



East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment

Detailed Assessment of Selected Settlements in the East Riding of Yorkshire

Updated November 2013

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Introduction

The *Detailed Assessment of Selected Settlements in the East Riding of Yorkshire*, (undertaken as part of the 2005 Landscape Character Assessment), described the landscape around the edge of the settlements and made judgements about landscape quality, capacity and sensitivity. The purpose of the assessment was to provide a strategic assessment of the landscape to inform the allocation of development (residential, employment & retail) around settlements in the emerging local plan.

The update considered changes to the landscape since 2005 taking into account recently constructed development, along with changes to assessment methodology since the previous study was completed.

The following settlements were included in the update:

Major Haltemprice Settlements:

- Hesse;
- Anlaby, Willerby, Kirk Ella; and
- Cottingham.

Principal Towns:

- Beverley;
- Bridlington;
- Goole; and
- Driffield.

Towns:

- Elloughton cum Brough;
- Hedon;
- Howden;
- Hornsea;
- Market Weighton;
- Pocklington; and
- Withernsea.

(The town of Snaith; included in the Selected Settlement Study 2005 does not form part of the 2013 update).

The methodology employed for the updated assessment is based on the assessment criteria described in '*Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity*', produced by The Countryside Agency 2004 (now Natural England).

It provides a strategic assessment required for the emerging East Riding Local Plan and considers 'overall landscape sensitivity' in terms of landscape character, visual sensitivity and landscape value.

- **Landscape Character Sensitivity:** defined by the physical attributes of an area including landform, land-cover, tree cover, built form and other less tangible aspects including scale, pattern, complexity, diversity and aesthetic quality;
- **Visual Sensitivity:** defined by the general prominence of an area, which is influenced by the degree of screening, the location, size and type of population and the potential for mitigation of visual impacts, (without the mitigation itself causing unacceptable effects); and
- **Landscape Value:** defined by the perception and recognition of the area by stakeholders and is measured in terms of designations (national and local) or status (formal or informal) relating to landscape, conservation and biodiversity value i.e. a landscape designated as 'Important Landscape Area' is likely to be more sensitive than non-designated areas. The rarity or uniqueness of the landscape is also a measure of value, along with the condition of the landscape.

The criteria used to assess the combined effects of landscape character, visual sensitivity and landscape value is given **Appendix A**.

A glossary of terms used in the Selected Settlement Update Plans and reports is given in **Appendix B**.

There are two notable changes to the assessment terminology/process:

- Less emphasis is placed on the subjective assessment criteria used previously to describe 'Landscape Quality', (the term 'Landscape Quality' is not included in Topic Paper 6); and
- Less emphasis is placed on 'Landscape Capacity' which relates to a specific type of development. According to Topic Paper 6 the term 'landscape capacity' should be used to describe the ability of a landscape to accommodate different amounts of change, or development of a 'specific type'.

The assessment of 'overall landscape sensitivity' used in the updated reports is considered to be more appropriate to a strategic application than 'capacity study' which considers specific types of development. It is intended the updated assessment will help inform the type and location of future development around the periphery of the selected settlements, rather than assessing the effects of existing or proposed allocations.

In addition to the above there are a number of changes to the updated drawings from the previous assessment, these are:

- The boundaries of some landscape character areas have been re-defined, to take into account the changes on the ground since the previous assessment was undertaken and to reflect the revised assessment criteria.
- The previous assessment included a Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) around each settlement, based primarily on screening afforded by topographical effects. The updated assessment does not include a ZVI as this is liable to change according to the type and height of development

proposed (i.e. a ZVI for a wind farm would be significantly different to a low rise residential development).

- The updated settlement plans show 'statutory wildlife designations' in addition to the 'local wildlife sites'. Sites of Nature Conservation Importance have been omitted.
- The 'highly visible urban edges' on the previous settlement plans have been split into two categories:
 - 'Prominent urban edges' (where the urban areas are a key feature of the adjacent landscape); and
 - 'Sensitive urban edges', (where the built form is of cultural /historical importance and, or the development makes a positive contribution to the character of the adjacent landscape. Generally development adjacent to 'sensitive urban edges' should be avoided.
- The boundaries of Important Landscape Areas (ILAs), which were not shown previously, have been included on the updated plans. The ILAs correspond to the high quality Landscape Character Areas identified in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Area Assessment 2005) and include:
 - The Yorkshire Wolds;
 - Heritage Coast at Flamborough;
 - Heritage Coast Spurn;
 - River Derwent Corridor;
 - Lower Derwent Valley and Pocklington Canal; and
 - Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors.

The boundaries of these LCAs were reviewed and updated separately in August 2013 as part of the supporting evidence for the emerging Local Plan 2013-2029.

- 'Key open areas' informed by the 2005 LCA policy advice report have been included on the updated settlement plans. The primary function of these areas is to prevent coalescence of adjacent settlements (similar to Green Belt) and does not necessarily imply the scenic quality of these areas is higher than the surrounding landscape.
- Photographic location points shown on the 2005 settlement studies have been not been included on the updated plans.
- The study area for the landscape sensitivity assessment was extended to 1km (approximately) from the existing settlement boundary, to encompass the maximum extent of potential new development within the Local Plan period. (The previous assessment covered a much smaller area around the edge of the settlements).

Drawings

The updated settlement studies should be read in conjunction with the following drawings:

Major Haltemprice Settlements

Drawing	1a	Hessle
Drawing	1b	Anlaby, Willerby, Kirk Ella
Drawing	1c	Cottingham

Principal Towns

Drawing	2	Beverley
Drawing	3	Bridlington
Drawing	4	Goole
Drawing	5	Driffield

Towns

Drawing	6	Elloughton-cum-Brough
Drawing	7	Hedon
Drawing	8	Hornsea
Drawing	9	Howden
Drawing	10	Market Weighton
Drawing	11	Pocklington
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