

YORKSHIRE
WOLDS
SECTION 5

YORKSHIRE WOLDS



THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS

PART 1 : THE LANDSCAPE'S CHARACTER

Introduction

5.1.1 The Yorkshire Wolds are essentially defined by the presence of chalk at or very near to the surface. The Wolds rise as a moderate, though locally prominent, escarpment from the Vales of York and Pickering in the west and north, towards a plateau of low rolling hills which gently dip eastward as the land falls towards the Hull floodplain.

5.1.2 Important characteristics are the expansive views outward from and across the elevated farmland; views in which the sky is important. The elevated dipping farmland is, in places, dissected by dry valleys formed in the chalk. The escarpment is diverse in character; in places steep, elsewhere moderate and occasionally incised. Land use is largely arable, although grazing occurs in steep dry valleys. Woodland cover, associated with estates, farmsteads and natural regeneration in dry valleys, provides a diversity of visual enclosure.

Physical Influences

5.1.3 The western and northern boundaries of the Wolds are simply defined by the outcrop of chalk, evidenced visually by the escarpment, a major break in slope. The north-eastern boundary is also clearly distinguished, formed by the chalk cliffs of Flamborough. The north-western boundary proves more complicated

YORKSHIRE WOLDS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA



to define as, unlike the western or northern boundary, the geological change is not contiguous with the main topographical change, ie the major lower-slope break is within Jurassic siltstones and mudstones, while the Chalk only occurs, in a slight break in slope, partway up the scarp slope. Further complexity occurs due to dissection of the scarp by numerous small valleys, falling from the elevated farmland to the lower-lying agricultural landscape within the catchment of the River Derwent.



5.1.4 The eastern boundary of the Yorkshire Wolds is still less clearly defined. As the elevated, open, rolling scenery of the Wolds gently falls eastward towards Holderness and the River Hull floodplain it experiences a gradual transition into a flatter, lower-lying landscape of greater enclosure and intimacy. Though this boundary is diffuse and, in some places, difficult to visually define, it is roughly coincident with the line where the Wolds chalk is overlain by drifts of glacial boulder clay. This line is roughly coincident with the 60m AOD contour line. Although there are a number of strong physiographic, visual and cultural reasons to define this

line as the 'edge' of the Wolds, opinions are divided on this issue. A number of commentators perceive the boundary as lying further to the east, approximately around the 20m AOD contour line.

5.1.5 To clarify some of the mixed opinions regarding the designation of the '60m contour' as the eastern edge of the Wolds, the table below outlines where similarities and differences lie between the landscapes of Holderness and the Yorkshire Wolds east and west of this line.

	YORKSHIRE WOLDS	HOLDERNESS
Soils	Thin and chalky	Deep and clayey
Geology	Chalk	Boulder Clay
Altitude	Elevated (>60m AOD)	Lower level (60m AOD)
Aspect	East facing	East facing
Drainage	Surface drainage mostly absent	Boundary approximates with spring-line
Field Pattern	Large and regularly arranged	Mostly large and regularly arranged
Enclosure	Open and expansive	More intimate and enclosed
Views	Outward and elevated	Inward and contained
Shelterbelts	Large and regularly arranged	Large and regularly arranged
Woods	Other than shelterbelts mostly absent	Farm woods and copses more common
Trees	Mostly ash and sycamore	Ash and sycamore with increasing occurrence of pedunculate oak
Hedgerows	Mostly robust and well-maintained	Mostly robust and well- maintained
Villages	Mostly absent	Evenly distributed with a concentration along the spring-line boundary
Farms	Most are set away from roads and villages	Often sited closer to villages and roads
Archaeology	Concentrations of prehistoric earthworks	General absence of prehistoric earthworks
Deserted villages	Concentrations of deserted medieval villages	General absence of deserted medieval villages
Churches	Mostly absent	Central to parish villages
Roads	Dominance of Enclosure Award roads with drove road character	Varied appearance of lanes, including those of a 'drove character'

Human Influences

5.1.6 The Wolds have seen recurrent settlement and exploitation for several thousand years, due to useful natural reserves of fertile tillable soils, good grazing and stone for weapons, quarrying and building. Before Roman occupation of Britain the Wolds had been extensively cleared of trees and many massive defensive, burial and boundary structures put in place. Few remain visible due to repeated cultivation of the land.

5.1.7 Recurrent settlement in Roman, Norse and Norman periods is evidenced by roads, place names and the presence of many medieval villages. Many of these, especially in the north west, were deserted due to changes in land use, plague and population movements. Much of the visible evidence of these villages has now been lost except to the trained eye. It is known that there are about 40 sites of deserted medieval villages, some of which give a fascinating record of settlement as at Thixendale, Argam, Towthorpe and Swaythorpe, but Wharram Percy has become the best known in view of the extensive archaeological investigations that have been carried out there for over 40 years.

5.1.8 Parliamentary Enclosure patterns and 20th Century agricultural intensification have had a significant influence on the Wolds landscape, contributing to the dominance of large fields bounded by low hedgerows. This has tended to lead to the loss of many landscape features of antiquity, but does contribute to the open views.

5.1.9 While the landscape has been repeatedly and extensively modified by human activity, actual signs of settlement and urbanisation are only slightly visible. This is primarily due to the lack of surface water, which means that most larger villages are on the fringes of the Wolds. Characteristic vernacular is in three forms:-

(i) *isolated large brick-built farmsteads, often divorced from villages and situated away from roads, set in shelterbelts on the high farmland;*

(ii) *small villages, largely brick-built, but with some imported stone, along roads particularly in valleys, eg Fridaythorpe. Retention of water in man-made ponds allowed settlement to persist and stock to be watered. In the coastal areas such villages have become more cluttered, with a range of built styles and signs;*

(iii) *estate villages with a unified character, focused on the various major parklands of the Wolds, eg Sledmere and Warter.*

5.1.10 Other visible evidence of human activity are the various transport corridors. Characteristic are the drove roads with their wide open verges, well-maintained hedgerows and, in places, white finger-board signs.

Ecological Influences

5.1.11 The Wolds have been intensively farmed and the extent of semi-natural habitat is limited. There remain a number of important habitats, most notably chalk grassland, chalk cliffs, wetland springs and, to a lesser extent, woodland.

5.1.12 Unimproved natural chalk grassland is limited in extent, but semi-improved and 'artificial' chalk grassland is relatively widespread, although often limited in size. Typical locations are steep dry valley sides, thin-soiled road verges, quarries, road and rail cuttings, chalk pits (non-wooded) and sea cliffs. The key to survival of most of these grasslands has been grazing and low fertility. The importance of these ecosystems has resulted in the designation of many as SSSI, particularly to the north west of the Wolds.

5.1.13 The chalk cliffs of Flamborough are host to important populations of seabirds and are also an important visitor attraction. This section of coastline has been designated as a Heritage Coast and is thus considered a nationally important resource, a status that has been reinforced by the area's recent designation as a Special Protection Area.

5.1.14 Woodland, of whatever origin, is generally of value in an intensively farmed landscape. Of greatest value are the various semi-natural ancient ash woods. Springs and wetlands also add biodiversity to the Wolds landscape.

Visual Characteristics of the Landscape

5.1.15 The Yorkshire Wolds are a Regional Character Area within which a range of historical and geological influences act together to produce a landscape that has an overall coherence of character and an internal diversity of type. In broad terms, visual characteristics common across the Wolds are dominance of arable land use, openness of views, relative lack of urbanisation, Enclosure Award roads, distribution of emparked estates, shelterbelts and thin chalky soils.

5.1.16 There is, however, an internal diversity of Local Landscape Types. The Wolds may be subdivided into **eight Local Landscape Types**, each of which is characterised by a particular aspect of the Wolds character. These are:-

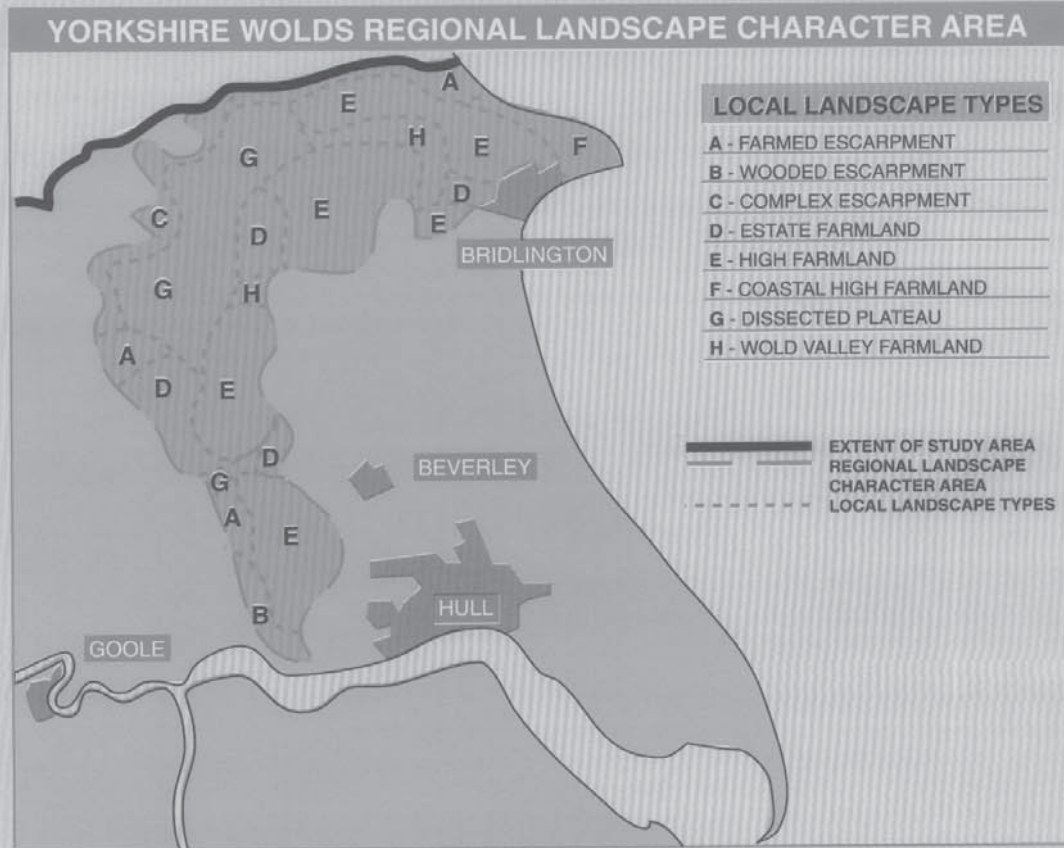
(i) **Farmed Escarpment** - prominent escarpment landscape in which agricultural production remains dominant. The landscape type occurs in three separate

areas. The best and largest example lies above the Vale of Pickering to the north of the Wolds. Smaller areas lie on the western escarpment; to the south of Market Weighton lies Sancton Wold, and to the north east of Pocklington lies Wilton Wold.

(ii) **Wooded Escarpment** - an area of escarpment where woodlands become dominant, often running up the valleys dissecting the slope, become dominant. This area lies in a single zone to the south of the Wolds on the escarpment slopes above North Newbald, South Cave and Welton.

(iii) **Complex Escarpment** - this landscape type lies across a single, though complex, area to the north west of the Wolds. Extending from Wintringham in the north to Bishop Wilton in the south.

(iv) **Estate Farmland** - this landscape type is centred on prominent parkland estates. Perhaps the best example within the Wolds landscape is at Sledmere. Other



enclosures of estate farmland occur at Dallon Hall, Boynton Hall and Londesborough/Warter Priory/Kilwick Percy.

(v) **High Farmland** - this is the most geographically extensive Local Landscape Type within the Wolds and occurs broadly in four localities as follows. West of Beverley an area locally known as the 'Low Wolds' extends northwards from villages such as Skidby, Little Weighton and Riplingham until it is bisected by the Goodmanham Channel and Dalton Hall. North of this channel lies its continuation including wolds such as Middleton, Dalton and Tibthorpe. The final two areas are separated by Gypsy Race and are in an area known as the 'High Wolds'. To the south is Driffield and Garton Wolds, while to the north, extending to the escarpment summit in the north and Bridlington in the east, is an area including hamlets such as Fordon, Grindale and Foxholes.

(vi) **Coastal High Farmland** - this narrow area lies around Flamborough Head to the north east of the Yorkshire Wolds.

(vii) **Dissected Plateau Farmland** - this extensive tract of land lies in a continuous broad crescent to the north west of the Wolds. Its north and western edge is defined by the top of the complex escarpment slopes with a more diffuse easterly boundary coinciding with villages such as Weaverthorpe, Sledmere and Huggate.

(viii) **Wold Valley Farmland** - lies in two areas, the largest being centred on Gypsy Race, locally known as the Great Wold Valley, and the other around Wetwang.

The majority of these Local Landscape Types occur only in the Yorkshire Wolds and do not recur in Humberside, except in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Only estate farmland has a distinctive designed, planned parkland character which has been effectively superimposed over underlying influences.

PART 2 : LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES FOR THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS**Introduction**

5.2.1 This part provides guidance regarding landscape issues relevant across the Wolds. The issues addressed are:-

- (i) Settlements and buildings
- (ii) Infrastructure, ie highways, power transmission
- (iii) Land management
- (iv) Field boundaries
- (v) Trees and woodlands

Landscape Strategy

5.2.2 The Wolds possess a gentle charm characterised by gently rolling terrain with expansive views and well-managed fields and buildings. The openness of the sloping chalk farmland is accentuated by the enclosed and intimate character of parklands and small villages encountered on the lower slopes and valleys. The landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds is fragile and vulnerable to change through insensitive development or inappropriate land management. The overall strategy for planning and management is therefore one of conservation and enhancement

Settlement and Buildings

(i) The presence of large farmsteads scattered through the Wolds is characteristic. Usually farms are divorced from villages and situated away from adjacent roads.

In landscape terms, any coalescence of villages and farmsteads should be resisted.

(ii) Farms tend to have their buildings clustered around the original, usually brick built, 19th Century farmhouse.

New farm development should seek to maintain this nucleated arrangement.

(iii) Farmsteads have a strong visual presence in the Wolds landscape. This is often emphasised by their elevated location, the openness of views, use of shelterbelts and isolated, though nucleated, arrangement.

Changes of use, modifications in layout or introduction of new buildings within existing farmsteads could be damaging to farm character. The re-use of existing buildings is preferential to the construction of new. Where modern demands for agri-industrial scale buildings necessitate the construction of large structures these should only be permissible if, wherever possible, they are: located away from skylines; shielded by existing mature shelterbelts; and built to a height, mass and scale complementary to existing farm buildings.



Seek to conserve the isolated and nucleated settlement pattern by avoiding inappropriate new development in the countryside.

Seek to preserve the nuclear arrangement of new farm buildings.

Respect local building styles, materials and arrangements in any essential new developments.

(iv) Grain silos in the Wolds landscape are highly visible due to their size and the openness of views.

Wherever possible land managers should be encouraged to locate new silos away from skylines, close to mature shelterbelts and to render them less obtrusive by painting with a matt or mid-range colour. If possible new shelterbelt planting should be introduced. New woodland planting should be accompanied by the production of woodland management plans for the retention and augmentation of existing woodland blocks and shelterbelts.

Seek to carefully address siting, scale and detail of grain silos.

(v) The landscape of the Wolds is agricultural, having evolved principally through agrarian pressures and demands.

The introduction of non-agricultural based buildings outside villages such as petrol stations, roadside hotels and holiday parks to the Wolds would be inappropriate to the landscape.

Carefully evaluate the introduction of non-agricultural based development, unless utilising existing buildings.

(vi) The nature and appearance of isolated nucleated villages is characteristic to some parts of the Wolds.

In landscape terms, pressures for new housing would be best accommodated by carefully controlling selective village expansion, rather than either significant infill or new villages. Inappropriate village infilling may cause loss or damage to important village features such as mature trees, greens, ponds or views of gable ends. Village infill is likely to be appropriate only if designed in the context of the existing village fabric, ie re-use of redundant buildings or derelict plots. Village expansion requires careful consideration to ensure sites of local landscape, ecological or archaeological importance are not damaged. Villages are either located to the edge of the Wolds or in the Great Wold Valley. This historic distribution should be preserved.

Notwithstanding a general presumption against new housing, seek to accommodate exceptional demands by sympathetic expansion of selected villages, rather than infill.

(vii) Villages tend to have a mature, established character. Construction materials such as limestone, chalk, brick and pantile combine with attractive village arrangements that include ponds, greens, irregular outlines and a diversity of building sizes.

It is important that any new development should reflect existing scales, architecture and materials, eg bungalows and chalets are usually less appropriate than extensions to existing buildings. It would be preferable to re-use existing buildings rather than to build new ones; however, any conversion should reflect the building's existing character.

Seek to closely reflect local architecture, arrangement and setting in any new village development.

(viii) It is important to retain the character and appearance of rural settlements.

'Village Design Statements' should be prepared for villages across the Wolds. These design statements should establish design principles of three different levels: the individual buildings; the settlement in which they sit; and the wider landscape. These principles should have regard to the historical evolution of the village, set out acceptable architectural design standards, and ideally be prepared in consultation with local Parish Councils. They should be used as a mechanism to aid consultation between inhabitants and planning officers in the pursuit of sensitive rural development.

Encourage the production of Wolds-wide 'Village Design Statements'.

Infrastructure



(i) The quiet rural nature of the Wolds and the expansive views across the rolling terrain are, in places, degraded by intrusion from traffic noise and visibility. This includes visibility of large trunk road signs and transmission lines that often parallel the roads, such as seen along the A1079 Hull-York corridor.

Landscape integration projects should be encouraged to reduce such problems through the implementation of measures such as roadside hedgerow thickening and replanting and strategic off-site woodland planting.

Seek to conserve rural character by avoiding any new highway or power transmission alignments requiring a crossing of the Yorkshire Wolds.

(ii) The elevated and expansive quality of the Wolds landscape is such that the routing of any new highway or power lines would inevitably damage character in ways that would be difficult to mitigate.

Any such proposals should be subject to rigorous environmental assessment at a strategic level, ie does the line need to cross the Yorkshire Wolds or are other alignments possible?

Continue to use environmental assessment to guide infrastructure schemes or improvements.

(iii) The widened verge Enclosure Award roads (drove roads) are key components of the Wolds landscape. Improvements to meet modern highway standards can be detrimental to their character particularly if alien or urban treatments are used, eg concrete kerbs, standardised road signs. Maintenance work can also cause damage to verges, eg by filling of ditches, re-seeding with inappropriate grass mixes or clearance of trees for sightlines.

Advice of landscape professionals at an early stage would minimise likely damage to road character during such improvements. In addition, the adoption of a 'rural roads hierarchy', in terms of highway safety standards, maintenance and signs, may allow current statutory standards to be waived in favour of a conservation and recreation-led approach for certain rural roads. Such an approach would balance the need for ongoing road engineering works to meet rising traffic demand with the need to respect local character.

Seek to conserve road character by limiting 'urbanised' highway treatment.

(vi) Road verges in the Wolds are characteristically wide. They are visually prominent and are important ecological refuges for chalk flora and fauna.

Management by annual mowing, including the removal of cuttings on an occasional or site specific basis, combined with scrub clearance would increase local biodiversity. During maintenance work topsoil should not be imported but generated from a local source to retain provenance of the seed bank.

Seek to conserve 'drove road' verge character by promoting scrub clearance and ecologically-led grassland management to key verges.

(v) Vertical structures cannot easily be assimilated into the open rolling landscape of the Wolds. In elevated and skyline positions they can be highly prominent. For example, the transmission pylons traversing the Wolds between Market Weighton and Walkington are visible across vast areas including Holderness and the Vale of York.

There will continue to be pressures to locate certain developments, such as telecommunications, military and wind power structures which are likely to form prominent features in the Wolds landscape. The extent to which they are likely to be detrimental to the landscape, however, will depend upon their siting, design, scale and the extent to which the local topography and land-cover will enable effective assimilation. There may be opportunities to accommodate limited development without harm but proposals which would industrialise the open expansive nature of the Wolds would conflict with its essential character.

Seek to prohibit the introduction of wind farms, transmission lines and large scale telecommunication structures.

Land Management

(i) Historically the Wolds landscape has largely been shaped by agricultural practices. The impact of recent agricultural intensification on land use patterns has not been serious, although localised field enlargement and farm amalgamation has led to some loss of landscape definition.

Local degradation of landscape structure through agricultural intensification may need correction by restoration of smaller field patterns. Any such proposals should be responsive to local historic field patterns.



Seek to maintain existing field patterns and avoid further field enlargement.

(ii) Primarily the Wolds landscape is agricultural. Modern farming practices based on subsidies and grants have resulted in the creation of simple arable scenery dominated by a limited number of crops.

It is beyond the scope of these landscape guidelines to prescribe the types of cropping or husbandry that should take place across the Yorkshire Wolds. However, it is in the interest of visual and biological diversity that no single agricultural system is promoted above all others. A number of agricultural practices have declined as a result of unfavourable economics, but are worthy of promotion as mid to long-term uses of set-aside land. These include the restoration of chalk grassland on previously tilled land, retention and restoration of permanent pasture, and possibly the localised increase in the number of livestock.

Through active economic intervention seek to maximise a diversification of agricultural activity.

(iii) No landscape should be a static rural idyll in which landscape changes should be totally resisted. The Wolds landscape remains agricultural, highly productive and responsive to modern economies and changes in the rural economy.

Though significant alteration to the appearance of the landscape should be resisted, opportunities for localised agricultural extensification should be considered and investigated.

Consider appropriate opportunities for agricultural diversification and extensification.

(iv) Increased irrigation is leading to aquifer depletion and drying of spring-fed ditches and vegetation on lower slopes.

The introduction of tighter controls on groundwater extraction may ultimately lead to farmers constructing their own small reservoirs. Although this has historical precedent in the Wolds, the design and scale of such reservoirs would have landscape implications. New reservoirs should be disguised in the landscape, hidden in hollows or screened by established woodlands. Recreational uses of such reservoirs should be controlled as active use may conflict with the landscape's quiet rural character. There are opportunities for landscape and habitat improvements. To resist the degree of aquifer depletion, consideration should be given to the encouragement of drought - resistant crops.

Seek to the further depletion of groundwater aquifers.

(v) The Yorkshire Wolds are extremely rich in sites of archaeological value ranging from pre-Roman defensive and ritual structures to the medieval deserted plague villages. Many sites have been lost due to neglect and inappropriate cultivation.

A Sites and Monuments Register is held by the Humberside Archaeology Unit and North Yorkshire County Council and should be consulted before any work is planned. Better interpretation of the more interesting and less vulnerable sites would be desirable. However, any developments of this nature would have to be carefully monitored and administered by specialists in the field.

Seek to conserve, protect and promote appropriate management of existing chalk grasslands, permanent pasture, chalk pits, geological sites, hedgerows and features of archaeological value.

(vi) Existing chalk quarries have varying impacts on the local landscape. Some, such as Bumby Chalk Pit, on the escarpment have a substantial visual impact.

Although pressures for quarrying will remain, new proposals are strictly controlled by environmental legislation and developers have to demonstrate detailed locational need, justify the discounting of alternative sites, and provide detailed proposals for landscape mitigation before, during and after quarrying. It is important that, where possible, advance planting is undertaken around prospective sites in order to more effectively mitigate the wider impact of quarrying activities. There should be a strong presumption against escarpment quarrying.

Seek to ensure that proposals for mineral workings demonstrate assessment of and integration with landscape character.

(vii) Though not an 'immediate' destination of travellers, car-borne visits to the Wolds are likely to increase. The recent construction of visitor car parks, viewpoints, picnic sites and interpretation facilities such as at Staxton Brow, helps to contain and channel demand.

Continued development of such facilities should be encouraged. However, the detailed selection and design of particular sites should be subject to careful scrutiny. It is important that any such sites are both integral to the public transportation network and link with long and medium distance footpaths such as the 'Wolds Way' and proposed 'Chalk Route'.

Selectively encourage the development of visitor picnic sites, car parks and interpretation sites.

(viii) Traditional and newer country pursuits, eg recreational shooting, mountain biking, hunting and war games, have less influence on the visual character of the Wolds. However, they can each impart detrimental effects on the local amenity and habitat value of the landscape.

Increased population mobility may result in increases in existing, and unforeseen, legitimate recreational activities which have little visual effect but can be noisy and generate traffic. Insofar as such activities are within the remit of planning or land management controls, a balance needs to be struck between legitimate rights and the need to conserve the Wolds landscape. Most of these activities can be better absorbed in a more enclosed wooded landscape than in open situations. It is therefore preferential to cater for such activities in other landscape types.

Seek to restrict the introduction of 'active' recreational activities to enclosed areas.

(ix) To maintain the national ecological importance of the various chalk grasslands, particularly in the northern Wolds, intensive management and animal husbandry is required.

Support for appropriate management regimes should be given and any opportunities to create or enhance chalk grasslands, even of lesser botanical diversity, between the SSSI sites should be encouraged.

Seek to identify opportunities for recreation of chalk grassland, perhaps using set-aside areas.

(x) The Wolds landscape is characteristically quiet and somewhat remote.

It is important that the tradition of quiet enjoyment of the countryside is maintained in the control of new recreational activities. Large scale facilities such as golf courses, country parks, caravan/holiday parks could introduce suburban influences to the Wolds and should only be acceptable in limited established localities.

Seek to prohibit the introduction of 'suburban' recreational activities.

(xi) Due to the intensity of arable production the Wolds do not offer easy access to the public.

The established network of roads, lanes, footpaths and bridleways are therefore important, offering the only legitimate public access to the scenery. Opportunities to improve this access should be encouraged. The waymarking of paths, building of stiles etc. combined with the continued development of picnic sites and the development of long distance routes should be promoted.

Encourage improved public access to the countryside.

(xii) The Wolds landscape is intensively agricultural and well-managed.

Maintain the well-managed and 'smooth' character of the landscape by avoiding land management practices that involve a long-term retention of unmanaged vegetation.

Seek to avoid the retention of unmanaged vegetation.

Field Boundaries

(i) The current scenery of the Wolds is largely the product of the 18th Century Enclosure Period. The rolling and open terrain was accentuated by the planting of robust and well-trimmed hawthorn hedges enclosing large regular fields. Surveys indicate that post-war hedgerow loss across the Wolds has not been as severe as in other areas.

Wherever possible, gaps in hedges should be infilled and localised hedgerow replacement encouraged, particularly in prominent, or historically significant situations, ie along roadsides or parish boundaries.

(ii) Hedgerow trees and avenues are not a common feature of the Wolds landscape. However, due to the openness of views and rolling nature of the landscape, where they are present, such trees often play an enhanced compositional role in the landscape.

Mature trees in the landscape should be conserved. Ash, beech, pedunculate oak and sycamore are the dominant trees and few species other than these would be considered appropriate in any new planting.

Trees and Woodlands

(i) The open and somewhat remote character of the Wolds is one of its distinctive characteristics. Although woodland cover is limited, the tall and mature shelterbelts are compositionally important, often marking out farmsteads, following skylines and emphasising the rolling terrain.

Any new woodland planting should be of a scale sympathetic to the landscape. In this case, woodland blocks of 3-10 hectares. The siting and detailed design of new woodlands should be in keeping with existing landscape patterns.

(ii) Many of the established buildings across the Wolds, ie farmsteads, are closely associated with shelterbelts of a similar age often enclosing the buildings on three sides.

New buildings should include the provision of shelterbelt enclosure wherever appropriate, both to reflect the local character and offer scope for mitigation of structures in the open landscape.



Seek to conserve, restore and replace all primary hedgerows (roadsides, bridleways, parish boundaries, dissected valley tops).

Seek to conserve existing character by resisting further hedgerow tree losses.



Seek to conserve and strengthen the open and empty character of the landscape by attention to size, shape and skyline effects of any new woodland planting, which should be on a limited scale.

Encourage new woodland planting associated with new buildings.

(iii) Woodland blocks across the Wolds are almost exclusively of a recent planted origin, dominated by broad-leaved species such as ash, wych elm, pedunculate oak, hazel and hawthorn. Only towards the coast is there a higher incidence of coniferous species.

New woodland planting should reflect the existing native species mixes, wherever possible utilising plants of local provenance. In selected situations other species could make a notable visual contribution although their inclusion in planting mixes should not compromise specific local nature conservation objectives. Such additional species might include beech, sycamore, Scots pine, hybrid larch, beech, field maple and wild cherry.

(iv) The well-managed character of the Wolds is partly dependent on good woodland management.

Land managers and foresters should be encouraged to implement woodland and shelterbelt management plans to ensure the medium and long-term protection and local enhancement of existing woodlands.

(v) Ancient and long-established semi-natural woodland has a limited and fragile distribution, mostly related to steep dry valley slopes.

Such woodlands require particularly careful management, selective felling and restocking. In particular a proportion of non-native tree and shrub species should be selectively removed to encourage the development of native species.

Encourage new planting to complement existing native broad-leaved woodland mixes.

Seek to manage existing woodlands to ensure their short, medium and long-term conservation and enhancement.

Seek to produce management plans to ensure the development of existing semi-natural woodlands.

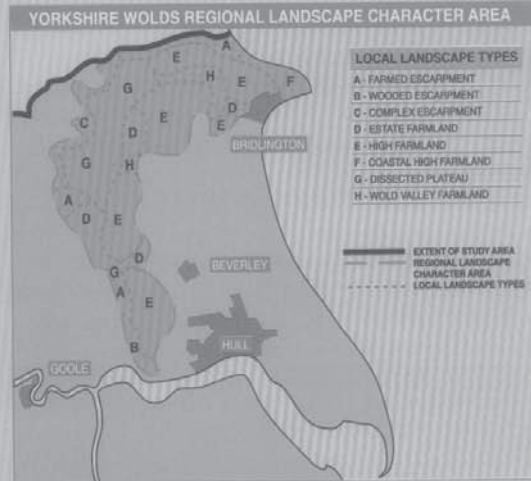
PART 3: GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL LANDSCAPE TYPES WITHIN THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS

Introduction

5.3.1 This part provides guidance specific to the Local Landscape Types within the Yorkshire Wolds, eg High Farmland, Farmed Escarpment. These guidelines are rather more concerned with 'local' issues such as trees and woodlands, field boundaries and local management, than with Wolds-wide issues such as settlements, new development and infrastructure. Guidelines for the latter are presented in Part 2 above.

5.3.2 The appropriate landscape strategy for each landscape type is followed by a set of guidelines. The following Local Landscape Types are considered:-

- (i) Farmed Escarpment
- (ii) Wooded Escarpment
- (iii) Complex Escarpment
- (iv) Estate Farmland
- (v) High Farmland
- (vi) Coastal High Farmland
- (vii) Dissected Plateau Farmland
- (viii) Wold Valley Farmland



Farmed Escarpment - North Wolds Escarpment, Millington and Sancton Wold

Landscape Strategy :

Seek to protect and locally enhance the farmed escarpment character by strengthening existing hedgerows and woodland blocks.

Landscape Guidelines :

- (a) Seek to conserve village character by limiting both insensitive expansion and excessive infill of important village open spaces. Village expansion should preferably re-use existing buildings but, where this is not possible, any new buildings should utilise traditional building materials and follow local architectural styles.
- (b) Conserve escarpment skylines and views of the scarp by avoiding the prominent siting of new structures.

(c) Seek to prohibit the siting of mineral extraction sites in an escarpment setting. Where unavoidable, advance planting should be carried out to mitigate, as far as possible, likely visual impacts.

(d) Encourage the protection and management of all remnants of chalk grassland, ancient woodland, spring-line and ditch vegetation. Identify opportunities for re-creation of these features.

(e) Seek to protect archaeological sites from damage and explore opportunities to more fully present less sensitive sites to the public.

(f) Encourage the conservation and enhancement of tree cover around villages and farmsteads.

(g) Seek to conserve, replace and manage all primary hedgerows including the re-planting of hedgerow trees. The existing alignment of hedges, mostly perpendicular and parallel to slopes, should be maintained.

(h) Supplement existing tree cover through encouraging medium-scale woodland planting on rising ground, avoiding skyline or ridgeline locations.

(i) New woodlands and shelter belts should include only native broad-leaved species. Coniferous

plantations should be avoided and medium-term management policies implemented to re-structure those present to have a more deciduous content.

(j) Due to the visual prominence of escarpment woodlands, blanket felling should be resisted. Woodlands should be re-structured to promote an increase in deciduous tree species. Phased development of felling programmes combined with the long term retention of edge mixes would reduce the likelihood of significant soil erosion.

Wooded Escarpment - South Cave

Landscape Strategy :

Conserve the enclosed character of the landscape and restore this where it has become eroded through insensitive routing of infrastructure. New woodland planting should be considered to supplement that present.

Landscape Guidelines :

(a) Seek to conserve 'spring-line' village character by limiting both insensitive expansion and infill of important village open space. Concentrate on re-use of existing buildings and ensure that any new buildings follow established architectural styles.

(b) Encourage the conservation and enhancement of tree cover around existing settlements.

(c) Promote advanced woodland planting around sites which have been identified as acceptable for future mineral extraction.

(d) Promote woodland management to re-structure excessively even-aged woodlands.

(e) Aim to increase the thicket shrub content of woodland edges to increase habitat potential and visual diversity.

(f) Where appropriate, promote informal recreation by provision of woodland trails, parking places, viewpoints, picnic sites and interpretation facilities, such as seen at Millington Wood.

(g) Any new planting or management of woodlands should ensure that the characteristic sinuous form and close relationship to landform is maintained. For example, most woodlands should occupy valley situations.

(h) Encourage the thickening and infilling of hedgerows and, where possible, link with woodland blocks to maximise possibilities for habitat linkage and wildlife dispersal.

Complex Escarpment - Deep Dale, Wharram Percy

Landscape Strategy

Conserve the diversity of the landscape, retaining both long views and more intimate lower-slope enclosure. Protect and promote natural heritage of chalk grasslands and deserted medieval villages. In this complex landscape, characterised by High Wold farmed escarpment and grazed dry valleys, a combination of guidelines is required tailored to the specific local landscape.

Landscape Guidelines :

- (a) Seek to conserve village character by restricting both insensitive infill development and large scale village expansion.
- (b) Seek to avoid types or scales of farm diversification which would introduce suburban influences in this agricultural landscape.
- (c) Seek to ensure that new farm buildings are positioned close to and in scale with existing buildings.

(d) Encourage the retention and enhancement of tree cover in and around villages.

(e) New buildings in a farm or village context should, wherever possible, reflect the local building materials.

(f) Seek to prohibit new quarry sites. Where unavoidable, advanced woodland planting should be encouraged to mitigate likely visual impacts.

(g) Protect the escarpment skyline and its open unrestricted views from built element intrusion.

(h) Protect, manage and interpret appropriate deserted medieval villages. Where possible, less vulnerable sites should be carefully developed to present low-key historical/educational resources.

(i) Seek to conserve, restore and manage all primary hedgerows. Replant hedgerow trees, particularly on lower slopes and within valleys. In grazed areas, post and wire fencing should be replaced by new hedgerows.



BEFORE

- 1. Post and rail fencing have commonly replaced hawthorn hedges.
- 2. Landscape is intensively arable.
- 3. Lane verges are often wide and grassed.
- 4. Outward views from the escarpment are important.

AFTER

- 1. Hedgerows should be encouraged to replace post and rail fences.
- 2. Encourage more pasture on escarpment slopes.
- 3. Occasionally mow grassed verges to encourage ecological diversity.
- 4. Maintain outward views.

(j) Seek to retain and increase the proportion of permanent pasture. Opportunities to re-create chalk grassland, perhaps in conjunction with set-aside, should be encouraged.

(k) Encourage the management of all chalk grassland to maintain existing high ecological interest.

(l) Increase the sinuosity and diversity of the edges of rectilinear woodland blocks.

Estate Farmland - Sledmere, Londesborough and Warter Priory and Dalton Hall

Landscape Strategy :

Conserve and enhance the enclosed wooded character of the landscape. Where appropriate, consider restoration of parkland features.

Landscape Guidelines :

(a) Conserve estate village character by restricting both insensitive infill and expansion. Any essential new buildings should fully respect the layout, scale and materials of existing features including historical precedents.

(b) Provide for an anticipated increase in recreational pressure through the provision of carefully-sited and designed car parks, traffic calming, signs, picnic sites and interpretation facilities.

(c) Promote controlled public access within woodlands and at selected viewpoints.

(d) Encourage the conservation and restoration of existing parklands according to site-specific action plans.

(e) Seek to avoid forms of recreational diversification which introduce suburban elements to agricultural estate landscapes.

(f) Encourage the replanting of felled trees and decayed woodlands using species of large ultimate stature and appropriate formality.

(g) Encourage the retention of permanent pasture and visibility of livestock.

(h) Seek to develop tree avenues along estate approach roads where appropriate to local setting and context.

(i) Seek to ensure that in any development the local estate vernacular is adhered to. For example, the use of metal railings as preference to hawthorn hedging.

High Farmland - Yorkshire Wolds

Landscape Strategy :

Conserve and strengthen the open and empty character of this simple rolling landscape.

Landscape Guidelines :

(a) Seek to conserve the existing pattern of isolated large farmsteads and open views across rural land by avoiding new development in the open countryside.

(b) New agricultural buildings should normally be located within, or adjacent, existing farmstead curtilages and should be sited, designed and landscaped to integrate with their setting. New developments should

not weaken the pattern of existing farmsteads which are mostly divorced from village settings and are often located away from adjacent roads.

(c) Conserve character of Enclosure Award roads by maintaining and restoring hedges and grass verges.

(d) Encourage the management of chalk grassland in dry valleys and road verges to promote ecological diversity.

(e) Seek to conserve, restore, replace and manage all primary hedgerows.

(f) Apply landscape design principles with regard to scale, size, species, choice and edge treatment of new woodlands. Favour broad-leaved species.

(g) Encourage the implementation of landscape integration projects in areas where discordant elements intrude, eg A1079(T) corridor, transmission lines, quarry sites.

(h) Due to the elevation, expansiveness and relative isolation of this sensitive arable landscape there should be a predisposition against the development of wind power generating facilities.

(i) Encouragement should be given to maintaining the existing extent and general arrangement of woodlands and shelterbelts. The composition of the landscape is largely structured by the relationship between landform, woodland and hedgerows in an arable setting.

Coastal High Farmland - Flamborough Headland

Landscape Strategy :

Enhance and restore the characteristic High Wolds hedged landscape which becomes increasingly diluted towards the coastline. In particular, it is important to control and assimilate existing coastal leisure development.

Landscape Guidelines :

(a) Seek to conserve the pattern of existing isolated large farmsteads and open views to rural land by avoiding new development in the open countryside.

(b) New agricultural buildings, or changes of use within the farmstead curtilages should be sited, designed and landscaped in integration with surrounding setting. Wherever possible, redundant existing buildings should be re-used to limit the necessity for new buildings.

(c) Seek to conserve and manage all existing hedgerows. Replace post and wire fencing with hawthorn hedges.

(d) Conserve character of Enclosure Award roads by maintaining and restoring hedges and grass verges.



BEFORE

1. Agricultural scenery in which permanent pasture dominates.
2. Many hawthorn hedges have become over-mature and have a windswept appearance.
3. Woodlands and hedgerows are increasingly sparse and gappy.

AFTER

1. Thicken and replace hedgerows in poor condition.
2. Retain wind-swept hedges.
3. Encourage more tree planting both occasionally in hedgerows and in woodlands away from the coast.

(e) Due to the expansive nature of the headland landscape, combined with its 'Heritage Coast' definition, there should be a strong presumption against the siting of wind power generating facilities. Wind power proposals should demonstrate a clear locational need, and rigorous attention to landscape integration. Issues such as the number of towers, opportunities for low-level screening, relationship with existing farmsteads and the need for new services or grid connections should be considered. The potential for wider-scale integration measures must be fully considered.

(f) Implement landscape integration projects around existing village edges, caravan parks, and other intrusive built structures in order to define limits of future expansion and, where possible, provide screening.

(g) The development of a management strategy to maximise the ecology of the cliffs and cliff edge grassland should be combined with the promotion of interpretation and low-key recreational facilities.

(h) Protect, manage and provide sensitive interpretation facilities on Dane's Dyke, one of the county's most important archaeological sites.

(i) Encourage the management and replanting of small plantations. The inclusion of conifers, especially Scots pine, would be appropriate in Dane's Dyke and Sewerby Park.

Dissected Plateau Farmland - Thixendale

Landscape Strategy :

Conserve diversity of landscape character, particularly the setting of valley roads and villages.

Landscape Guidelines :

(a) New development should reflect settlement form and character. Insensitive expansion and the infilling of important open spaces within villages should be avoided. An irregular, soft village outline is important and should be conserved, particularly when visible from approach roads.

(b) New agricultural buildings should, wherever possible, be located within, or adjacent to, existing farmstead curtilages, and should be sited, designed and landscaped to integrate with their wider surroundings.

(c) Encourage the conservation and restoration of all primary hedgerows, with particular emphasis on valley floor roadsides and valley-top hedges.

(d) Encourage the management of all chalk grassland to maintain high ecological interest. Re-create and expand existing grasslands where appropriate.

(e) Promote public access particularly at prominent viewpoints. Protect skylines and open undeveloped views by avoiding insensitive siting of new structures or woodlands.

(f) Seek to protect all archaeological sites of importance. At less vulnerable sites seek to enhance their historical/educational status through controlled development of public access and interpretation.

(g) Seek to conserve trees and shelterbelts around villages.



BEFORE

1. Many steeper slopes are ecologically rich pasture.
2. Invasion of gorse and hawthorn scrub on steeper slopes is a problem.
3. Some hedgerows are becoming gappy or dying out at base.

AFTER

1. Management of steeper slope vegetation should seek to limit scrub invasion to encourage the diversification of grassland flora.
2. Seek to replace and manage field hedgerows.

Wold Valley Farmland - Gypsy Race

Landscape Strategy :

Conserve the open but settled character of the wide valleys.

Landscape Guidelines :

- (a) New development should reflect village nucleated form and mature character by avoiding infill of important open areas, or expansion along and across roads.
- (b) Seek to conserve, restore, manage all principal hedgerows, especially along valley-floor roadsides and valley-top hedges.
- (c) New woodland planting should be concentrated on upper valley slopes in order to accentuate the

valley's enclosure and to complement the existing disposition of woodlands and shelterbelts.

- (d) Seek to protect and manage all archaeological sites. In particular deserted villages on the valley floor should be respected.
- (e) Conserve the character of Enclosure Award roads. In particular the spine road to the Great Wold Valley which has been a transportation corridor for centuries. Where degraded its character should be restored as appropriate.
- (f) Seek to conserve visual and ecological continuity of valley floor watercourses by selective restoration of permanent pasture and a localised increase in tree cover.



BEFORE

1. Valley-floor settlements are an important characteristic in this area.
2. Hedgerows are either absent or are becoming gappy and in poor condition.
3. Some large scale farm buildings are locally intrusive.



AFTER

1. Hedgerows planting should be locally encouraged, particularly along important lanes.
2. Carefully designed planting should seek to screen and soften village edges.