex Escarpment**: Highly attractive and complex landscape blending vale, escarpment and high wold scenery. Woodland, hedgerows and general tree cover is high contributing to the areas sense of enclosure.

4: **Estate Farmland**: Highly attractive, planned landscape in which the agricultural context becomes increasingly emparked in character. The distribution of woodlands, usually deciduous, is extensive with large parkland trees becoming dominant nearer the estate core. Commonly intensive arable land bounded by hedgerows around estates gives way to pasture, grazed by sheep and cattle, often bounded by metal railings. Buildings become more stately and ultimately unified to form a recognisable estate style.

5: **High Farmland:** An elevated and expansive arable landscape of large, gently rolling fields. These very large regular fields are generally bounded by well-maintained hedgerows with few trees, although at times hedges are absent or gappy. Tree cover is limited to regular woodland blocks which, although not covering an extensive area, play an important compositional role in scale with the overall landscape. Roads traverse the area in a regular pattern, usually with widened verges. Villages are mostly absent or peripheral to the area, with built forms mostly comprising large farmsteads, commonly built of brick. The shallow soils result in the visible presence of chalk in the soil, especially where recently ploughed.

6: **Coastal High Farmland:** Expansive and elevated agricultural landscape with a gently undulating topography. Fields are large, regular and mostly arable, but with pasture nearer the coast. Hedges are mainly hawthorn and windswept, although, nearer the coast, post and wire fencing predominates. Farmsteads are isolated with shelterbelts. There is a sense of exposure and openness, but despite the close proximity of the sea, there are few indicators of its presence. This effect is due to the high cliffs along this part of the coast which inhibit direct sea views. Dramatic views are obtained along the cliff tops themselves.

7: **Dissected Plateau Farmland:** A locally dissected chalk plateau landscape, in which dry valleys are prominent. The dendritic pattern of narrow valleys extending eastwards creates a complex landscape of local diversity and interest. The dry valleys are themselves typified by pasture and naturally regenerating scrub on steeper slopes, while the plateau farmland, although limited in geographical extent, displays all the rolling and broad arable characteristics of high farmland.

8: **Wold Valley Farmland:** Expansive arable landscape set in a wide, but shallow, valley setting. Fields are large, regular and bounded by hedgerows. Woodland blocks are regularly shaped, located on higher slopes and commonly serve as farm shelterbelts. Nucleated villages are strung out along the valley floor. Although most buildings are not older than 200 years, the site of the villages are usually of considerable antiquity (pre 1086), in contrast to the more isolated farms which tend to be of 18th and 19th Century origin.

9: **Elevated Open Farmland:** Expansive elevated arable landscape set in dipping terrain that is often gently undulating. Long views are characteristic emphasized by the open qualities of much of the countryside.

10: **Broad Floodplain Farmland:** Broad open valley floor landscape only slightly enclosed by rising ground. Large, unbounded arable fields lie on fertile drained soils with pasture on poorer clay soils. Hedgerow and tree cover is very limited, although occasional dense mature woodland blocks break up views. There is a sense of isolation away from settlement. Views of the river are restricted due to grassed flood berms. Most settlement is strung out along the upper margin of the floodplain.

11: **Drained Farmland:** Extremely level and open landscape, with scattered tree cover providing occasional shelter and enclosure. Extensively modified by artificial drainage and 'warping' (controlled tidal sediment deposition). The disposition of field boundaries and settlements is largely linear. Highly fertile soils are used for arable, root and market garden crops.

12: **Coastal Farmland:** Open, arable farmland in gently undulating terrain, rising slightly towards the sea. There are few views of the sea itself but indirect indications of its proximity are the presence of holiday homes, caravan parks, the range of styles and colours of houses, windblown trees and the presence of scrubby road verges with gorse.

13: **Open Farmland:** The typical English lowland landscape with open arable fields set in undulating or gently rolling terrain. Locally, enclosure is provided by hedgerows, trees, copses and the regular presence of villages. The nature of the topography is closely related to the underlying drift and solid geology. Areas of glacial till and clays tend to be softly undulating while in areas such as the Jurassic Hills the influence of the solid geology is more influential creating a gently rolling landscape of more open aspect.

14: **Farmed Urban Fringe:** A farmed landscape surrounding towns where urban elements such as roads, pylons, new housing and industry have become dominant landscape elements. Pressure from planned and unplanned recreation, tipping and development potential tend to cause abandonment of regular agricultural management, usually leading to a neglected appearance. Arable land tends to be turned to horse pasture, with gradual replacement of traditional hedges by unsightly post and wire fences.

15: **Wooded Open Farmland:** An open rural landscape including a relatively high percentage cover of mature broadleaved woodlands. Land between woodlands and copses is mostly laid to intensive arable production with few hedgerows or trees.

16: **Quarried Farmland:** An open arable landscape retaining a sense of local enclosure through hedges, trees and woodland. The degree of enclosure is occasionally intimate but notable are the presence of active and restored quarry workings which introduce new elements into the landscape. Active quarries tend to be discordant, with noise and traffic. Restored and abandoned workings are often turned to wetlands with scrub or woodland and thus introduce visual diversity.

17: **Flat Open Farmland:** Level, low-lying arable landscape with scattered tree and hedgerow cover providing local shelter and enclosure. Fields are large and regular, often rectilinear. Settlement is frequent in this landscape but tends to be in the form of dispersed farmsteads with large outbuildings. Villages are nucleated and tend to be well-separated.

18: **Lower Derwent Valley:** A riverside landscape with pasture and floodmeadow enclosed by small woodland blocks and mature waterside willows and ash trees. Field drains are often open and reedy.

19: **Wooded Enclosed Farmland:** An attractive mixed landscape of moderately-sized fields in rolling terrain. Field boundaries tend to be well-hedged, with a number of mature broad-leaved and mixed woodlands adding enclosure. Land use is partly arable with a patchwork of permanent pasture and reseeded grass leys.

20: **Kirkham Gorge:** A narrow and incised gorge with a harmonious balance of woodland and pasture on steep valley sides and arable cultivation in the floodplain. Farms are stone-built, mature and attractive.

21: **Goole and Crowle Lowland:** Remote and simple drained, arable landscape typified by a patchwork of large fields defined by drainage ditches and access tracks. Extensively modified by artificial drainage and 'warping' (controlled tidal sediment deposition). Views to distant settlement are unrestricted, punctuated only by occasional hedgerows, trees and shelterbelts. Settlement is sparse and scattered, comprising isolated farmsteads and properties. Remnant areas of lowland raised mire have been exploited for commercial peat extraction.

22: **Industrial Landscapes:** Landscapes visually dominated by large or massive structures serving as docks, storage, factories or petrochemical installations. These structures are often separated by extensive open arable land with hedges and groups of trees playing little compositional role in the landscape.

23: **Despoiled Landscapes:** Areas blighted by a legacy of industrial exploitation. Typically derelict or contaminated and used for casual recreation, many areas have undergone partial restoration or re-use; to landfill, amenity landscape or agriculture.

24: **Heathy Woodland:** An elevated, undulating, well-wooded landscape of plantations and outlying blocks of conifers with some birch, hawthorn and oak. The underlying Blown Sand deposits give rise to well-drained sandy soils.

25: **Spurn:** A unique coastal landscape, dominated by a 5km long shingle spit. Caught between the North Sea and the Humber Estuary, the influence of man is marginal in the over-riding context of the powerful natural processes of coastal erosion and deposition.

26: **Sloping Farmland:** An attractive, expansive and elevated arable landscape set in gently sloping terrain. Long views across the land and over lower-lying land are an important characteristic, setting this type apart from other open farmland types. Fields are large and regular, bounded by clipped hedgerows and occasional woodland blocks. Villages tend to be mature and follow a nucleated pattern, often dispersed along a spring-line supplying groundwater from higher farmland. Proximity to the adjacent 'Wold' landscapes is important resulting in partially enclosed views.