

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3: Appendix 6.2 Landscape Baseline

February 2025



The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

nationalgrid

North Humber to High Marnham Document Control

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Introduction

This appendix provides the baseline for the preliminary landscape assessment presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the proposed 400 kV overhead line and should be read alongside:

- **Chapter 6 Landscape;**
- **Appendix 6.1 Landscape Assessment Methodology;**
- **Figure 6.1 Landscape Designations and Features;**
- **Figure 6.3 National Character Areas;** and
- **Figure 6.4 Landscape Character Types.**

Background information provided for each designation and area of landscape includes a map of the area, baseline description and key characteristics. It also includes judgements on the value of the landscape and its susceptibility to change arising from the Project. For information about the landscape baseline for the proposed Birkhill Wood Substation and High Marnham Substation refer to **Chapter 20 Substations and Associated Works**.

A preliminary assessment of the effects of the Project on the landscape is provided in **Chapter 6 Landscape**.

For completeness and to provide further context to the assessment, the relevant National Landscape Character Areas (NCA) as defined by Natural England (Ref 1.1) are also included in this Appendix. This is to ensure that the potential for significant effects at a wider level than district level is understood, given the length of the route and geographical coverage of the Project. An assessment of the effects of the Project on the NCAs will be provided in the project-wide assessment of landscape effects presented in the Environmental Statement (ES) once the assessments of the more detailed regional and local landscape types have been completed.

Baseline Description

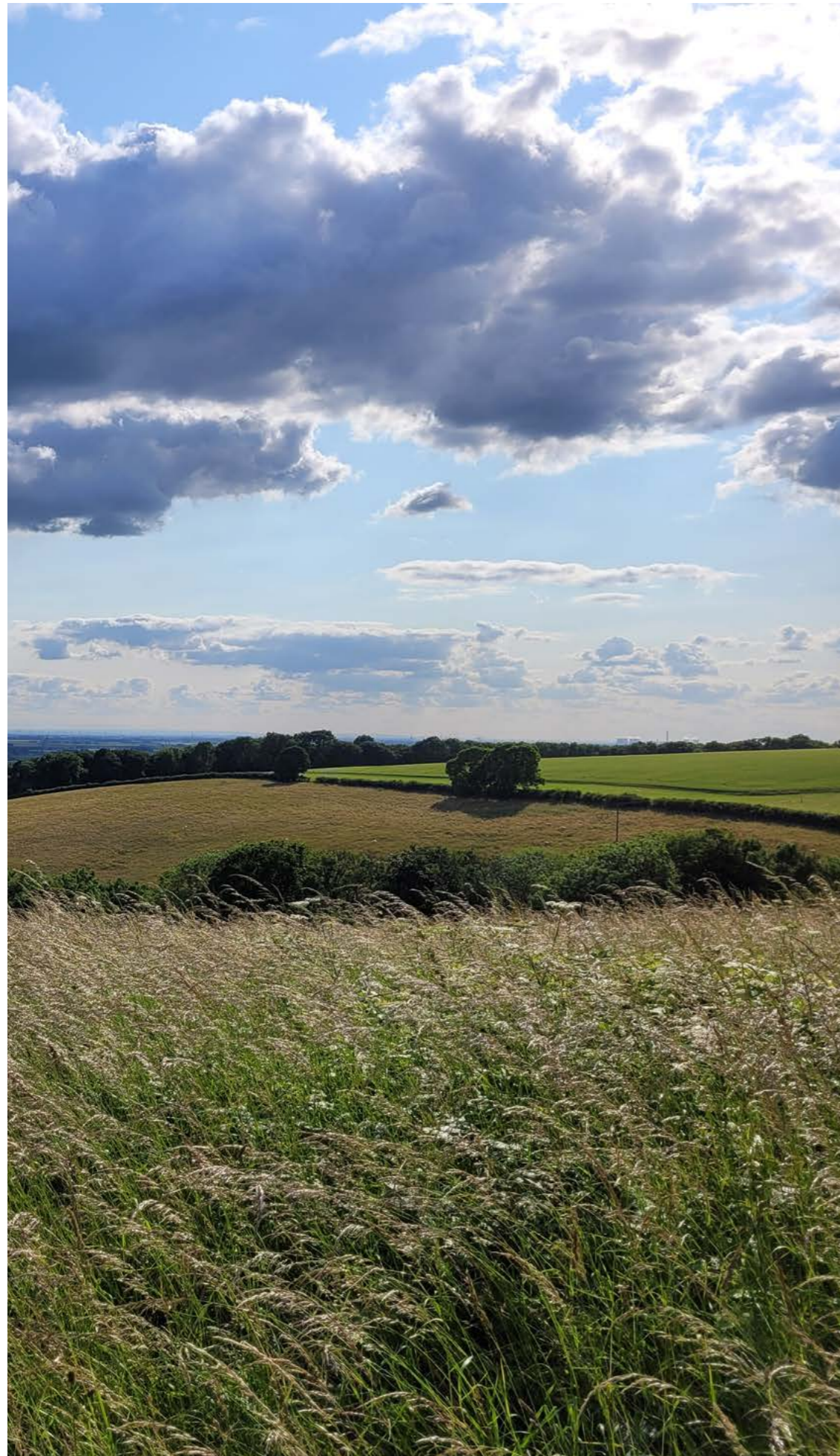
The descriptions are based on the landscape character assessments prepared by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Ref 1.2), North Lincolnshire Council (Ref 1.3) and the East Midlands Councils (Ref 1.4). These assessments define a combination of Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT). The baseline descriptions in this appendix were informed by an extensive review of these LCT and RLCT, as well as Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, Google Earth Pro, Google Streetview, and field survey.

Landscape value tables are included for each LCT and RLCT. These highlight the professional judgements made with regard to the appraisal of the relative value of the landscape (within the study area). As described in the methodology at **Appendix 6.1 Landscape Assessment Methodology**, judgements are made against a series of factors and are visually represented on a sliding scale bar representing lower to higher value.

Judgements on Susceptibility

As with the appraisal of landscape value, initial judgements of susceptibility to a 400 kV overhead line are made against a series of factors in accordance with Section 2 of the methodology set out in **Appendix 6.1 Landscape Assessment Methodology**. These judgements are visually represented on a sliding scale bar representing lower to higher value. The detailed assessments of landscape susceptibility relate to the 400 kV overhead line component of the Project.





Scope of the Assessment

27 LCT and RLCT cover the study area and are shown on **Figure 6.4 Landscape Character Types**.

This identifies where each part of the LCT or RLCT is located within the study area and also illustrates the project in relation to the LCT or RLCT.

The results of an initial screening exercise are set out in Table 1. This table identifies the LCT, RLCT or designation which are very unlikely to experience significant effects and the reason why they have not been taken forward into the baseline. The screening was informed by a desk-based assessment of Google Earth Pro and Google Streetview, the preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps shown on **Figure 7.2 ZTV**, the proposed viewpoints at **Appendix 7.2 Proposed Viewpoints** and field survey.

Table 1 - LCT, RLCT or landscape designation not taken forward for assessment

LCT/RLCT	Justification
East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.2)	
LCT 6: Wooded Open Farmland	This LCT is located to the north of the Project, some 4 km from the nearest point on the Limits of Deviation (LoD). Only a very small part of the LCT lies within the study area. While the value and susceptibility of the LCT are considered to be high, it would not be directly affected by the Project during construction or operation. The ZTV indicates potential intervisibility during operation, but the pylons would only be distantly visible, and they would be seen alongside the existing 400 kV overhead line. The introduction of a new 400 kV overhead line would not fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the LCT. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.
North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines (Ref 1.3)	
Humber Estuary: Flat Drained Farmland LCT	This LCT is located some 3.8 km to the east of the nearest point on the LoD and to the east of the River Trent. The landscape is judged to be of high value and medium susceptibility. The ZTV indicates potential intervisibility, but the pylons including the two taller pylons at the River Ouse crossing would only be distantly visible, and they would be seen beyond the three existing 400 kV overhead lines and alongside multiple wind turbines. The introduction of a new 400 kV overhead line would not fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the LCT. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.
Lincolnshire Edge: Despoiled Landscape LCT	There would be no significant effects due to the current character and quality of the landscape. Further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.

LCT/RLCT	Justification
East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.4)	
RLCT 3b: Sandland Farmlands	This RLCT extends into the western edge of the study area at two locations: a small area near Everton in Section 9 and a larger area west of Hayton and Clarborough. The landscape is judged to be of high value and medium susceptibility. As both areas of the RLCT are approximately 3 km from the nearest point on the LoD, and with intervening settlements, landforms, and vegetation, it is highly unlikely that views of the new 400 kV overhead line would fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the RLCT. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.
RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales	This RLCT extends into the eastern edge of the study area at two locations: north of Gainsborough including Scotton Common and Laughton Woods and south of Gainsborough including the small woodlands around Knaith. The landscape is judged to be of high value and medium susceptibility. Both areas of the RLCT are approximately 3.6 km from the nearest point on the LoD and would be separated from the Project by the intervening settlements, landform and vegetation. Distant views of a new 400 kV overhead line beyond the existing overhead lines would not fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the RLCT. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.
RLCT 10b: Sandstone Forests and Heaths	This RLCT overlaps the western boundary of the study area between Retford and West Drayton and is judged to be of high value and medium susceptibility. The landscape comprises low-lying, open arable farmland with few hedgerows or trees. To the east, the RLCT is bordered by the wooded embankments of the East Coast Main rail line. These and the landscape of the Wooded Village Farmlands RLCT help to contain longer easterly views towards the Trent Valley. Given that the RLCT is approximately 5.3 km from the nearest point on the LoD, distant views of an additional overhead line in the Trent Valley would not affect the landscape's character or quality. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.

Nationally Designated Landscapes

Yorkshire Wolds Designation Project	The distance between the Candidate Area boundary for the proposed Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) to the nearest point on the LoD is 11.9 km. At this distance, the special qualities and statutory purposes of the National Landscape (AONB) (if designated) are unlikely to be significantly affected by the Project, and no further assessment is proposed at this time. However, the boundary will continue to be monitored as the AONB designation process progresses, and a formal assessment will be carried out if the boundary moves closer to the Project.
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LCT/RLCT	Justification
Locally Designated Landscapes	
Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors Important Landscape Area (ILA)	The Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ILA lies outside but on the edge of the study area, some 5.3 km from the nearest point on the LoD. At this distance the new 400 KV overhead line would be only very distantly perceptible and would be seen in the context of other overhead lines and wind turbines. The introduction of a new 400 kV overhead line would not fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the ILA. Although the value and susceptibility of the landscape is considered to be high, the scale of change would be very small. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.
Laughton Woods and Scotton Common Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)	This AGLV is located some 6.2 km to the east of the nearest point on the LoD. It would not be directly affected by the Project during construction or operation. While the ZTV indicates potential visibility, the effects on the landscape on the AGLV, although of high value and high susceptibility, would not be significant. Views out from the AGLV are typically contained by the high tree cover. Where the landscape is more open, the Project would introduce more pylons into westerly views out of the AGLV, but these would be only distantly visible and would be seen beyond the existing overhead lines. The addition of a new 400 kV overhead line would not fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the AGLV. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.
Northeast and East of Gainsborough Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)	This AGLV is located some 7 km to the east of the nearest point on the LoD and is judged to be of high value and medium susceptibility. It would not be directly affected by the Project during construction or operation. While the ZTV indicates potential visibility, the effects on the designated landscape would not be significant. The Project would introduce more pylons into westerly views out of the AGLV, but these would be only distantly visible and would be seen beyond the existing overhead lines and former Burton on Trent Power Station. The addition of a new 400 kV overhead line would not fundamentally alter the composition or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the AGLV. Any effects would not be significant and further assessment as part of the EIA process is therefore not considered necessary.

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Landscape Designations

Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area

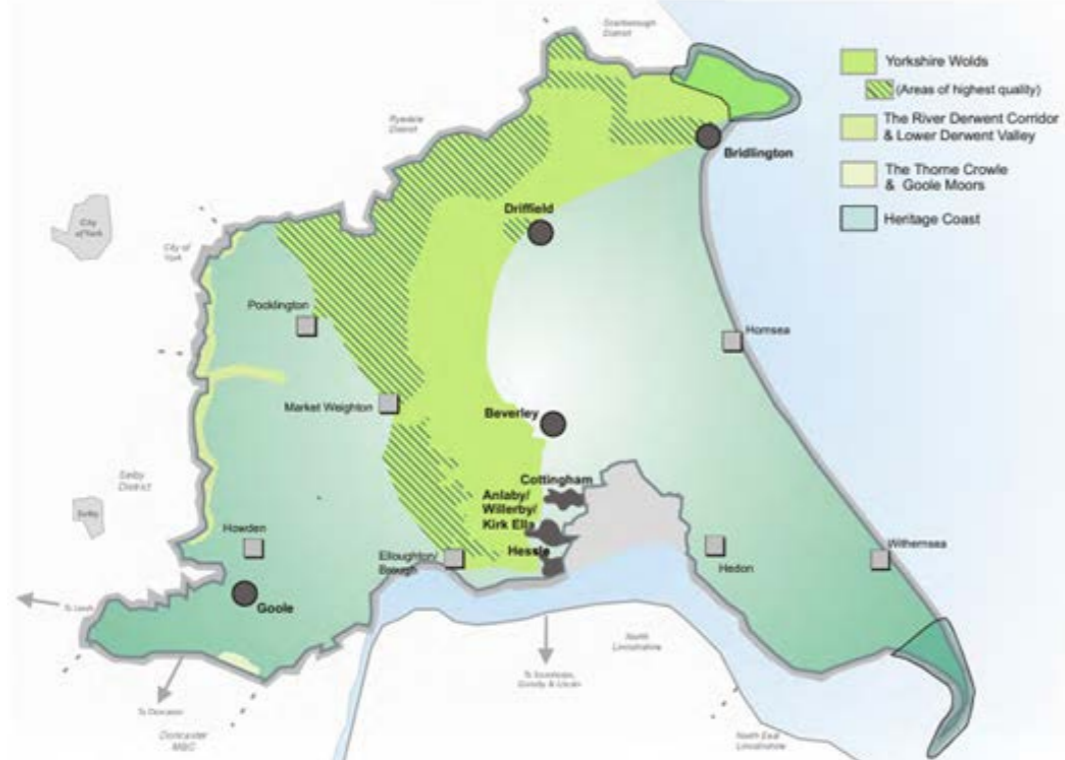
Context

The Yorkshire Wolds ILA is defined by Policy ENV2 of the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12) and its boundary broadly coincides with Natural England’s NCA 27 Yorkshire Wolds (Ref 1.5). At page 10 paragraph 8.32 of the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12), the Yorkshire Wolds are described as follows:

‘The Yorkshire Wolds form an arc of high, gently rolling ground extending from the Humber Estuary west of Hull, to the North Sea coast at Flamborough Head. They comprise a prominent chalk escarpment and foothills rising from the Vale of York to the west, the Vale of Pickering to the north (outside of the East Riding in Ryedale and Scarborough Districts), and falling to the plain of Holderness to the east. The vast majority of the Wolds is agricultural with woodland planting restricted to small, scattered woodland comprising shelterbelts around farmsteads with larger woodland and plantation areas located on the sides of the valleys. The gently, rolling landscape instills a sense of openness and tranquillity provided by expansive views, sparse populations and agriculture’.

The East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12) does however recognise that not all of the Yorkshire Wolds is of the same quality and defines an Area of Highest Quality within the wider Yorkshire Wolds ILA, shown by hatching on the extract (Figure 11) from the Local Plan below. This higher quality landscape covers part of the study area and includes the incised wooded valleys associated with the villages of Brantingham, Welton and Melton.

East Riding Local Plan Figure 11 - Important Landscape Areas (showing areas of highest quality)



Location Map



Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the OS map by permission of OS on behalf of The controller of His Majesty’s Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey. National Grid Electricity - 100024241

Key

- Important Landscape Area
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 275 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Proposed Substation Works

The supporting text within the Local Plan states at page 130, paragraph 8.33 that, *‘Those parts of the Yorkshire Wolds that are considered to be of highest quality tend to be concentrated on the western scarp slope and around Sledmere. On the western scarp slope the landscape is particularly diverse, characterised by a series of dry valleys resulting in a complex landscape made of contrasting characteristics (such as enclosed valleys and open hill tops). The varied landform also results in a sense of enclosure and isolation in the valleys where fields tend to follow contours with hedges marking the upper extent of the steepest area. The areas of lesser quality tend to be less diverse in their characteristics, have fewer features and may have some detractors, such as an urban edge around a larger settlement, which also serves to reduce tranquillity’.*

Although the quality of the landscape varies across the Yorkshire Wolds, the entire Yorkshire Wolds ILA is shown on the Policies Map of the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12), as it is the interactions between the different character types and areas that contribute to character and make the Yorkshire Wolds distinctive.

Key Characteristics

Paragraph 8.34 on page 131 of the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12) identifies the following features as integral to the character of the Yorkshire Wolds:

- *‘The contrasting and varying levels of enclosure and exposure, isolation, and tranquillity.*
- *Diversity of the landscape.*
- *Distinctive features and views.*
- *Field patterns.*
- *Villages and their distinctive character and setting.*
- *The historic importance of the Great Wolds Valley.*
- *Signs of past human activity’.*

Relationship of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA with the Defined Landscape Character

The ILA within the study area encompasses LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland, with LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland forming its eastern boundary and LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland defining its western boundary, as outlined in the East Riding Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.2). A detailed description of the landscape within these LCTs and judgements on their value and susceptibility to change for the Project are provided later in this Appendix.

A summary of the key characteristics, features and land use for the three LCT which cover the Yorkshire Wolds ILA as defined in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.2) is provided below. It should be noted that not all of the characteristics listed are within the landscape study area.

Key characteristics of LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland in the Yorkshire Wolds:

- *‘Sloping landform leading up to the chalk scarp slope of the Wolds.*
- *Undulating topography between 15m and 60m AOD.*
- *Pockets of acidic grass and heathland provide diverse habitats and contrasting appearance among the arable landscape.*
- *Parkland and estate farmland associated with Hotham and Houghton Hall.*
- *Trees scattered in hedgerows and parkland throughout.*
- *Strong hedgerow boundaries reinforce the field pattern as well as contribute to wildlife corridors.*
- *Stone and brick built nucleated villages dispersed across the sloping land are smaller scale than the surrounding open farmland.*
- *Views from elevated land west over the Humberhead Levels and south over the River Humber and east to the Humber Bridge’.*

Key Characteristics of LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland in the Yorkshire Wolds include:

- *‘Sloping landform of the west facing Yorkshire Wolds chalk scarp slope.*
- *Sparsely populated area with villages of North Newbold and Sancton at the bottom of the slope on the boundary with the Jurassic Hills Farmland.*
- *Few scattered large farmsteads.*
- *Minor roads ascending the scarp slope of the Wolds are narrow with hedgerows either side.*
- *Steep sided wooded dales incise the scarp slope of the Wolds.*
- *Brantingham Estate Parkland is a distinctive area.*
- *Contrasting land management of the steep sided grassland dales and flatter arable Wold tops.*
- *Extensive views west over the Jurassic Hills to the Humberhead Levels’.*

Key characteristics of LCT 13: Open, High Rolling Farmland in the Yorkshire Wolds include:

- *‘Elevated rolling landform of the Yorkshire Wolds dip slope falling east.*
- *Large scale open landscape with long distance views and dominated by the sky.*
- *Sparsely populated area with scattered villages and farmsteads.*
- *Large and very large rectilinear regular arable fields.*
- *Fragmented hedgerows that are severely clipped.*
- *Very few trees resulting in an open landscape.*
- *Shelterbelts around farmsteads on the hill tops are a prominent feature.*
- *Pockets of parkland and estate land to the east on the lower slopes provide diversity.*
- *Enclosure roads that conform to the enclosure field pattern alongside older routes are well spaced.*
- *Numerous Public Rights of Way.*
- *South Dalton Church spire is a prominent landmark in the relatively featureless landscape’.*

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National Character Areas

NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds

Context

The Yorkshire Wolds NCA is found north of the Humber Estuary where it forms an arc of high, gently rolling ground. It extends from the Humber Estuary west of Hull, to the North Sea coast at Flamborough Head north of Bridlington. The unifying influence of the underlying chalk gives the Wolds a particularly strong identity. The plateau landscape is large-scale and generally open. Fields are gently rolling with generally well-maintained but sparse hedgerows. Tree and woodland cover is limited, which adds to the sense of openness. The chalk escarpment facing west to the Vale of York and north to the Vale of Pickering is broad and sinuous. In some places, it is intensively farmed but elsewhere woodlands create variety, especially where valleys cut into the scarp. Where the escarpment turns to run due south, it is particularly complex and well-wooded with a strong sense of enclosure. The big skies and a sense of openness high on the Wolds, enhanced by the absence of people and the dark night skies, give a sense of escapism and tranquillity. Where the plateau dips eastwards, long views can be seen over Holderness, while from the scarp slope on the west there are panoramic views out over the Humberhead Levels and Vale of York.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA defined by Natural England (Ref 1.5) are:

- 'A large-scale, expansive, rolling landscape with big skies and long views from the escarpment and plateau, contrasting with the more enclosed, dry, sheltered valleys deeply incised into the Chalk, but with small areas of Lower Cretaceous, Jurassic and Triassic rocks along the western and northern fringes.
- Thin, chalky soils support mainly arable farming, with a pattern of large, regular fields crossed by long, straight drove roads with wide verges dating from Parliamentary enclosures of the 18th century. The arable farmland is a priority area for important farmland bird species, while many of the grass verges have calcareous grassland interest providing valuable wildlife corridors.
- The high chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head, where the land meets the North Sea, are designated as Heritage Coast, for the dramatic landscape and recreation value. It is also a European Marine Site, a Special Protection Area (SPA) for breeding coastal birds, and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for chalk reef and cave interest, with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of geological and geomorphological importance.

- Remnant tracts of sheep-grazed, unimproved or semi-improved calcareous grassland in steep-sided, dry valleys form distinctive landscapes, with hillsides of floristically rich grasslands, which provide specialist habitats for butterflies and moths.
- Woodland cover is generally limited, and often linked to steep slopes within enclosed valleys, although there are a number of estates with more significant woodland areas, including Dalton, Garrowby, Sledmere, Londesborough and Warter Priory. Shelterbelts associated with farmsteads are features on the skyline.
- There are many large estates and designed parklands with large country houses, estate villages, estate woodlands and medieval deer parks.
- Other features include wet flushes, wet meadows and spring-fed fens at the foot of the escarpments, and remnant wetlands and wet meadows adjacent to the chalk streams.
- It is generally a sparsely settled landscape with large, scattered farmsteads on high ground, small villages in valleys and small market towns on fringes. Building materials are predominantly brick with pantiles, but sometimes limestone and chalk.
- Throughout the NCA, there is extensive evidence of a long history of human occupation and landscape change represented by numerous Neolithic, bronze-age and iron-age monuments and medieval settlements.
- A number of chalk, sand and gravel quarries and gravel pits are found throughout the NCA, which are of biodiversity value and provide access for study and education'.

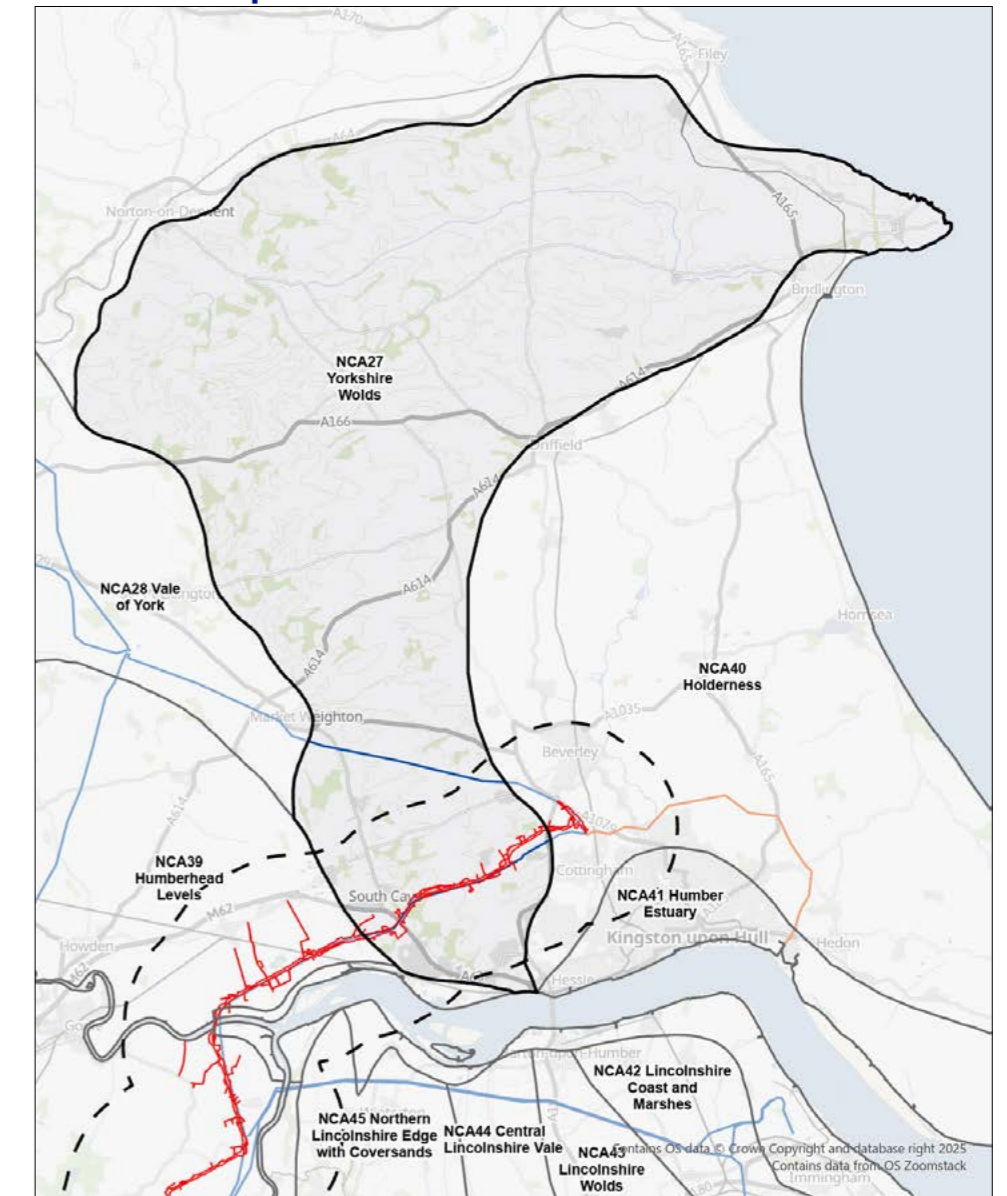
Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 1.5) describes the Yorkshire Wolds as deeply rural with high levels of tranquillity, but under pressure from housing development, wind farms, and extension of chalk quarries. The overall trend for landscape change is stated as 'mixed change, mainly improving'. No reference is made to the influence of the two existing overhead lines which cross the NCA from a point south of Beverley.

Key management objectives include:

- 'Ensuring that significant built developments do not adversely impact on the historic interest, recreational enjoyment and open character of the area, helping to maintain panoramic views

Location Map



Key

- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Existing 275 kV OHL
- ▣ Proposed Substation Works

and a sense of 'escapism' on the distinctive chalk topography, particularly the escarpment'.

NCA 39: Humberhead Levels

Context

The Humberhead Levels NCA is a flat, low-lying and large-scale agricultural landscape. Geometric fields are generally bounded by ditches, and the highly productive agricultural land is maintained by pumping to keep the water table down. There are important road, rail and water routes linking industrial areas to the east with towns including Doncaster, Selby and Goole. Despite these busy areas, there are some very remote and tranquil areas, notably at Thorne and Hatfield Moors and the Lower Derwent Valley. The whole area is characterised by long views and big open skies.

There are several sites of international significance for their biodiversity. These include the lowland peatlands at Thorne and Hatfield Moors and sections of the tidal rivers Ouse and Trent that fall within the designated area of the Humber Estuary. The Isle of Axholme Area of Special Historic Interest (ASHLI) is considered of international significance for its extensive strip field system, while other areas reveal distinct field and drainage patterns linked to past uses and drainage of the area.

The higher ground of the Yorkshire Wolds to the northeast, and to a lesser extent that of the limestone ridge to the west, provide extensive views out across the Levels. Within the NCA, there are long views across the arable landscape to the backdrop of the Wolds. The horizons are punctuated by water towers, major power stations such as Eggborough and the iconic grouping of cooling towers at Drax, and more recently several windfarms. The M18 and M62 cross the area, often on raised embankments, which increase their visibility but also provide views out across the open landscape.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 1.6) defined by Natural England are:

- 'A low-lying, predominantly flat landscape, with large, regular and geometric arable fields without hedges but divided by ditches and dykes, many of which form important habitats and key corridors for species movement.
- Much of the land is at or below mean high-water mark and maintained by drainage, with fertile soils giving rise to one of the most productive areas for root crops and cereals.
- Variations in underlying deposits create differences within the overall flat farmed landscape, including lowland raised mires and lowland heathland, many of which are of international ecological and historical importance.

- Sandy deposits give rise to lowland heath, which in places supports remnant birch and oak woodlands, with some conifer plantations.
- Heavier soils around Fishlake and Sykehouse result in a smaller scale pastoral landscape, with small, thickly hedged fields, ditches and ponds, and a network of small lanes.
- Important historic landscapes include the Isle of Axholme, with evidence of mediaeval open fields, the warps (land enriched by regular silting) near Goole and cables (long thin strip fields) around Thorne.
- Widespread evidence of drainage history, in particular the extensive drainage from the 17th century, revealed through canalised rivers, dykes, old river courses, canals, bridges and pumping stations.
- Views to distant horizons are often long and unbroken, with big expansive skies, and vertical elements like water towers, power stations and wind turbines are very prominent.
- Floodplains, washlands and traditionally grazed alluvial flood meadows (or ings) associated with the major rivers and canals that cross the Levels give rise to important wetland habitats, supporting large numbers of wetland birds and wildfowl, especially over winter.
- The waterlogged soils hold internationally important archaeological and paleo-archaeological deposits.
- Despite settlements, motorways and main roads, there is still a sense of remoteness to be experienced on the Levels, in particular on Thorne and Hatfield Moors and along the Lower Derwent Valley'.

Landscape Change

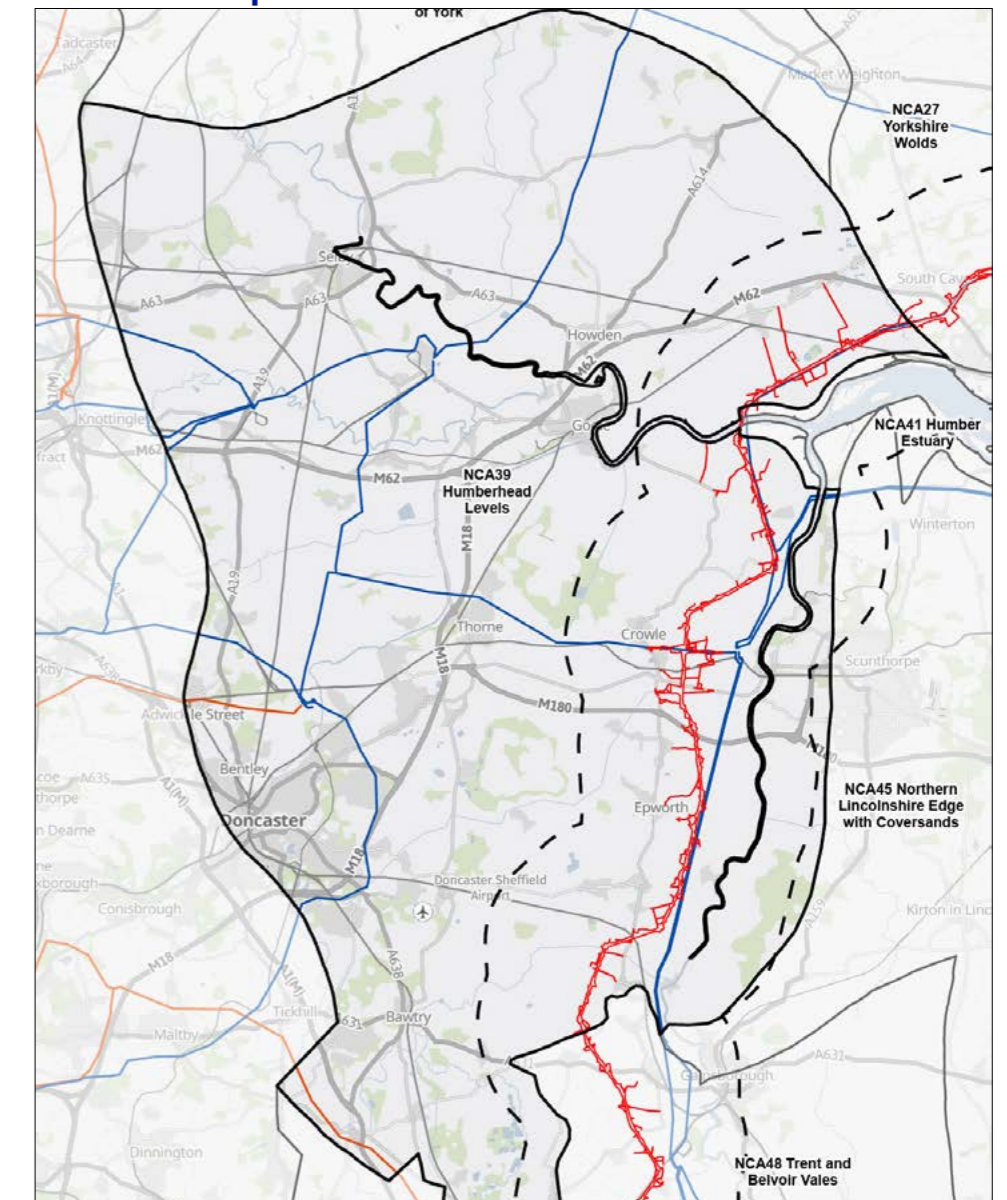
The NCA Profile (Ref 1.6) explains that rural character of the area is under pressure from expansion of housing and industry, including warehousing near the motorways and large agricultural sheds in rural areas, and more recently from windfarm development. There is continued pressure to maintain the agricultural land productivity, as well as finding ways of extending flood storage and floodplains that may lead to the creation of additional wetland habitats.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as 'mainly declining'.

Key management objectives include:

- 'Ensuring that new developments are located and designed with particular consideration for keeping long views open, and limiting the use of native tree and shrub planting to integrate structures

Location Map



Key

- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Existing 275 kV OHL

but without unduly impacting on the open character of the area.

- Avoiding development which would impact on the lowland raised mires, heathlands and floodplain meadows, where there is a particularly strong sense of remoteness and high levels of tranquillity.
- Maintaining the long and unbroken views to distant horizons'.

NCA 40: Holderness

Context

Holderness NCA is a rural, low-lying, undulating plain with the broad, shallow valley of the River Hull flowing southwards through the centre of the NCA towards Hull. The river eventually joins the Humber Estuary where it becomes tidal, enclosed by flood banks, and drains into the North Sea.

An extensive network of rivers, ditches, becks, dykes and canals drains into the River Hull. The river's floodplain is important for food production, with vegetables and root crops grown in the shallow valley and arable farming taking place on higher land in the west and the southeast, near the coast. Fields are generally large and woodland cover sparse. In the Hull Valley, large fields bordered by ditches and dykes with hedgerows on the higher ground, contribute to an open landscape character with long and open views throughout. Where woodlands occur, they provide enclosure and structure, but areas of ancient woodland are limited.

The relatively dispersed nature of settlement instils a sense of tranquillity, which is reinforced by the sparse woodland cover and open views along the coastline. In contrast to this, the coastal areas can be busy in the summer. Settlements are generally located on higher ground, often surrounded by smaller fields. Hamlets and villages are widely dispersed. Some are nucleated while others are linearly distributed along roads. Much of the area is rural with widely dispersed large farmsteads. Beverley is the largest inland settlement in the NCA and is distinctive for its large minster and historic expanses of open access grazing land at Beverley Westwood, Figham and Swinemoor. Beverley Minster is a prominent and widely visible landmark.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 1.7) defined by Natural England are:

- 'A broad, gently undulating plain which is centred on the valley of the River Hull and is drained by a network of canals, ditches and canalised tributaries.
- Long views with arable farmland sloping upwards bounded by the dip slope of the Yorkshire Wolds to the north and west.
- Glacial landscape of boulder clay, gravels and alluvium over chalk with many glacial features including hummocky terrain, moraine-like ridges and kettle holes. Low, rapidly eroding coastline of soft clay cliffs.
- Sparse tree and woodland cover leading to a generally open

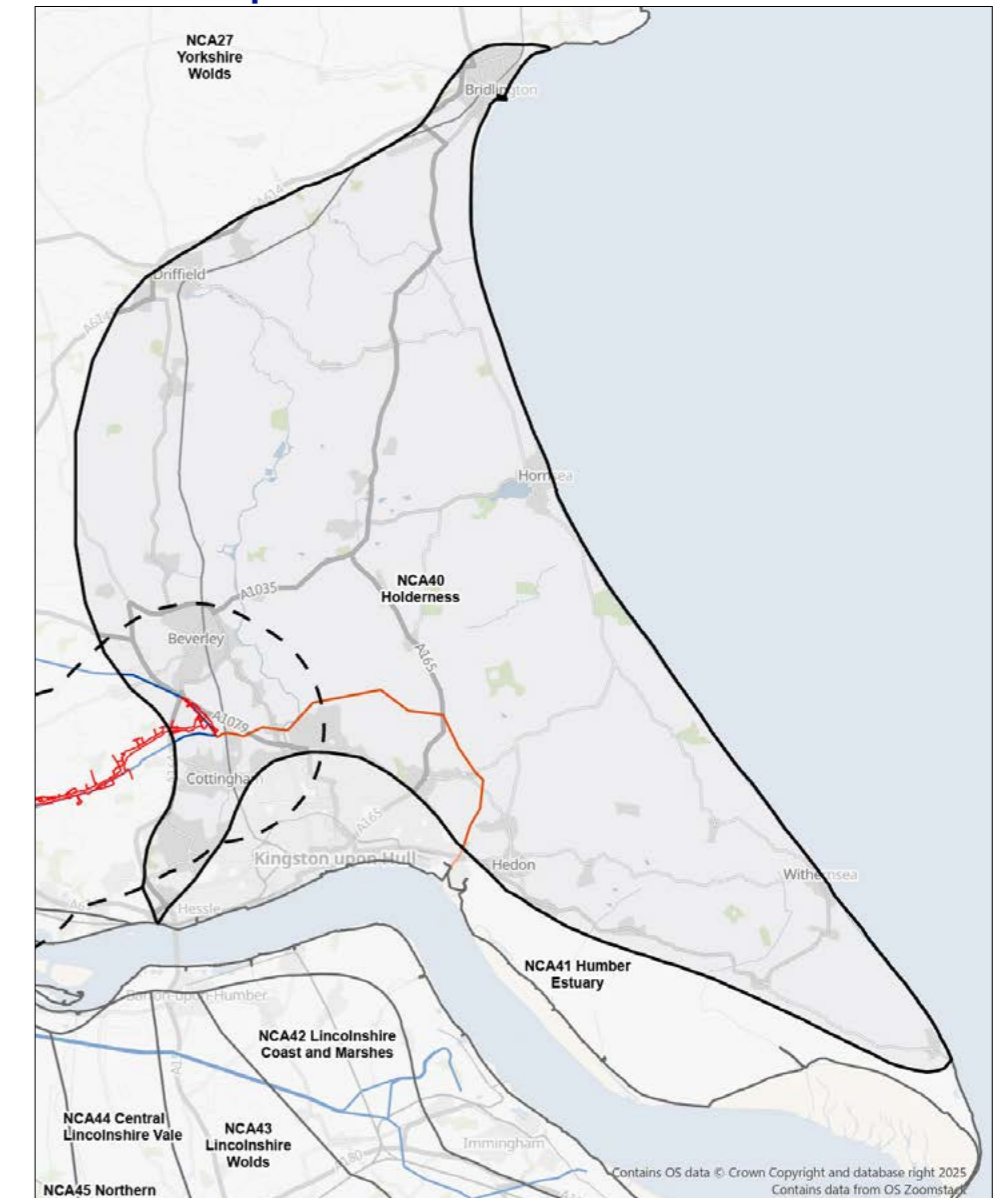
landscape with long views, enclosed by the Wolds to the north and west.

- Large field patterns bounded by drainage ditches on the River Hull floodplain, and hedgerows on higher ground.
- Highly fragmented remnants of semi-natural vegetation including carr, swamp and wet grassland and Hornsea Mere, a large, natural lake designated for its associated habitats and bird species.
- Gently undulating land towards the coastal strip, characterised by arable farmland, wind-pruned trees, holiday homes, caravan parks and some historical sites.
- Inland, the agricultural landscape is separated from the North Sea by a line of soft boulder clay cliffs with long views out to sea along a sweeping coastline with the Chalk headland of Flamborough visible in the north.
- The interaction between different currents at the Flamborough Front provides good feeding grounds for fish, birds and marine mammals.
- A network of minor winding roads and lanes, linking dispersed villages and hamlets, with village churches providing prominent landmarks in the flat landscape. Many villages have a variety of buildings grouped around ponds and village greens.
- The principal towns of Holderness are Driffield, Beverley and the coastal resort of Bridlington, together with the smaller coastal settlements of Hornsea and Withernsea. Part of the urban fringe of the City of Hull extends northwards into Holderness.
- Traditional farmsteads, houses and other buildings characterised by red brick and pantiles. Occasional buildings towards the coast constructed from Holderness cobbles and older buildings including churches often built in limestone.
- Beverley Minster, a large gothic building completed in 1425, and Burton Constable, an Elizabethan country house whose parkland was landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, are key heritage assets'.

Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 1.7) explains that most of Holderness remains deeply rural with high levels of tranquillity found in areas away from the larger settlements and main roads, but there is more recent development on urban fringe areas, such as north of Hull and around Beverley, and along transport routes such as the A614 and A1079.

Location Map



Key

- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Existing 275 kV OHL
- ▣ Proposed Substation Works

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as 'mixed change, mainly declining'.

Key management objectives include 'ensuring that significant built developments do not adversely impact on the open character of the area, helping to maintain viewpoints where there are strong visual links between the chalk ridge of the Wolds and the Holderness plateau as well as sea views from coastal areas' and maintaining the 'high levels of tranquillity found in the rural areas that are associated with farmed landscapes away from larger settlements'.

NCA 41: Humber Estuary

Context

The Humber Estuary NCA cover the open and expansive waters of the Humber and the adjacent low-lying land. This is an estuarine landscape, with extensive stretches of intertidal habitats including mudflats, salt marsh and reedbeds, coastal dunes and wetlands along the side of the estuary. The estuary is of international significance, as a Ramsar site, SPA and SAC. The adjacent land has largely been reclaimed, resulting in large fields bounded by ditches and supporting mainly arable crops. The farmland is low-lying and flat, with few hedgerows and occasional small woodlands sheltering the large farmsteads.

Much of the landscape is open and expansive, with long views and tranquil and remote places, such as Spurn Point, Blacktoft Sands and Skitter Ness, or quiet rural areas dominated by farming. These areas contrast with the large towns such as Hull and Immingham, with the industrial complexes, and with the estuary itself, which is a busy trading route.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 1.8) defined by Natural England are:

- *‘Expansive, flat, low-lying estuarine landscape shaped by the River Humber and its confluence with the Rivers Ouse and Trent.*
- *Chalk bedrock exposed as cliffs where the estuary cuts through the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds.*
- *Predominantly reclaimed, fertile land supporting productive arable farming in large, rectangular fields bordered by dykes, drains, and embankments, with minimal tree cover.*
- *Large, dispersed farmsteads and small villages on higher land are set within a quiet rural landscape.*
- *Internationally significant habitats, including mudflats, salt marshes, and sand dunes, supporting diverse bird species, grey seals, and lampreys.*
- *Vast skies and open views over the estuary and salt marshes, with industrial installations visible, especially on the south bank.*
- *Quiet rural and estuarine areas sharply contrast with urban and industrial influences near Hull, especially on the south bank.*

- *The Humber Bridge affords some of the best views of the estuary.*
- *Wind turbines and pylons are prominent skyline elements’.*

Landscape Change

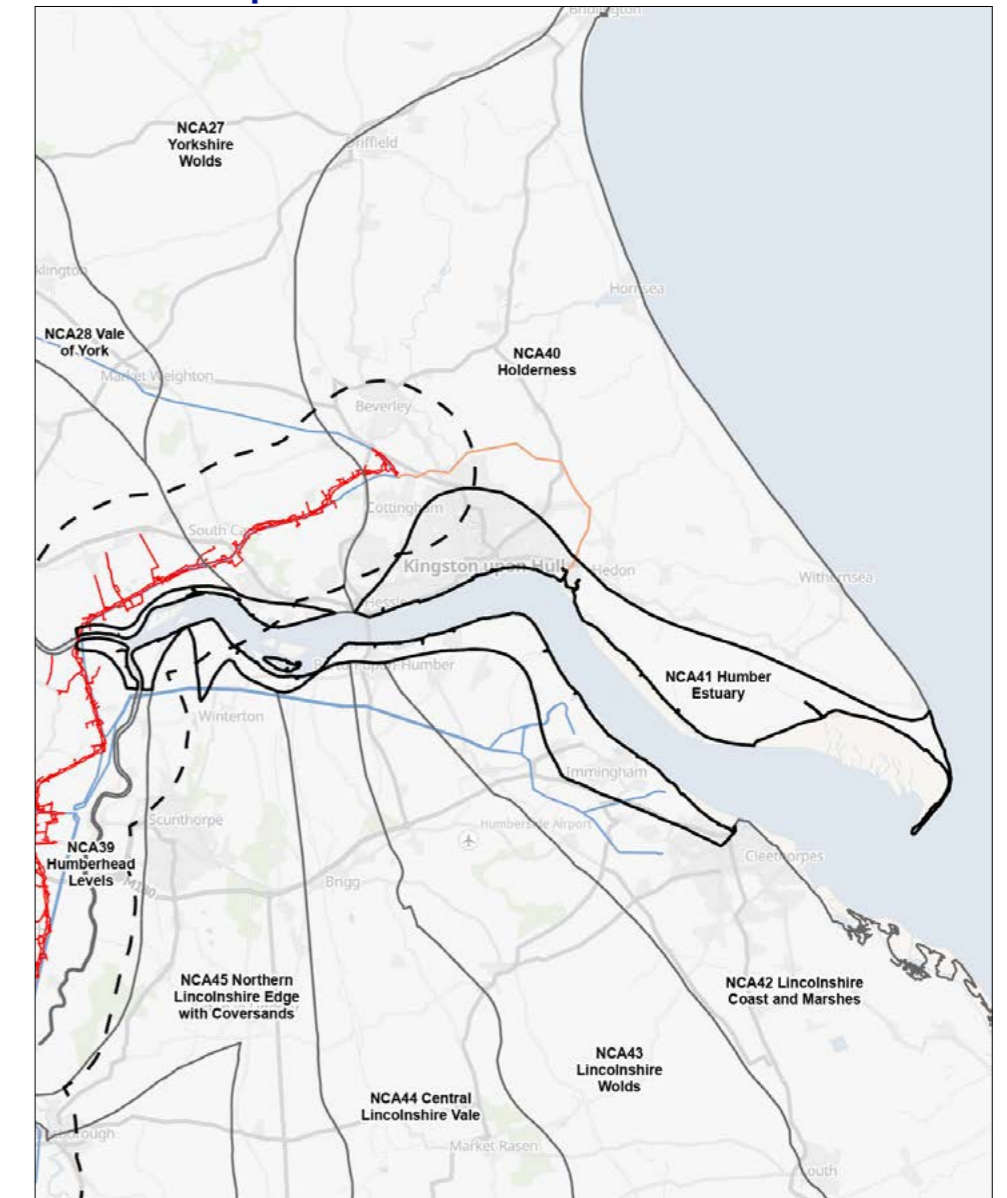
The NCA Profile (Ref 1.8) that the Humber Estuary is subject to strong development pressures from rapid urban regeneration and industry. The expansion of industrial complexes, transport links and urban areas associated with Hull and Immingham has brought with it a loss of tranquillity. The building of motorways and the construction of the Humber Bridge in 1981 have linked the ports and industrial areas with their hinterlands, reducing the separation between the north and south banks and encouraging further development. Increasing presence and pressure for energy schemes and distribution networks may alter the character of the landscape.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *‘mainly improving’*.

Key management objectives include:

- *‘Carefully planning new industrial complexes and structures so that they are integrated into local landscape character, by retaining key views, landscape features and sites of nature conservation value’.*
- *Ensuring that light spill is minimised through careful lighting design, particularly in the more tranquil and undisturbed area.*
- *Avoiding development in remote and tranquil areas’.*

Location Map



Key

- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Existing 275 kV OHL
- ▨ Proposed Substation Works

NCA 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands

Context

The Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands NCA is a notable limestone scarp, or 'Cliff', extending from Whitton on the Humber Estuary to Lincoln, with a second scarp near Scunthorpe formed by calcareous mudstones and ironstone. Rising sharply from the flat farmland of the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales, the wooded scarp offers panoramic views across the Humber Estuary and surrounding vales, with key viewpoints at Alkborough and Scampton. Eastward, the Cliff slopes gently toward the arable farmland in the Vale of Ancholme. Near Scunthorpe, wind-blown sands create the distinct coversands landscape of open heath, acid grassland, and oak-birch woodlands, although much has been lost to agriculture, quarrying, or conifer plantations.

Large woodlands, such as Broughton Far Wood (an SSSI with ash/oak woodland) and Broughton Alder Wood (featuring alder-dominated wet valleys), are found near Broughton and Laughton. Scunthorpe is now characterised by extensive housing and industrial estates, wrapped around the massive sheds, chimneys, lighting columns and other structures of the steelworks. Former ironstone workings have been restored to include open water, scrub, and grassland, while Messingham Sand Quarry SSSI hosts a mix of wetlands, woodland, and sandy heathland.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 1.9) defined by Natural England are:

- *'Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north–south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.*
- *Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.*
- *Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.*
- *Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.*
- *Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields*

and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

- *Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.*
- *Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.*
- *Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north–south route.*
- *Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.*
- *Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.*
- *Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.*
- *Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages'.*

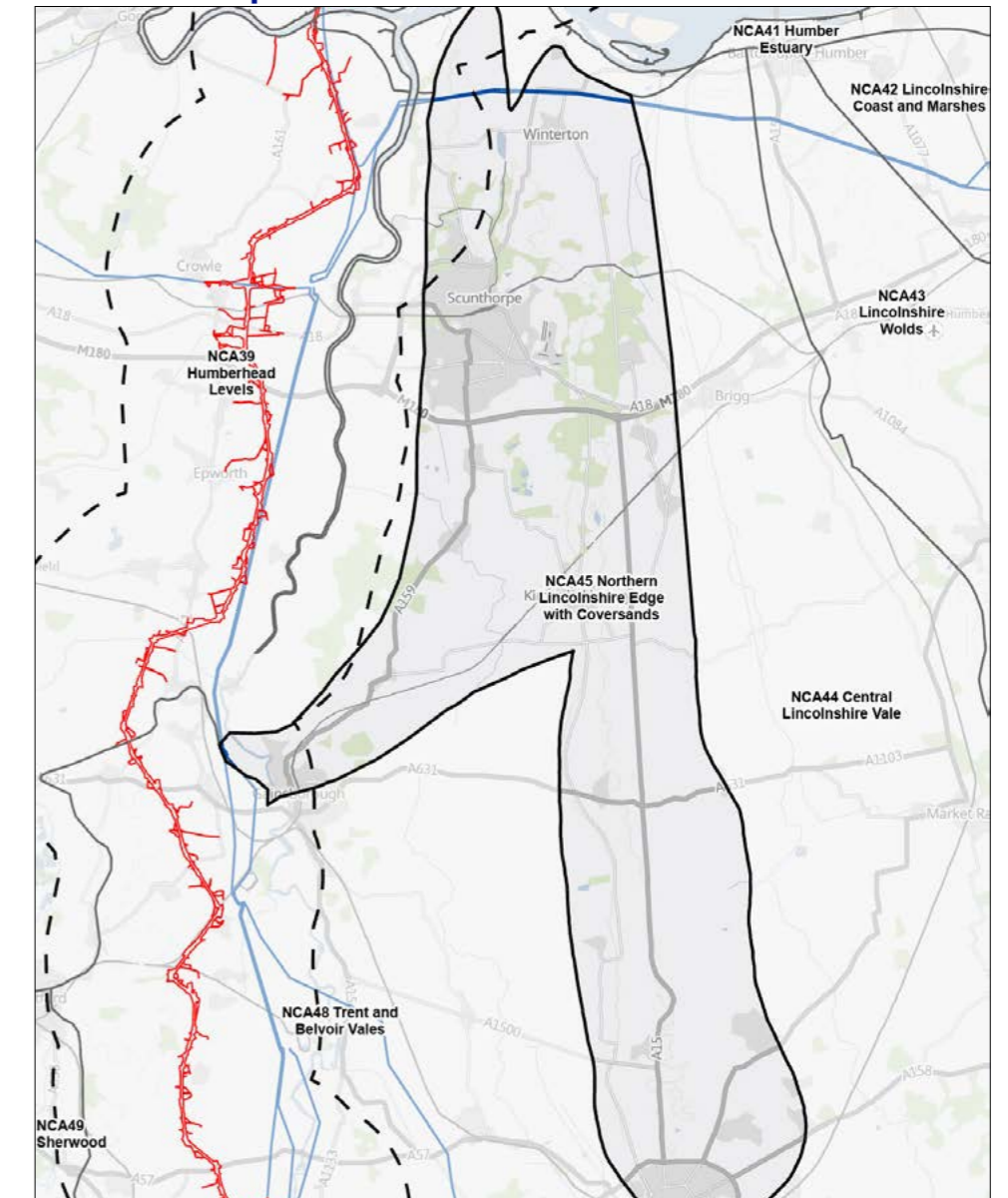
Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 1.9) explains that on the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau. The restoration of ironstone and sand extraction sites often includes semi-natural habitats as well as agricultural land, while some sand extraction continues at Messingham.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *'mainly improving'*.

Key management objectives include *'protecting the sense of place and inspiration by ensuring that accessible viewpoints to enjoy the long-distance views across adjacent National Character Areas from the top of the Cliff are retained'*.

Location Map



Key

- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Existing 275 kV OHL

NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales

Context

The Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology which is accentuated by the overhead lines and former power stations which follow the river.

The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, woodland cover is low and hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, imparting a more fen-like character to the landscape.

The River Trent is defining feature of this NCA but is not prominent in the wider landscape and is often completely hidden from view by flood embankments. The river flows largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, is tightly confined by flood embankments. The Trent is an important corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. Gainsborough is Britain's most inland port with its historic wharfs and warehousing.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 1.10) defined by Natural England are:

- 'A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and floodplains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad floodplain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.'
- The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the floodplains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.
- Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While

much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.

- A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.
- Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of floodplain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.
- Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.
- Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.
- A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.
- The remaining cooling towers of the former coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale'.

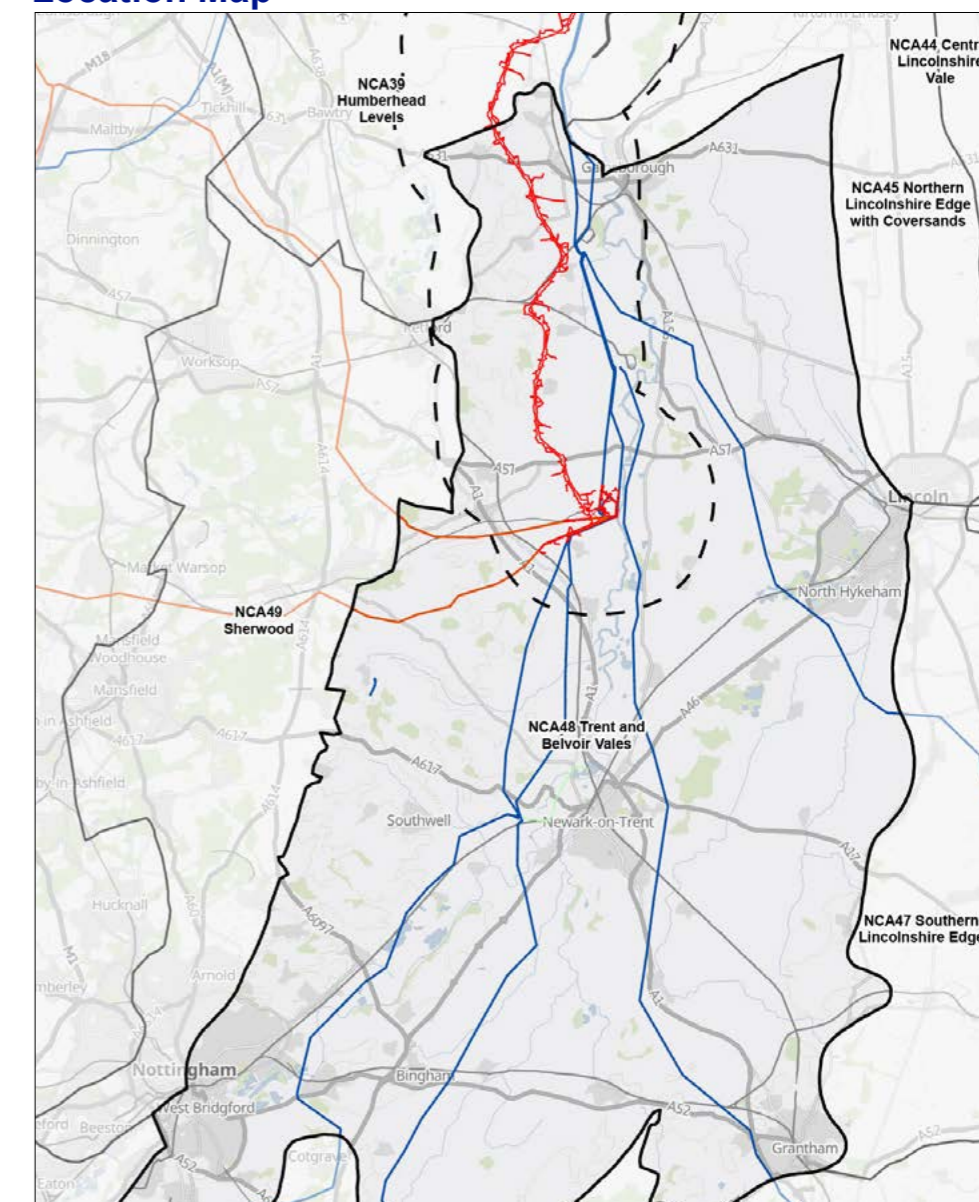
Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 1.10) explains that the Trent and Belvoir Vales is under pressure from solar and battery energy storage developments and associated grid connections.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as 'mixed change'.

Key management objectives include ensuring that 'the prevailing character of the area is able to remain predominantly rural and tranquil'.

Location Map



Key

- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- ▭ Draft Order Limits
- Existing 275 kV OHL
- ▭ Proposed Substation Works

East Riding of Yorkshire

LCT 4: River Corridors

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located between Whitgift and Swinefleet on the River Ouse.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA 4C - River Ouse Corridor Howden Dyke to Trent Reach.

Key Characteristics

- Low lying flat floodplain landscape lying between 0-10 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- Man-made embankments schemes prevent flooding of neighbouring farmland and villages.
- Remnant parkland landscapes at Sandhall, Yokefleet and Saltmarsh Hall and Park.
- Extensive views across the river and neighbouring low-lying farmland, particularly from top of embankments.
- Cultural and historic associations of the villages.
- Several moated sites within the corridor.
- Large-scale industry at Goole does not detract from tranquil and isolated character of the farmland.
- Wind turbines and pylons are prominent skyline elements.

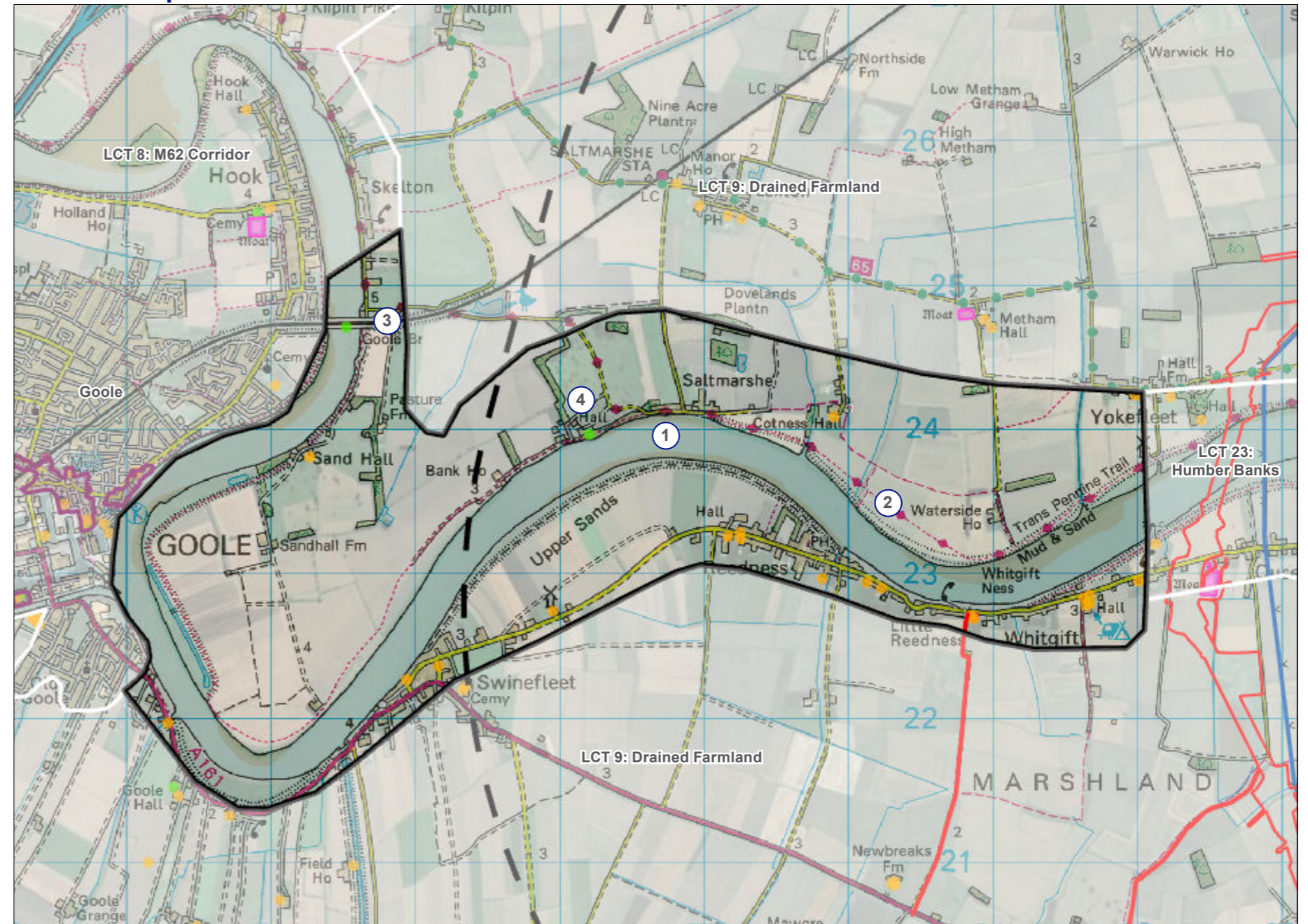
Baseline Description

This LCT includes the River Ouse and adjoining flat open arable farmland. The meandering course of the embankments is very noticeable in the flat rectilinear landscape of arable fields and drainage systems. The LCT includes several linear villages that have developed along the banks of the river, including Saltmarshe and Yokefleet on the north bank and Swinefleet, Reedness and Whitgift on the south bank. These villages have maintained their traditional character and are associated with higher levels of tree cover.

Areas of remnant parkland at Sandhall, and Saltmarshe Hall and Park are particularly distinctive being well-treed overall, including veteran parkland trees. Further remnant parkland can be seen at Yokefleet which has several estate cottages.









Infrastructure on the southern edge of Goole, wind turbines, pylons and Drax Power Station are discordant elements in the expansive views across the low-lying rural landscape.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Conservation Area |  5 km Study Area |
|  Scheduled Monument |  Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Listed Building: |  Draft Order Limits |
|  Grade I | |
|  Grade II | |
|  Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① River Ouse
- ② Trans Pennine Trail
- ③ Doncaster to Hull Railway
- ④ Saltmarshe Hall

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The River Ouse is the unifying feature in the landscape of this LCT and is protected by several important ecological designations (Ramsar, SPA, SAC and SSSI), which contribute to its value and rarity. The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape. There are no Scheduled Monuments, but there are listed buildings in the historic villages, and remnant parklands at Sandhall, Yokefleet and Saltmarsh Hall and Park. Several moated sites reflect early settlement in the area, mainly by religious organisations.

Recreation and tourism are increasingly important in this LCT. The River Ouse, which flows into the Humber, is used by some pleasure craft, and fishing opportunities contribute to the river's recreational appeal. The network of public rights of way includes the Trans Pennine Trail along the river's north bank and National Cycle Route 65.



Saltmarsh Hall and Park on the north bank of the River Ouse
Photo © George Robinson (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be **high**.



Extensive views from the embankments along the River Ouse, the existing 400 kV overhead line visible to the east

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

This is a flat low-lying landscape which has a very distinctive sense of place due to the unifying influence of the River Ouse. The landscape is generally attractive, remote in places and relatively tranquil due to the low density of development and settlement. These elements and features are all susceptible to a new overhead line. A new overhead line would not fundamentally alter the perceptual qualities and character of the landscape across the LCT, but it would locally compound the effects of the existing wind turbines and pylons on views.

The sense of remoteness and tranquillity would be further reduced. The landscape setting and views to and from the historic elements

associated with the landscape including the parklands are also susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		High
Scenic quality		High
Conservation interests		High
Recreation value		High
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	Low	
Associations	Low	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	Low	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		High
Scale		High
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		High
Human influence		High
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

LCT 8: M62 Corridor

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area extends along the M62 corridor. The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA 8B - M62 Corridor - Gilberdyke to South Cave.

Key Characteristics

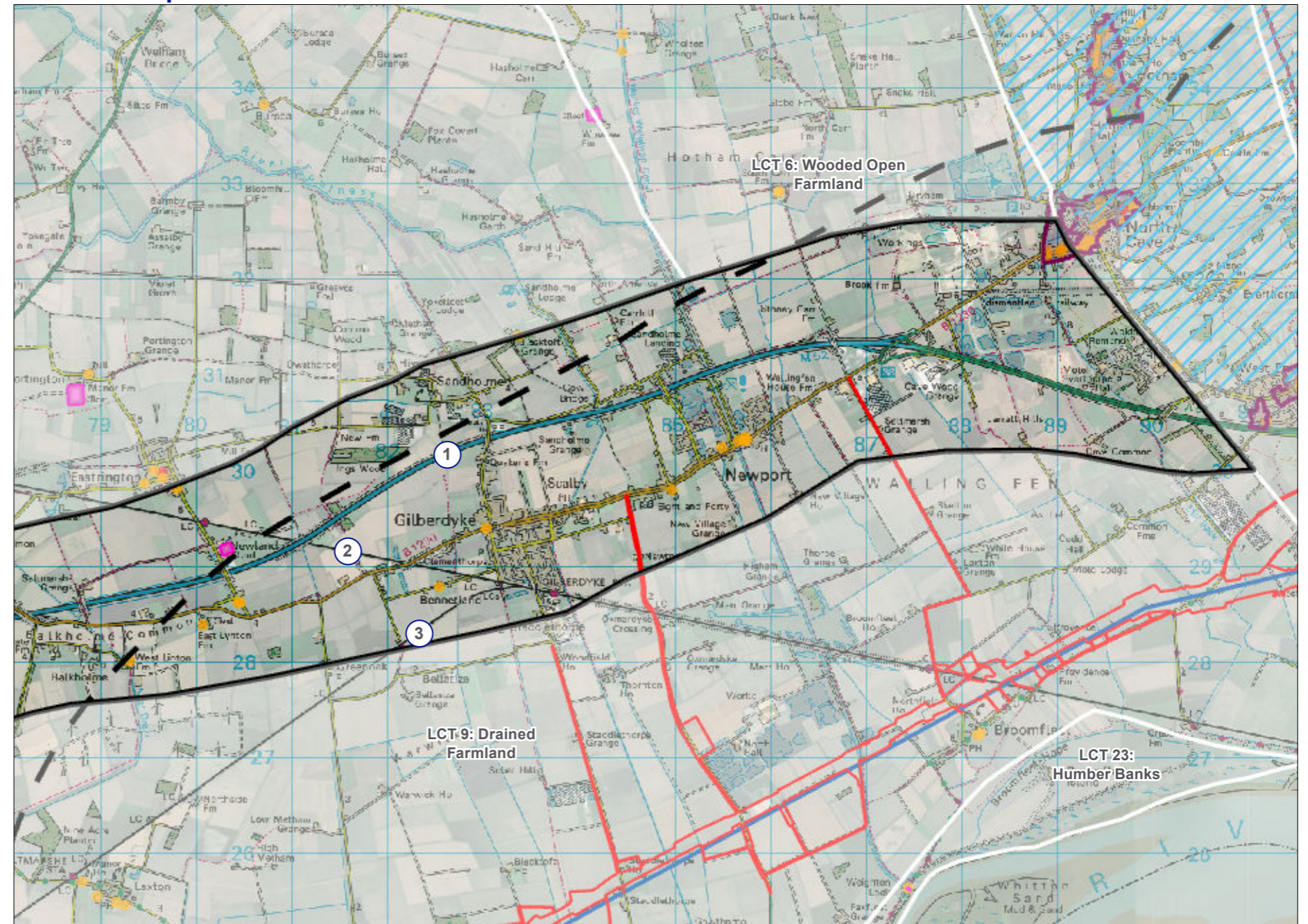
- Flat, low-lying farmland fragmented by settlement, industry and transport corridors.
- Open views, especially from the slightly elevated motorway.
- Linear settlement along transport routes with scattered farmsteads.
- Tree and woodland cover along roads and railways.
- Hedgerow field boundaries in varying conditions.
- Varied field sizes and patterns along the corridor.
- Commercial development of varying scales along the corridor including large-scale horticultural development northeast of Goole.
- Wind turbines and pylons are prominent skyline elements.
- Long-distance views to landmarks including Howden Minster, Boothferry Bridge, and the M62 Bridge.

Baseline Description

This LCT extends along the M62 corridor and includes the farmland either side of the motorway corridor, and the large villages of Newport and Gilberdyke located on the B1230 which runs parallel and to the south of the motorway. The farmland comprises large to medium sized rectilinear arable fields defined by a network of drainage ditches. Scattered farmsteads are found away from the villages. Woodland and tree cover is sparse and mainly concentrated along road corridors particularly at motorway junctions and where bridges cross the motorway.

The character of the farmland is shaped by the nearby settlements of Newport and Gilberdyke, as well as the surrounding agricultural, horticultural, and commercial developments. This includes significant industrial expansion around M62 Junction 38 near Newport. A large-scale sand and gravel extraction site west of North Cave and several waterbodies, including fishing ponds at Newport, are the result of former mineral extraction. The landscape offers long views toward landmark buildings in Goole and Howden. However, the skyline is also dominated by the several windfarms, while the existing 400 kV overhead line to the south further impacts the visual character of the LCT.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Important Landscape Area |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| • Grade I | Draft Order Limits |
| • Grade II | |
| • Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① M62
- ② Selby to Hull Railway
- ③ Doncaster to Hull Railway

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This is primarily a rural landscape which has been fragmented by various transport corridors, most notably the M62, together with other main roads, railway lines, and watercourses.



The M62 is the defining feature of this LCT
Photo © DS Pugh (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Large horticultural buildings near Gilberdyke and Newport, together with extensive sand and gravel extraction west of North Cave, further disrupt the landscape, acting as detractors that weaken the area's rural character. Despite these developments, pockets of farmland continue to retain a sense of tranquillity and rural identity.

While the area holds no significant ecological value, historic elements such as the North Cave Conservation Area and the Moated Site at Newland Farm (Scheduled Monument) provide some cultural and historic interest. Recreational value beyond local public rights of way is limited.

The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be low .	

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **low**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The existing transport infrastructure, commercial industry, overhead line, and associated low levels of landscape management reduce its overall susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line, as the scenic quality and perceptual character have already been compromised across much of the LCT. However, certain aspects remain more vulnerable. These include the long views to landmark features and the landscape setting around the North Cave Conservation Area. Additionally, the more rural and tranquil areas of farmland retain a susceptibility to the visual effects of a new overhead line, where the impact could further disrupt the remaining sense of tranquillity and rural character.



The M62 as it crosses the River Ouse near Goole
Photo © Ian S (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	



Drainage ditches are a common feature in the farmland around the motorway

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

LCT 9: Drained Open Farmland

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located either side of the River Ouse.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- NCA 41 - Humber Estuary
- LCA 9C - Twin Rivers Farmland
- LCA 9D - Blackloft and Laxton Farmland
- LCA 9E - Walling Fen and Ellerker Sands Farmland.

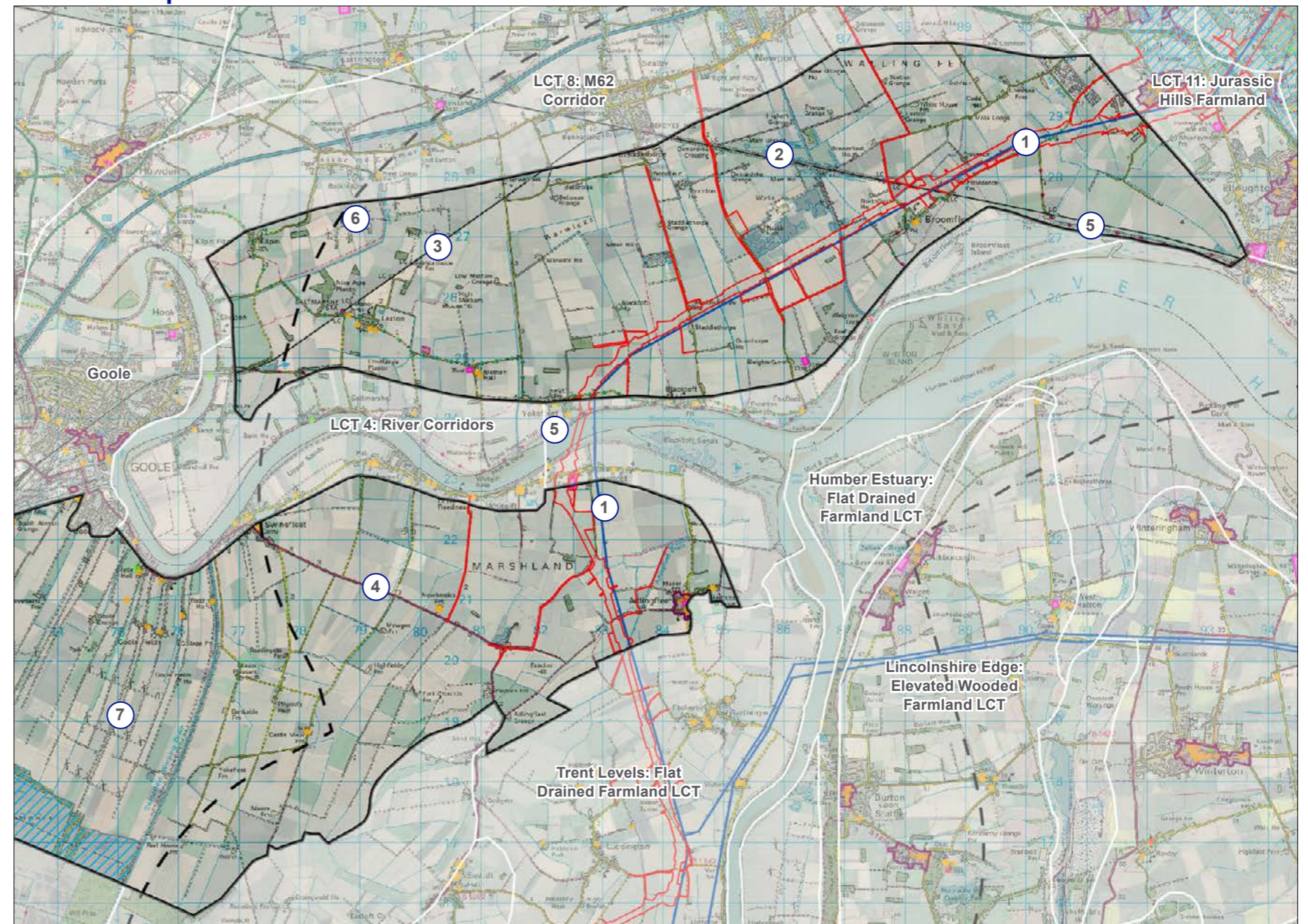
Key Characteristics

- Low lying and flat landform ranging from 0-10 m AOD.
- Intensive large-scale arable farmland drained by a series of linear ditches and warping drains.
- Sparse settlement with linear villages concentrated along the river corridor.
- Windmills are visible in some villages on the south bank of the River Ouse.
- Sparse woodland and tree cover resulting in an open landscape with long distance views over large areas of flat arable land.
- Combination of fragmented hedgerows and drainage ditches form field boundaries.
- Long linear field pattern unique to Goole Fields reflecting historic farming methods.
- Extensive views across the flat open landscape.
- Several large wind farms dominate skyline views.
- Overhead lines and Drax Power Station are also visible.

Baseline Description

This LCT forms part of the Humberhead Levels, a distinctive area of intensive arable farmland which has been shaped by artificial drainage over many centuries. A network of embanked watercourses, dykes and ditches, occasionally marked by hedgerows and hedgerow trees defines a pattern of large, geometric and open fields. To the east of Goole, the field pattern is less linear and less regular indicating that the fields have been amalgamated to make larger units for farming. Goole Fields and to some extent Twin Rivers, display a distinctive linear field pattern that contrasts with the other field patterns in the area. Tree cover is sparse and where

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Important Landscape Area |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| • Grade I | Draft Order Limits |
| • Grade II | |
| • Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② Doncaster to Hull Railway
- ③ Goole to Gilberdyke Railway
- ④ A161
- ⑤ Trans Pennine Trail
- ⑥ Sixpenny Wood Wind Farm
- ⑦ Goole Fields Wind Farm

present, located along field boundaries as feature trees or small woodland blocks associated with farmsteads and villages. Small villages are located close to the River Ouse, including Ousefleet, Adlingfleet, Broomfleet and Laxton. Elsewhere settlement comprises isolated farmsteads and residential properties which are often accessed by long private tracks or roads. Away from settlement and infrastructure, the farmland is remote and quiet with a strong character owing to the simplicity and robust nature of its features, including the flat topography and large rectilinear fields. Wind turbines and pylons are prominent in parts of the LCT.



This existing 400 kV overhead line is a feature to the east of the LCT

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This LCA comprises a flat, low-lying and large-scale agricultural landscape that is remote and unique. The landscape quality of this area is assessed as good due to its strong sense of place, the value placed on its openness and the historic land use pattern which is expressed through its peat remains, drainage structure and field systems. The westernmost part of this LCT is within the

Thorne and Crowle Moors, an area of former peat extraction which is afforded SSSI, SPA and SAC status. The moors are also part of the wider Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve (NNR) and, together with the Hatfield Moors, are one of the largest lowland raised bogs in Britain. Although today it feels remote, peaceful and largely inaccessible, the Thorne and Crowle Moors area has been exploited for peat at least since the medieval period. Scheduled Monuments include moated sites at Metham Hall Farm, Hall Garth, Faxfleet Hall and Adlingfleet Medieval Rectory. The village of Adlingfleet has a Conservation Area.

The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

The Humberhead Peatlands NNR has waymarked trails and parking facilities and is crossed by the Peatlands Way. Elsewhere recreational access is more limited although National Cycle Route 65 passes through the LCT.



Sixpenny Wood Wind Farm
Photo © Jonathan Thacker (cc-by-sa/2.0)

The Thorne, Crowle and Goole Important Landscape Area (ILA) identified in the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12) is located in this LCT and is of high landscape quality, not only because of its historic and ecological value but also because of its rarity. Philip Larkin regularly visited the villages in this area, most notably Laxton, Kiplin and Broomfleet from where he took inspiration from the landscape in his poetry.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in the Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape has a strong character owing to the scale and simplicity of its features, including the flat topography and large rectilinear field pattern. Wind turbines and overhead lines are prominent throughout. A new overhead line would add to the influence of existing infrastructure but would not fundamentally alter the quality and character of the landscape. Other aspects of the landscape that are highly susceptible to the Project include the natural environment and cultural and recreational features associated with the Thorne, Crowle and Goole ILA and the Humberhead Peatlands NNR. Additionally, the landscape setting and views to and from the Scheduled Monuments, as well as the Adlingfleet Conservation Area, are particularly vulnerable. The long, open views across the flat, agricultural landscape are susceptible to overhead line development that could significantly alter the visual character and disrupt the expansive rural views that define this area.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		High
Scenic quality	Medium	
Conservation interests		High
Recreation value		High
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		High
Associations		High
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		Medium
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	Medium	
Scale	Medium	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		Medium
Human influence		Medium
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area extends along the A63 where it forms the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 27 - Yorkshire Wolds
- LCA 11B - Intermediate Sloping Farmland.

Key Characteristics

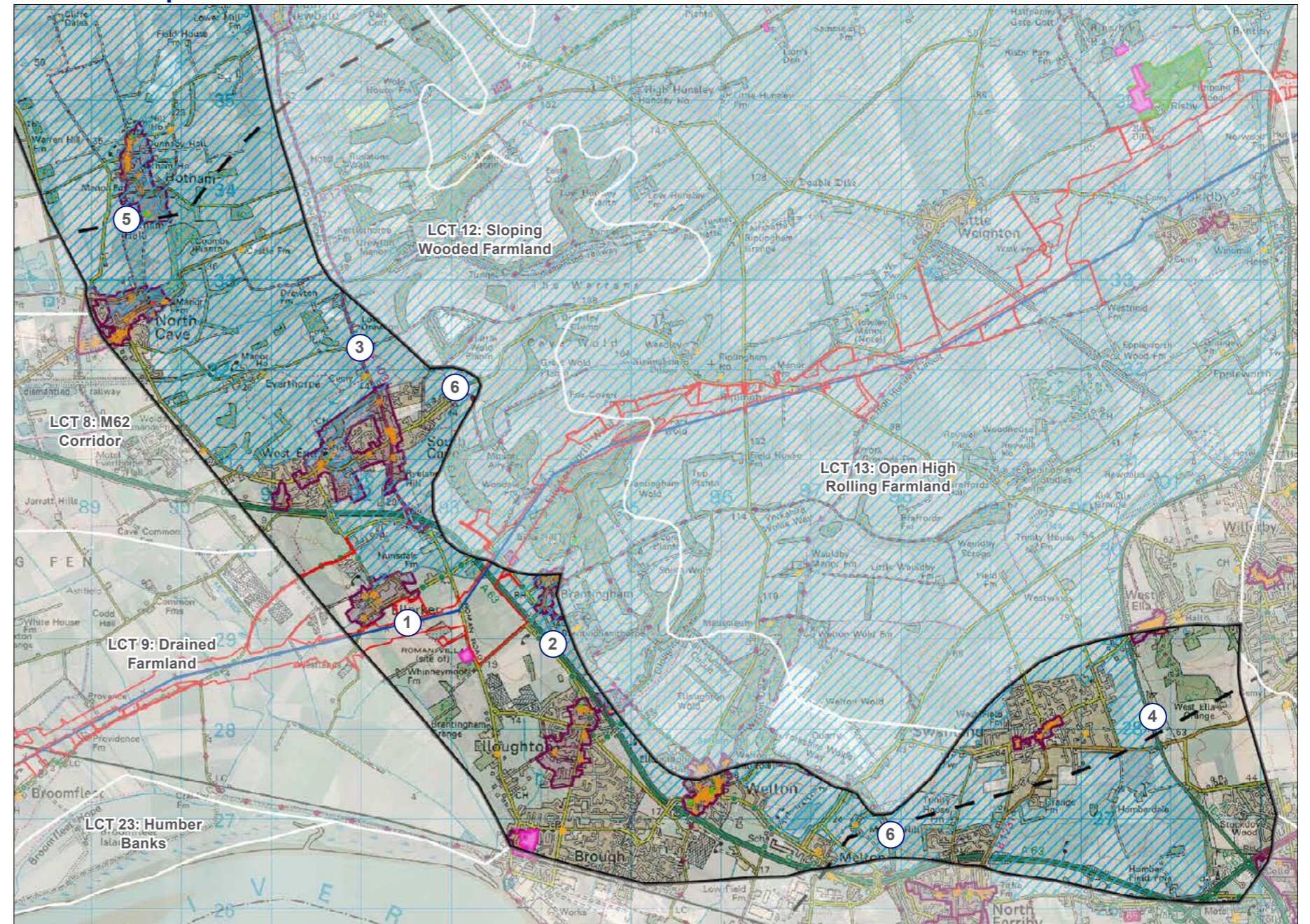
- Varied rising landform leading up to the chalk scarp slope of the Yorkshire Wolds.
- Undulating topography between 15-60 m AOD.
- Pockets of acidic grass and heathland provide diverse habitats and contrast with the arable farmland.
- Parkland and estate farmland associated with Hotham Hall.
- Intact hedgerows and hedgerow trees reinforce the field pattern and give the area a wooded quality.
- Narrow lanes often with hedges either side.
- Stone and brick built nucleated villages have a strong sense of place as a result of their vernacular and their setting in the rural landscape.
- Panoramic westerly views over the Humberhead Levels and south across the River Humber.
- Recreational facilities such as golf courses and playing fields are common in urban fringe areas.
- Detractors include the A63 dual carriageway, the existing 400 kV overhead line, settlement expansion and large-scale buildings associated with commercial horticulture.

Baseline Description

This LCT extends along the southwestern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds between Hotham and Swanland. The land is predominantly arable with some pastures close to settlement and around the occasional dispersed farmsteads. Development associated with the horticultural industry is dispersed across the LCT.

Field pattern varies with medium sized regular shaped fields which become larger towards the east and south of the LCT are bordered by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. Tree cover comprises small fragmented woodland, plantation woodland and linear tree belts along roads and boundaries, increasing towards the larger settlements.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Registered Park and Garden |
| Scheduled Monument | Important Landscape Area |
| Listed Building: | 5 km Study Area |
| • Grade I | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| • Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| • Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② A63
- ③ A1034
- ④ A164
- ⑤ Hotham Hall
- ⑥ Yorkshire Wolds Way

Settlement expansion in recent years has influenced parts of this LCT as has development associated with commercial horticulture which has led to a significant change in the character of land around some of the villages. The A63 dual carriageway is a detractor and development along its corridor has resulted in the loss of key landscape features and fragmentation of landscape pattern. A further detractor is the existing 400 kV overhead line which crosses the LCT between Brantingham and Ellerker.



Brantingham is located at the base of the scarp slope which forms the northern edge of this LCT

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This is a diverse landscape on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds. Much of the northern part of the LCT is highly scenic and designated as part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12). Development pressure across the southern part of the LCT has however led to the loss of much of its traditional rural character and there is only limited green space left separating the settlements of Elloughton cum Brough, Welton, Melton and North Ferriby. Hotham Meadow SSSI, Everthorpe Quarry SSSI and Melton Bottom Chalk Pit SSSI are of geological and natural environment

interest. Historic and cultural interest is provided by the site of a Roman Villa (Scheduled Monument) north of Elloughton, Hotham Hall and conservation areas at North Cave, South Cave, Ellerker, Brantingham, Elloughton cum Brough and Welton North Ferriby. The public right of way network includes short sections of the Yorkshire Wolds Way (National Trail which forms part of the European Long Distance Path E2), High Hunsley Circuit, Beverley 20 Footpath and National Cycle Route 65.



Hotham Hall
Photo © Jennifer Petrie (cc-by-sa/2.0)

The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **high**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The susceptibility of the landscape to a new overhead line reflects the influence of settlement and associated infrastructure on the agricultural landscape. The more scenic, tranquil and remote areas which are typically found to the north of the LCT are more susceptible to new overhead line development than the more urban and less scenic areas which are more commonly found to the south of the LCT and along the A63 corridor. Here, a new overhead line would add to the influence of existing infrastructure but would not fundamentally alter the quality and character of the landscape.

The landscape setting and views to and from the historic elements and features in the landscape are susceptible to visual intrusion. Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.



The existing 400 kV overhead line passes to the east and south of Ellerker and is visible from within the settlement

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located on the west facing scarp slope of the Yorkshire Wolds above North Cave and South Cave.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 27 - Yorkshire Wolds
- LCA 12A - South West Facing Sloping Wolds Farmland
- LCA 12B - Brantingham Thorpe.

Key Characteristics

- Sloping landform of the west facing Yorkshire Wolds scarp slope.
- Varied landform ranging from approximately 30-140 m AOD, with enclosed intimate dales and open elevated farmland above.
- Sparsely populated area with villages of Brantingham and Welton at the bottom of the slope on the boundary with the Jurassic Hills Farmland LCT.
- Occasional dispersed farmsteads.
- Steep sided wooded dales incise the scarp slope of the Wolds.
- Small, narrow roads wind their way through the wooded dales following the natural curves and rises of the landform as they ascend towards the elevated farmland.
- Contrasting land management of the steep sided dales and flatter arable farmland above.
- Brantingham Estate Parkland is a distinctive landscape.
- Elevated views west and southwest over the Humberhead Levels.

Baseline Description

This LCT occupies part of the southwest facing slope of the Yorkshire Wolds above the Jurassic Hills Farmland LCT. Topography is varied with steep sided and wooded dales incising the scarp slope. Small, narrow roads wind northwards up the dales towards the elevated plateau farmland which is characterised by gently rolling farmland with blocks of deciduous and coniferous woodland following the contours. Hedgerow field boundaries are in varying condition. Around the larger arable fields, hedgerows are generally fragmented and severely clipped or missing altogether. Hedgerow trees are rare particularly at higher elevations. Settlements include parts of Brantingham and Welton and a few scattered farmsteads on the higher ground. The main settlement is the small village of Brantingham which is located at the bottom of a steep sided valley north of the village. To the south of the village, the landscape of Brantingham Thorpe Park is distinctive

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Registered Park and Garden |
| Scheduled Monument | Important Landscape Area |
| Listed Building: | 5 km Study Area |
| • Grade I | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| • Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| • Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② Yorkshire Wolds Way
- ③ A1034
- ④ Mount Airey
- ⑤ Bilks Hill
- ⑥ Quarry

because of the parkland trees and estate woodland associated with Brantingham Dale.

The landscape overall is a mixture of farmland and natural features, with the varied topography affording scenic westerly views. Much of the landscape is remote and tranquil although the western edge of the LCT experiences some noise and visual disturbance from traffic on the A63 dual carriageway. The existing 400 kV overhead line that descends the dale north of Bilks Hill and some commercial horticultural developments are also local detractors.



The existing 400 kV overhead line is backdropped in many views which reduces its prominence

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This LCT is part of the distinctive and scenic rolling Yorkshire Wolds landscape. It is highly scenic and provides a rural backdrop to the settlements at the base of the scarp slope. The importance of the landscape is reflected in its designation as part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12). The area presents a range of habitats ranging from the grassland on the steep sided dales to the woodlands and hedgerows. Three SSSI – Drewton Lane Pits, Melton Bottom Chalk Pits and Brantingham Dale

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

are in the LCT within the study area and provide geological and natural environment interest. Brantingham Village and Brantingham Thorpe Estate Parkland impart historic and cultural interest. A strong network of public rights of way includes the Yorkshire Wolds Way, (National Trail which forms part of the European Long Distance Path E2), Beverley 20 Footpath, High Hunsley Circuit, and National Cycle Routes 65 and 164. The Yorkshire Wolds Way follows the edge of the Wolds and affords long views out across the Humberhead Levels to the west.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **high**.



The Yorkshire Wolds Way passes under the existing 400 kV overhead line at Woodale and is prominent in the expansive westerly views

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape is distinctive and attractive and has limited built development which reinforces its remote and tranquil character. Aspects of the landscape which are of higher susceptibility to overhead line development include the contrast of the large scale

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

and gently undulating arable farmland and the relatively small-scale and intimate character of the wooded dales. These qualities could be diminished by the presence of a new 400 kV overhead line with adverse consequences for the character and quality of the landscape within the LCT.



The scarp slope forms the backdrop to many views from the south and west

Views from settlements to the west, notably Ellerker and Brantingham, are susceptible to additional overhead line development, although a new overhead line would not fundamentally alter the perceptual qualities and character across much of the LCT. The landscape setting and views to and from the historic elements associated with Brantingham and Brantingham Thorpe Estate Parkland are also highly susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located to the west of Beverley on the east facing dip slope of the Yorkshire Wolds.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 27 - Yorkshire Wolds
- LCA 13C - South Wolds Rolling Farmland.

Key Characteristics

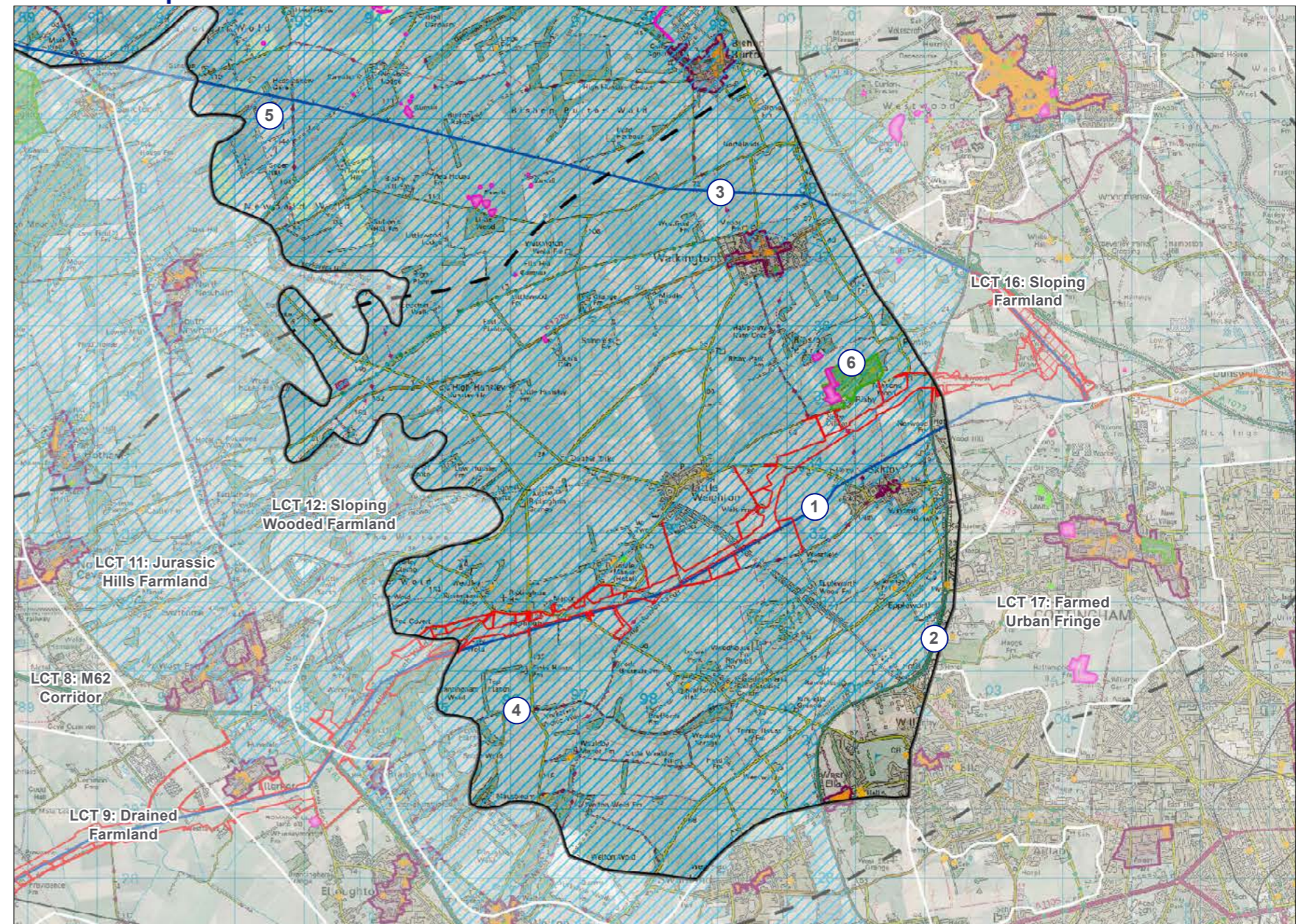
- Elevated rolling landform of the Yorkshire Wolds dip slope between 30-160 m AOD sloping down to the east.
- Open landscape with long views and expansive skies.
- Sparsely populated area with scattered villages and farmsteads often associated with a higher tree cover.
- Shelterbelts around farmsteads on the hill tops are prominent.
- Large and very large rectilinear arable fields.
- Clipped and often fragmented hedgerows.
- Very few trees or woodlands resulting in an open landscape.
- Pockets of parkland and estate land to the east on the lower slopes provide visual diversity.
- Enclosure roads that conform to the enclosure field pattern alongside older routes are well spaced.

Baseline Description

The Open High Rolling Farmland LCT covers the western dip slope of the Wolds and comprises mainly rolling arable farmland. Fields are generally rectilinear in pattern, becoming more piecemeal towards the west and smaller towards the southeast. The farmland contains little woodland or tree cover except for small shelterbelts around farmsteads and three small areas of replanted ancient woodland.

Small, nucleated settlements linked by a network of minor roads are dispersed throughout the LCT. Some farmsteads are isolated and tend to be located on the higher ground. Wind turbines, communications masts and pylons are the main detractors in this LCT, but these do not weaken the strong sense of rural Wolds character.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Registered Park and Garden |
| Scheduled Monument | Important Landscape Area |
| Listed Building: | 5 km Study Area |
| Grade I | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade II | Existing 275 kV OHL |
| Grade II* | Draft Order Limits |
| | Proposed Substation Works |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② A164
- ③ High Hunsley Circuit
- ④ Yorkshire Wolds Way
- ⑤ Sancton Hill and Sober Hill Wind Farms
- ⑥ Risby Hall Registered Park and Garden

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This LCT is part of the distinctive and highly scenic Yorkshire Wolds landscape. Its importance is also recognised in its designation as part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12). Conservation interests include Melton Bottom Chalk Pits SSSI and Brantingham Dale SSSI which overlap the western edge of this LCT.

Recreational use is an important characteristic of this LCT and the many public rights of way include the Yorkshire Wolds Way (National Trail which forms part of the European Long Distance Path E2), Beverley Footpath 20, High Hunsley Circuit and National Cycle Routes 1, 66 and 164. The Yorkshire Wolds Secret Arts Trail, a mobile web-based application, covers the landscape within this LCT.



The elevated landform and limited woodland cover allows for long views where big skies are a key characteristic

Cultural features include Risby Hall Registered Park and Garden which includes a Scheduled Monument. Located on the eastern edge of the LCT, Risby Hall with its Jacobean gardens is valued for its high historic and landscape value. The settlements of Walkington,

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Skidmore and West Ella have historical and architectural importance and have designated Conservation Areas.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **high**.



The existing 400 kV overhead line crosses this LCT between Risby Park and Riplingham

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The high quality of the landscape and its strong sense of place are susceptible to new overhead line development. Two 400 kV overhead lines cross the LCT and there are several wind turbine developments. While these are detractors, they do not weaken the integrity of the Wolds landscape or the strong sense of character of the area as a whole. An additional overhead line would not fundamentally alter the strong sense of rural character. It would however be an additional skyline feature, which would impact on scenic quality and the setting and views to/from the historic elements in the landscape which are highly susceptible to visual intrusion.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Based on the above and the judgements made against factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

LCT 16: Sloping Farmland

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located on the west and south side of Beverley.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 40 - Holderness
- LCA 16C - Beverley Westwood
- LCA 16F - Beverley Parks Farmland.

Key Characteristics

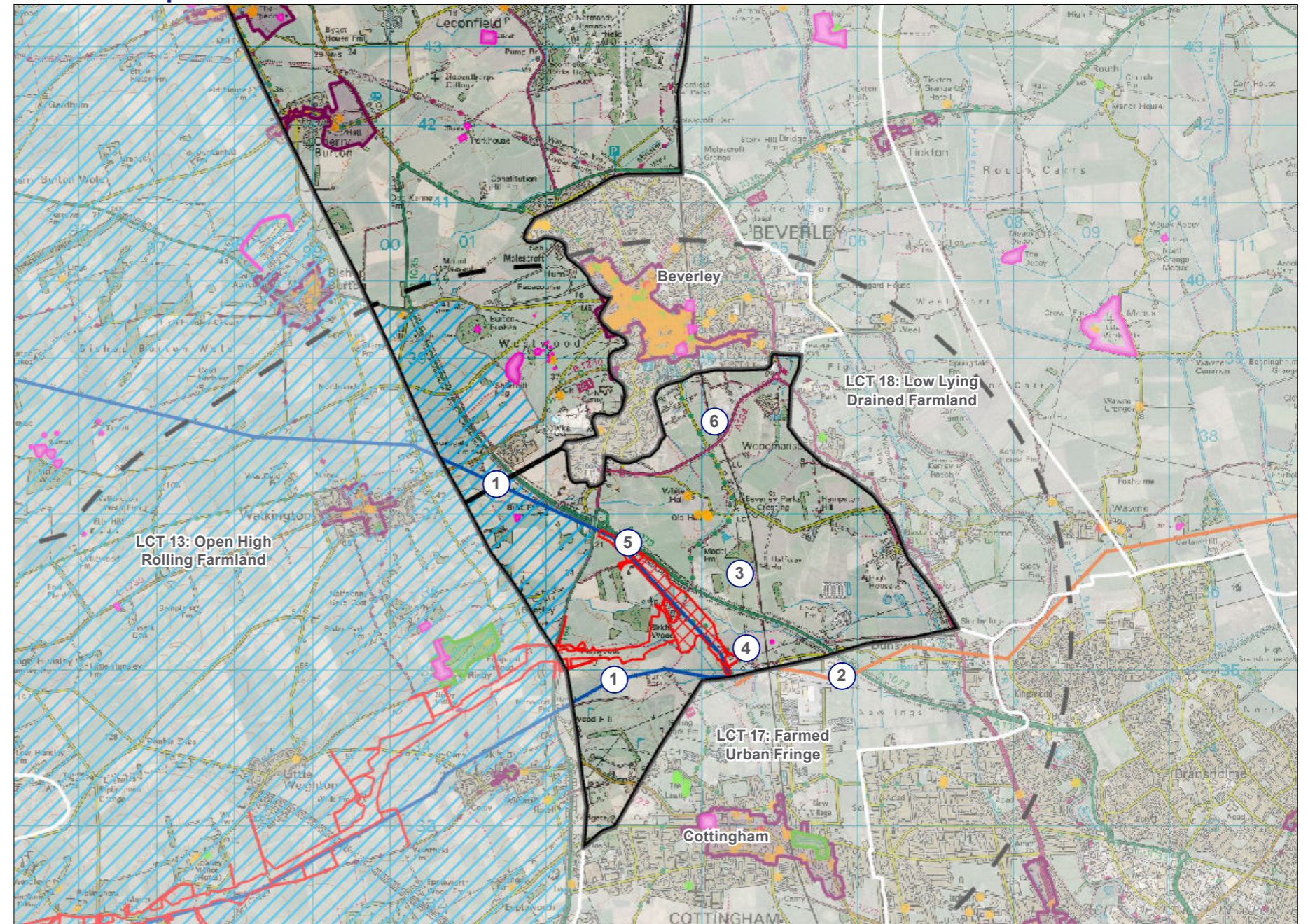
- Undulating or gently rolling landform around 80 m AOD which slopes gradually down to the east.
- Intermittent scattered woodland blocks throughout, with linear tree belts along the A164 and A1079 corridors.
- Intensively farmed landscape with rectilinear arable fields of large to medium size interspersed with less regular early enclosure fields particularly around villages.
- Small watercourses both man-made and natural draining the agricultural land.
- Horticultural development between Beverley and Hull.
- Intact hedgerows and presence of hedgerow trees in places.
- Scattered villages and farmsteads.
- Open views across and out from the LCT include Beverley Minster and the Yorkshire Wolds but also pylons and wind turbines.
- Parkland characteristics at Beverley Westwood Park and Garden.
- To the south of Beverley, Creyke Beck Substation with its associated converging overhead lines and a new converter station are noticeable features.

Baseline Description

This LCT extends along the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds and includes the rural area between Hull and Beverley which is a predominantly agricultural landscape. Westwood Common is an historic area of common grazing land to the west of Beverley. Today, land use on the common is mostly recreational and includes Beverley Race Course, Beverley and East Riding Golf Course and Beverley Westwood Park and Garden with its distinctive wood pasture and grassland.

The settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads, agricultural sheds and commercial buildings. Large horticultural buildings are present

Location Map



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Key

Conservation Area	Registered Park and Garden
Scheduled Monument	Important Landscape Area
Listed Building:	5 km Study Area
Grade I	Existing 400 kV OHL
Grade II	Existing 275 kV OHL
Grade II*	Draft Order Limits
	Proposed Substation Works

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② Existing 275 kV overhead line
- ③ Existing 132 kV overhead line
- ④ Existing Creyke Beck Substation
- ⑤ A1079
- ⑥ Scarborough to Hull Railway

throughout this area, with linear development along the A1174 Beverley to Hull Road.

There are long views, east over the River Hull corridor and west up to the Yorkshire Wolds. Beverley Minster is a notable feature in these views, but local development and industry detract from the scenic quality.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This LCT which lies on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds has a strong sense of character resulting from its landscape pattern, land use and settlement character. The part of the LCT north of the A164 is scenic and is in the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan (Ref 1.12). Some small blocks of ancient woodland are scattered across the LCT and there are several ecological interests including Beverley Parks Local Nature Reserve (LNR).



Landscape between settlements has a strong pattern with intact hedgerows and linear tree belts along roads, pylons are a feature of views in the south

The part of the LCT between Beverley and Hull is less rural and more urban. It is however valued for the role it plays in separating the two settlements and also in providing a setting for views of Beverley Minster.

Access for recreation is good and includes Beverley Footpath 20, Minster Way, Wilberforce Way and National Cycle Route 164. Beverley Race Course, Beverley and East Riding Golf Course and Beverley Westwood Park and Garden also add recreational value.



Pylons converge on Creyke Beck Substation which is located on the southern edge of this LCT

Based on the above, particularly the ILA designation and recreational value of the area north of the A164, and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The integrity of the perceptual qualities and character of the landscape which is already influenced by proximity to settlement and industrial development including substations, overhead lines and converter stations to the south of Beverley, would be further affected by a new overhead line. Conversely however the presence of these detractors also moderates susceptibility as scenic quality and rural character have already been diminished.

The relatively open farmland affords long distance views east towards Beverley Minster and the River Hull corridor and west up to the Yorkshire Wolds. These views are susceptible to overhead line development.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line within the study area is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		High
Scenic quality		High
Conservation interests	Medium	
Recreation value	Medium	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		High
Associations	Medium	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		Medium
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		Medium
Scale	Medium	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		High
Human influence	Medium	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

LCT 17: Farmed Urban Fringe

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located on the northwestern edge of Hull and includes the large settlement of Cottingham.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 40 - Holderness
- LCA 17B - North Cottingham Farmland
- LCA 17C - South Cottingham Farmland.

Key Characteristics

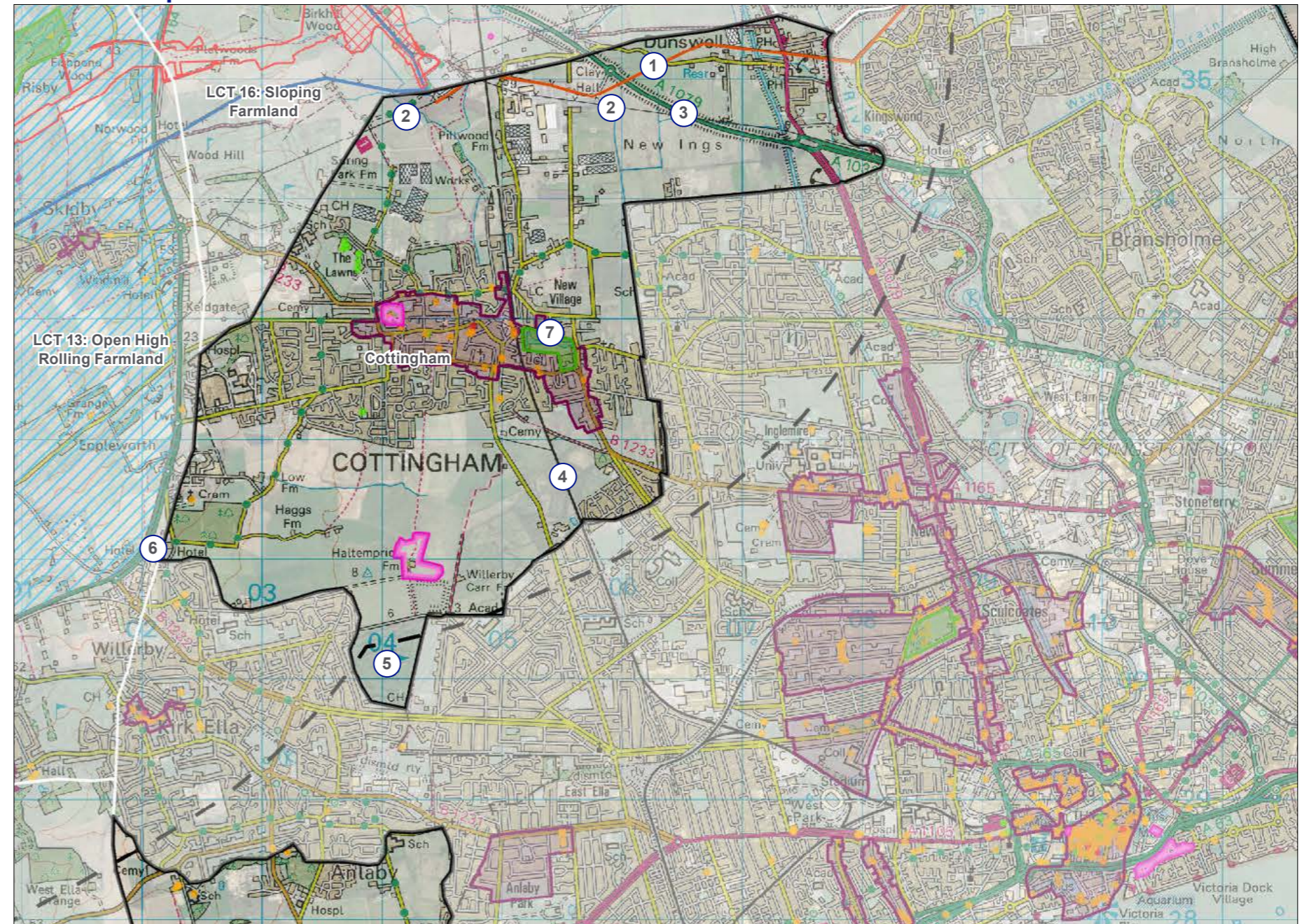
- Gently undulating to flat landform generally below 20 m AOD but gently rising towards the Yorkshire Wolds to the west.
- Integration of the urban edge with the rural landscape is good in places.
- Community land use e.g. sports pitches, allotments, cemeteries.
- Occasional woodlands.
- Hedgerow boundaries around medium to large sized fields.
- Mixed land use including agriculture, horticulture and recreational uses.
- Lighting along major roads and in settlements.
- Neglected appearance of some fields and hedgerows.
- Presence of recreation activities both formal and informal, including horse grazed grassland.
- Enclosed character with many areas surrounded by urban development on three sides.

Baseline Description

The main land use in this LCT is arable farmland with some areas of improved horse grazed grassland. Fields are medium to large-scale and generally bordered by ditches and hedgerows. Many of the fields have a neglected appearance as a result of reduced management. Cottingham and its surrounding urban fringe landscapes occupy much of the LCT. Willerby Business Park is associated with existing areas of woodland. Horticultural glasshouses, industrial buildings, residential properties, farmsteads and university accommodation are all found in this LCT together with associated infrastructure including roads, railways, pylons and communications masts.

The diversity of development contributes to the complex appearance of this LCT and in places creates a small-scale, almost intimate character to the landscape, which contrasts with the more open farmland.

Location Map



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Key

Conservation Area	Registered Park and Garden
Scheduled Monument	Important Landscape Area
Listed Building:	5 km Study Area
Grade I	Existing 400 kV OHL
Grade II	Existing 275 kV OHL
Grade II*	Draft Order Limits
	Proposed Substation Works

Notes

- ① Existing 275 kV overhead line
- ② Existing 132 kV overhead line
- ③ A1079
- ④ Scarborough to Hull Railway
- ⑤ Springhead Park Golf Course
- ⑥ Willerby Business Park
- ⑦ Thwaite Hall Registered Park and Garden

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The characteristics that contribute to the character of the LCT such as field pattern and hedgerows are fragmented due to the influence of urban development. There are low levels of tranquillity across much of the LCT. The varied landscape pattern and landform imparts a good level of landscape quality, and the area plays an important role separating and providing a setting for settlement. Pockets of the urban fringe maintain their rural character particularly where hedgerow boundaries are intact, and hedgerows have been allowed to grow tall. In places, the integration of the urban edge with the surrounding landscape is good due to areas of woodland cover, and the mature trees associated with the golf courses and gardens.



Farmland separates the settlements of Willerby and Cottingham
Photo © JThomas (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Recreational use and access to the countryside is an important characteristic of the urban edge. Other community uses include allotment gardens, cemeteries and schools. There are few public rights of way but the Trans Pennine Trail and National Cycle Routes 1, 65 and 164 cross the LCT.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be medium .	

Cultural features include Thwaite Hall Registered Park and Garden (Grade II) and Haltemprice Augustinian Priory.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the susceptibility of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **medium**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

A new 400 kV overhead line would add to the influence of existing infrastructure but would not fundamentally alter the quality and character of this landscape, which has a mix of rural and urban character and low levels of tranquillity. The landscape setting and views to and from the historic elements and features in the landscape are susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against factors listed in landscape susceptibility table below, the susceptibility of the landscape within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.



Glasshouses to the north of Cottingham with an existing overhead line beyond Photo © Ian S (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

LCT 18: Low Lying Drained Farmland

Context

The part of the LCT within the study area is located on the east side of Beverley.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 40 - Holderness
- LCA 18A - River Hull Corridor
- LCA 18F - Figham and Swinemoor Common.

Key Characteristics

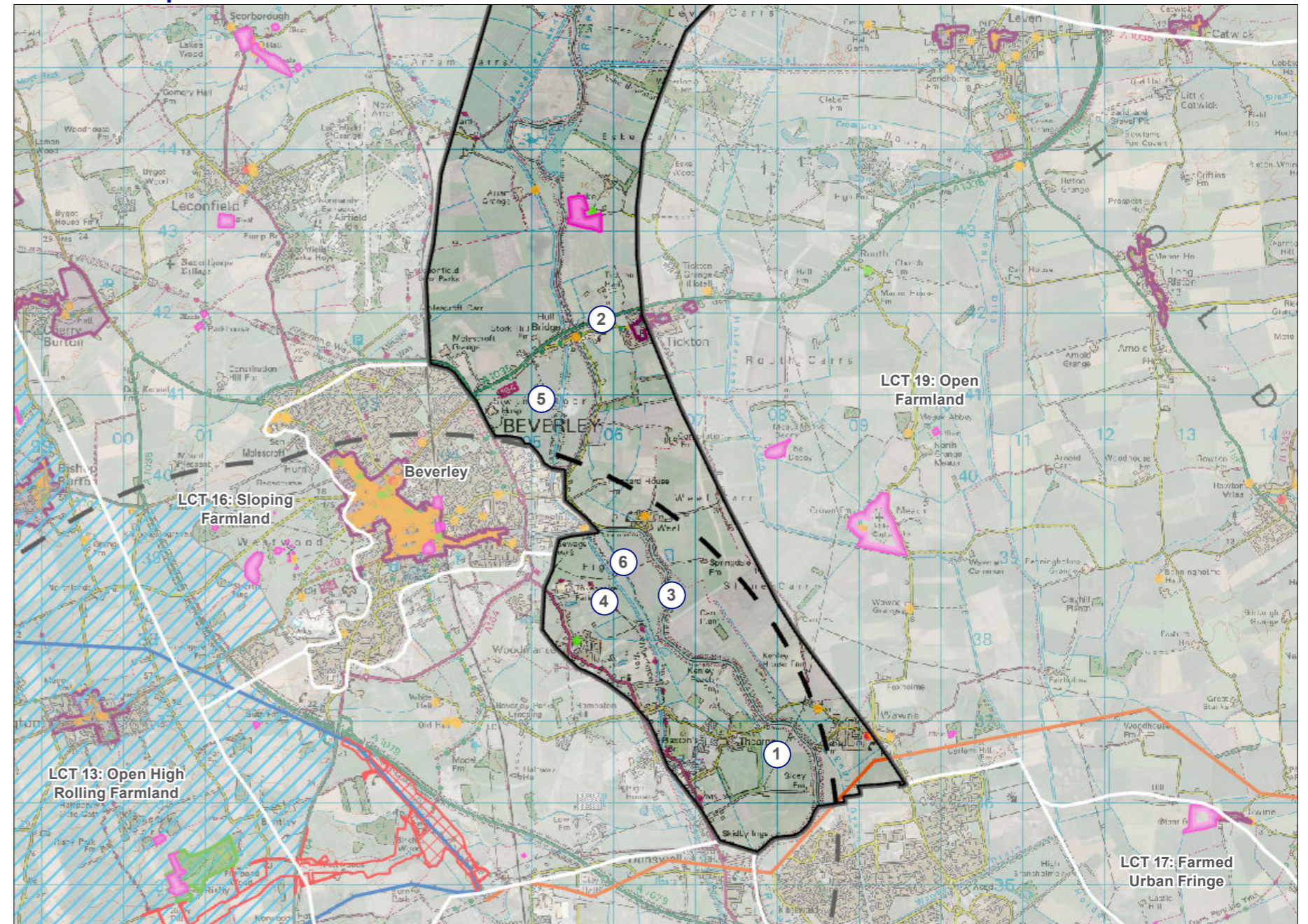
- Flat, low-lying landscape generally below 10 m AOD.
- River Hull and Beverley Barmston Drain are major watercourses with embankments.
- Settlement is sparse and concentrated around the edges of the LCT.
- Remnant fens and reed swamps.
- Sparse tree and woodland cover.
- Regular field pattern defined by hedgerows and drainage ditches.
- Pockets of pasture and wet meadows at Figham and Swinemoor Commons.
- Recreation associated with water bodies and the River Hull.
- Low density of development/ settlement with relatively tranquil character.
- Overall good scenic quality.

Baseline Description

The flat and low-lying farmland which characterises this LCT is heavily influenced by the River Hull and the Beverley Barmston Drain which runs broadly parallel to the river. The lower reaches of the River Hull are tidal and embanked to protect neighbouring farmland from flooding. There is little natural habitat remaining in these areas and the riverbanks tend to be over grazed. However, the river remains an important wildlife corridor through an agricultural landscape that is increasingly influenced by urban characteristics as it flows south.

There are views of high rise buildings and pylons on the skyline at Hull and large scale industry encroaches onto the western edge of the LCT around Beverley. The LCT includes the pastureland and wet meadows of Swinemoor and Figham Commons, which have historical significance related to land management and ownership dating back to the Middle Ages.

Location Map



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Key

Conservation Area	Registered Park and Garden
Scheduled Monument	Important Landscape Area
Listed Building:	5 km Study Area
• Grade I	Existing 400 kV OHL
• Grade II	Existing 275 kV OHL
• Grade II*	Draft Order Limits
	Proposed Substation Works

Notes

- ① Existing 132 kV overhead line
- ② A1035
- ③ River Hull
- ④ Wilberforce Way
- ⑤ Swinemoor Common
- ⑥ Figham Common

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This intensively farmed landscape is fragmented in places and is also influenced by views of the industrial development associated with the edge of Beverley. However, the watercourses provide a unifying element in a landscape, although this influence diminishes quite rapidly with increased distance. Overall, the LCT has a strong sense of place and elements of high value including the ancient commons of Figham and Swinemoor. Away from the urban edge, it is generally scenic, remote in places and relatively tranquil due to the low density of development and settlement. Access for recreation is good and includes the waterways and the Wilberforce Way. National Cycle Route 164 also crosses the LCT.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **medium**.



The Wilberforce Way follows the Beverley Barmston Drain to the south of Beverley Photo © Martin Dawes (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Figham Common
Photo © Martin Dawes (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

This is a flat low-lying landscape with many watercourses providing a unifying element. The landscape is generally attractive, remote in places and relatively tranquil due to the low density of development and settlement. The integrity of the perceptual qualities and character of the landscape, which is already influenced by proximity to settlement and urban fringe elements, is susceptible to the further urbanising influence of a new overhead line. Conversely however the presence of these detractors also moderates susceptibility as scenic quality and rural character have already been diminished.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality	← [Bar] →	
Scenic quality	← [Bar] →	
Conservation interests	← [Bar] →	
Recreation value	← [Bar] →	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	← [Bar] →	
Associations	← [Bar] →	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	← [Bar] →	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	← [Bar] →	
Scale	← [Bar] →	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	← [Bar] →	
Human influence	← [Bar] →	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

LCT 23: Humber Banks

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located along the River Humber around the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Trent.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- NCA 41 - Humber Estuary
- LCA 23A - Brough to Yokefleet Riverbank
- LCA 23b - Blacktoft Sands.

Key Characteristics

- The area is very flat with most of the land below 10 m AOD. Artificial embankments prevent tidal flooding of the surrounding farmland.
- Intertidal landscape of historic importance.
- Tidal reed beds are a unique feature within the LCTs assessed.
- Broad river corridors with grazed grass embankments.
- Extensive views across the river and adjoining low-lying farmland, particularly from top of the embankments.
- Embankment vegetation adds to habitat diversity and contrasts with the arable farmland.
- The navigable River Humber has a steady flow of traffic.
- No large-scale industry to detract from tranquil and isolated character.
- Wind turbines and pylons are prominent skyline elements.

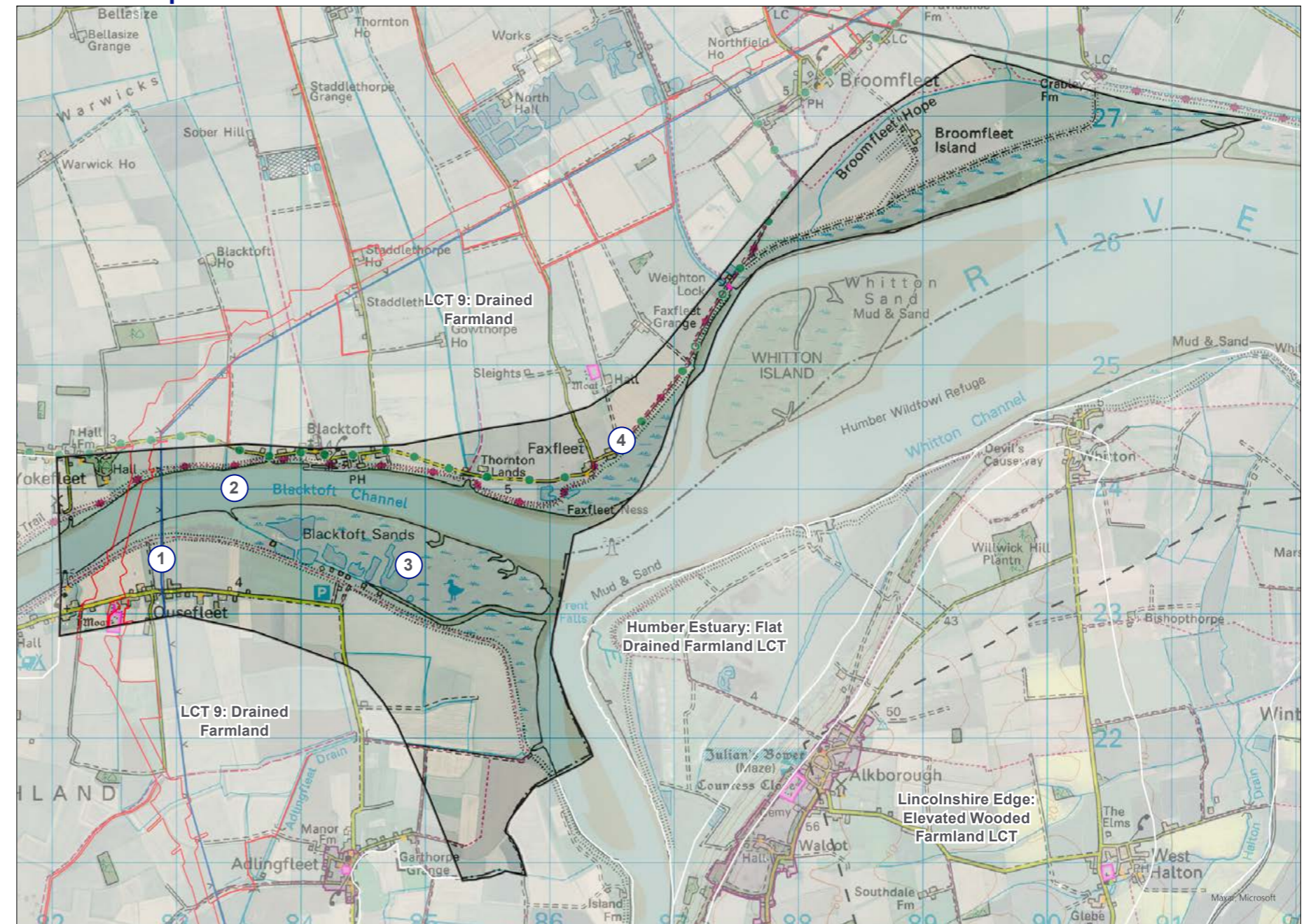
Baseline Description

This LCT is located where the Rivers Ouse and Trent meet before broadening out to become the Humber Estuary. The landscape is dominated by the rivers and the artificial embankments that protect the neighbouring farmland from flooding. The dominant land use is arable farmland with its large scale rectilinear field patterns and grazing close to the river. Blacktoft Sands is a nature reserve managed by the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The nature reserve includes Whitton Sand, a series of sand bars that provides valuable habitat for wildfowl.

Settlement comprises the small villages of Yokefleet (on the edge of the LCT), Blacktoft and Faxfleet. The Market Weighton Canal enters the river Humber south of Broomfleet









The landscape is characterised by occasional, widely dispersed farmsteads which reinforces the sense of remoteness and isolation. Access to villages

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Conservation Area |  5 km Study Area |
|  Scheduled Monument |  Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Listed Building: |  Draft Order Limits |
|  Grade I | |
|  Grade II | |
|  Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② River Ouse/Blacktoft Channel
- ③ Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve
- ④ Trans Pennine Trail

and farmsteads is limited to small country lanes and private tracks, further enhancing the area's remote character. This landscape is dynamic, constantly changing with the tide, weather and time of day. At low tide, mudflats are exposed, while at high tide, large boats slowly navigate the River Ouse and Humber, adding to the area's ever-changing perceptual qualities.



The existing 400 kV overhead line crossing the River Ouse from the Trans Pennine Trail

Detracting features include several large wind farms and pylons associated with multiple overhead lines. The two very tall pylons at the crossing of the River Ouse are prominent skyline features.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The River Humber is the unifying feature in the landscape of this LCT and is protected by several important ecological designations (Ramsar, SPA, SAC and SSSI) which contribute to its value and rarity. The Blacktoft Sands RSPB site is the largest area of inter-tidal reedbed in England. The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		High
Scenic quality		High
Conservation interests		High
Recreation value		High
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	High	
Associations	High	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

Important historic sites include Hall Garth moated site and Weighton Lock both of which are Scheduled Monuments.

Recreation and tourism are increasingly important in the area. The River Ouse is used by some pleasure craft, and fishing opportunities available along the river corridor contribute to the river's recreational appeal. Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve is a popular attraction with and is promoted with brown tourist road signs.



Embankments indicate the location of the River Ouse in the views across the flat farmland

The network of public rights of way includes the Trans Pennine Trail along the river's north bank and National Cycle Route 65. Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve is a popular attraction with brown signposts form Goole.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	High	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	High	
Scale		High
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		High
Human influence		High
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **high**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

This is a flat low-lying landscape which has a very distinctive sense of place due to the presence of the Humber with its riverbanks and riparian habitats. The landscape is generally attractive, remote in places and relatively tranquil due to the low density of development and settlement. A new overhead line would not fundamentally alter the perceptual qualities and character of the landscape across the LCT, but it would locally increase the effects of the existing wind turbines and pylons on views. The sense of remoteness and tranquillity would be further reduced.

The landscape setting and views to and from the historic elements associated with the Garth Hall moated site and Weighton Lock Scheduled Monuments are also susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

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North Lincolnshire

Trent Levels: Flat Open Remote Farmland LCT

Context

The part of this LCT within the study area is located to the north and west of Crowle on the boundary of Lincolnshire with the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Trent Levels.

Key Characteristics

- Flat topography with very little variation, between 0-5 m AOD.
- Arable farmland with fields defined by a network of straight drainage ditches.
- Little settlement apart from scattered farmsteads and limited access across much of LCT.
- Woodland within the Humberhead Peatlands NNR contains longer views to the west.
- Areas of medieval strip farming system around Crowle and Crowle Commons.
- The elevated alignment of the railway line and Stainforth and Keadby Canal creates a distinct, albeit false boundary to the south.
- An existing pylon line follows the railway line and canal.
- Scenic quality and sense of remoteness have been eroded by pylons and the windfarm to the west of Medge Hall.
- Large agricultural buildings around Crowle do not detract from tranquil and isolated character.

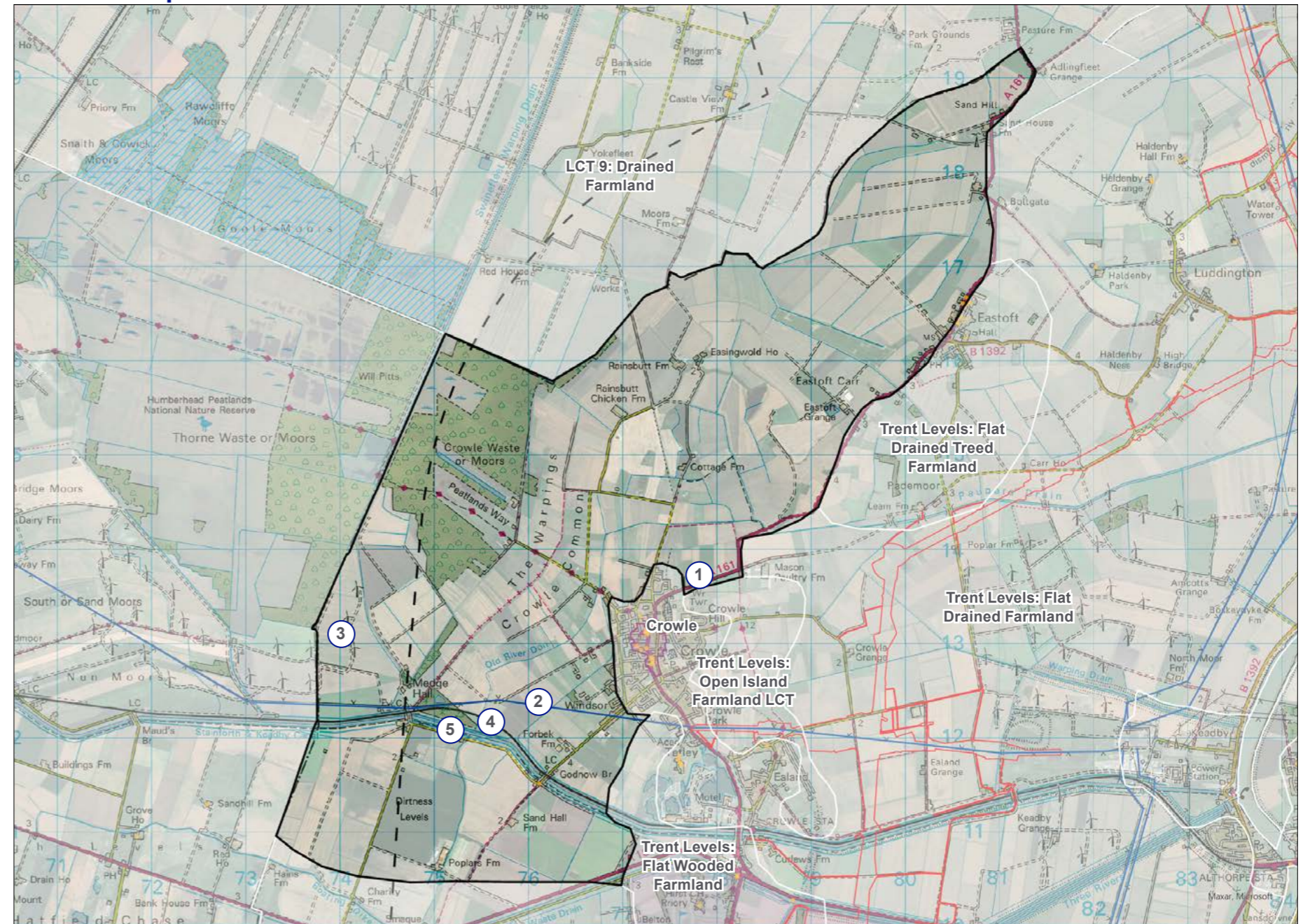
Baseline Description

This LCT is defined by its flat topography, large geometric arable fields, straight embanked rivers and ditches, straight roads, and expansive skies. Settlement consists of scattered farmsteads along the western edges of Eastoft and Crowle.

Remnants of the medieval strip farming system forming part of the Moorland Allotments and known as the Crowle Ribbons, is found around Crowle and Crowle Common. This system transformed areas of former peat extraction into farmland and contributes to the distinctive landscape.

The sense of openness varies from north to south. North of Eastoft, expansive views dominate due to the near absence of tree and hedgerow cover, with well-maintained drainage ditches creating intricate networks across the fields, although they remain visually subtle. Moving south, tree

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Important Landscape Area |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade I | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II | |
| Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① A161
- ② Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ③ Tween Bridge Moor Wind Farm
- ④ Knottingley to Hull Railway
- ⑤ Stainforth and Keadby Canal

cover increases, enclosing easterly views with the settlement of Crowle and the rising land beyond. A similar enclosure occurs to the west, formed by the woodlands of the Thorne and Crowle Moors, along with broadleaf woodlands around Medge Hall.

Just south of Medge Hall, the elevated railway line and Stainforth and Keadby Canal run east to west, adding to the enclosure with their embankments. Beyond the canal and railway, the LCT opens up again, restoring expansive views.

Few roads cross the area, and access to farms is typically via private tracks.



The Stainforth and Keadby Canal and railway line
Photo © Christine Johnstone (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This LCT features a flat, low-lying, and large-scale agricultural landscape. Its quality is considered good, reflecting a strong sense of place and the historical significance of its land use patterns, as seen in its peat remains, drainage structures, and field systems.

The westernmost part of the LCT is within Thorne and Crowle

Moors, an area of former peat extraction designated as SSSI, SPA, and SAC. The Moors are also part of the wider Humberhead Peatlands NNR and together with the Hatfield Moors are one of the largest lowland raised bogs in Britain.

Although it feels remote, peaceful, and largely inaccessible today, the Moors have been exploited for peat since at least the medieval period. Evidence of the medieval strip farming system, known as the Crowle Ribbons, can be found around Crowle and Crowle Common. This system converted former peat extraction areas into strip farming and is closely associated with the edge of Thorne and Crowle Moors.

The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

The Humberhead Peatlands NNR has waymarked trails and parking facilities and is crossed by the Peatlands Way. Elsewhere recreational access is more limited.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape possesses a strong character due to the scale and simplicity of its features, including the flat topography and large rectilinear fields. While a new overhead line would contribute to the existing infrastructure, it would not fundamentally change the overall quality and character, which is already impacted by views of wind turbines and pylons. Other aspects of the landscape that are susceptible to the Project include the natural environment, Humberhead Peatlands NNR, and the medieval strip fields.



The Peatland Way on Crowle Moors
Photo © Jonathan Thacker (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality	←————→	
Scenic quality	←————→	
Conservation interests	←————→	
Recreation value	←————→	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	←————→	
Associations	←————→	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	←————→	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	←————→	
Scale	←————→	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	←————→	
Human influence	←————→	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT

Context

Most of this LCT is within the study area and located either side of the River Trent. It is the largest LCT within the Trent Levels.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Trent Levels.

Key Characteristics

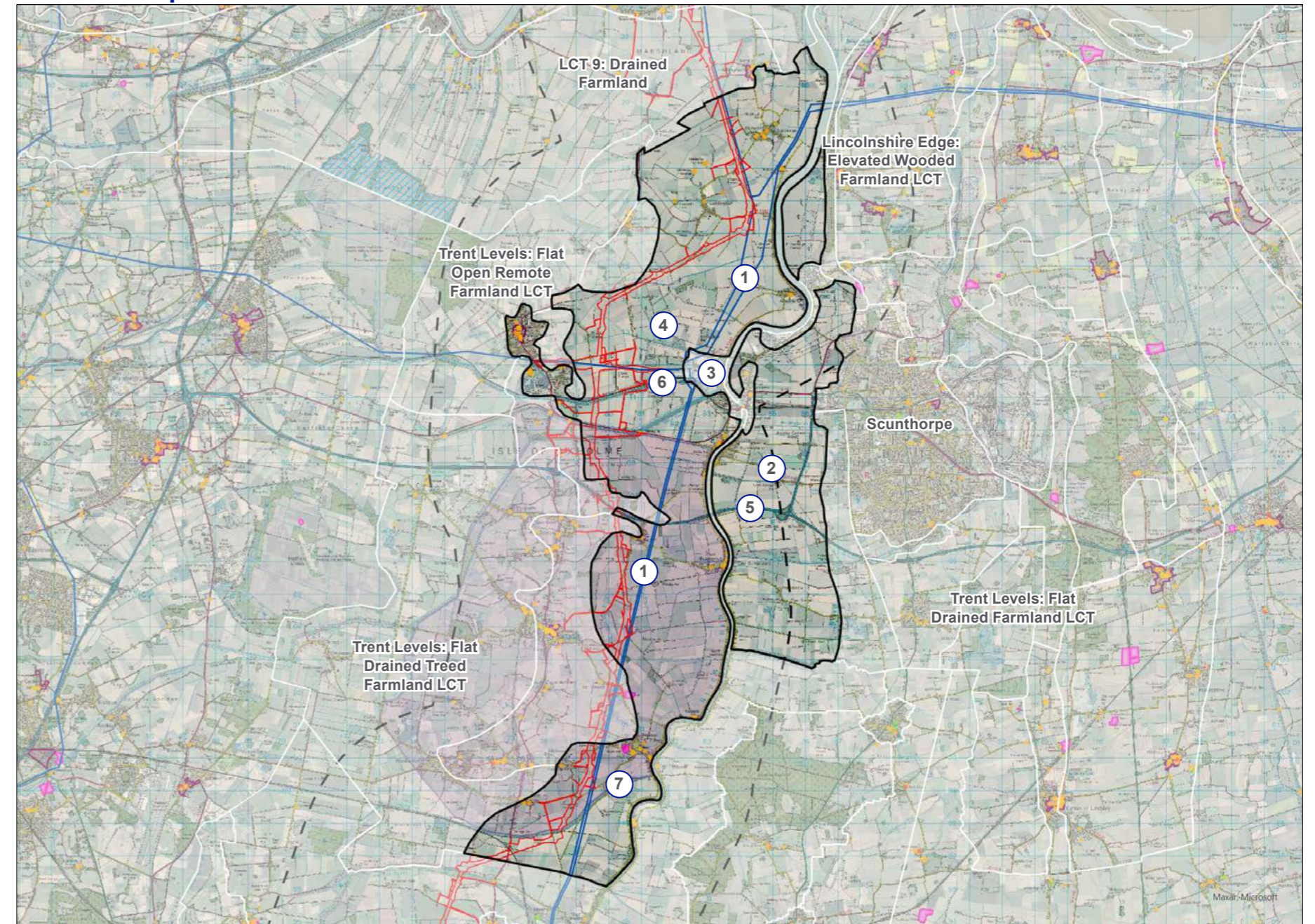
- Expansive, flat, low-lying farmland flanking the embanked River Trent.
- West bank of the Trent and south of the A18 to Warping Drain is part of Isle of Axholme Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest (ASHLI) and includes evidence of relic strip farming.
- Intensive arable farmland with pockets of grassland and grazing marsh.
- The few field boundary hedgerows are tightly clipped and fragmented.
- Many of the dykes and drains are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).
- Sparse tree cover, with shelterbelts around farmsteads and settlements.
- Occasional field trees break the expansive views.
- Central area bisected by M180, A18, rail lines, and Stainforth and Keadby Canal, which provide distant enclosure.
- Roads are located to the edge of the area or follow the River Trent, with smaller lanes and tracks edged by field drains crossing the floodplain.
- Views to the east and west are enclosed by rising land.
- Multiple overhead lines dominate the skyline, converging at Keadby Power Station.
- Windfarms north of Keadby Power Station and Flixborough, and pockets of industrial and wharveside development along the Trent disrupt views.

Baseline Description

This LCT consists of expansive, flat farmland flanking the River Trent, lying just 1–2 m AOD and protected by raised flood embankments. Arable farming dominates, with scattered pockets of grassland and grazing marsh. Tree cover is sparse, with small enclosures around farmsteads and settlements. Occasional field trees break the wide views, while the few field boundary hedgerows are typically tightly clipped and fragmented. Dykes and drains, many recognised as LWS divide the fields. Pockets of strip farming survive on the west bank of the river and are characteristically open as these areas have never been planted with hedgerows.

Settlements, often obscured by tree cover, are located away from the flood

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Isle of Axholme ASHLI |
| Scheduled Monument | Important Landscape Area |
| Listed Building: | 5 km Study Area |
| Grade I | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② Existing 132 kV overhead line
- ③ Keadby Power Station
- ④ Keadby Wind Farm
- ⑤ M180
- ⑥ Keadby Canal
- ⑦ Warping Drain and Ferry Drain

embankments. From a distance it is the tree cover that defines the presence of settlements within the open landscape, rather than the buildings themselves. Roads follow the edges of the area or the River Trent, with small lanes and tracks crossing the open floodplain, often edged by field dykes and drains. A central belt is intersected by transport infrastructure, including the M180, A18, rail lines and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, which creates a sense of enclosure with its raised embankments.

Wind turbines, concentrated to the north and west of the river, form a semi-continuous horizon, while industrial and wharfside developments along the river introduce a sense of urban development, especially when seen in closer proximity.



Keadby Windfarm with Keadby Substation on the skyline

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape has been heavily altered by modern farming practices and flood defence schemes. Intensive arable farming with its open fields and large scale modern farm units has resulted in the almost total loss of landscape structure, leaving the open floodplain areas lacking in tree and hedgerow cover with only

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality	←————→	
Scenic quality	←————→	
Conservation interests	←————→	
Recreation value	←————→	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	←————→	
Associations	←————→	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

scattered pockets of grassland and grazing marsh occurring in locations such as Guinness Common, Butterwick Hale and Keadby Common. Some ecological connectivity is maintained through a network of field drains and dykes, many recognised as LWS due to their diverse aquatic flora. The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape

The west bank of the Trent, south of the A18 to Warping Drain, falls within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI. Pockets of strip farming persist here, remaining open as they were never enclosed by hedgerows.

The rising scarp slope provides visual enclosure to the east, while elevated land to the west creates distant enclosure. These views are interrupted many wind turbines to the north of Keadby Power Station and east of the river near Flixborough, forming a semi-continuous horizon of turbines. Pylons are also prominent, particularly where multiple overhead lines converge at Keadby. Industrial and wharfside developments along the River Trent further detract from the landscape's character.



Overhead lines are visible throughout the LCT, and the water tower at Garthorpe is also a distinctive element

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	←————→	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	←————→	
Scale	←————→	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	←————→	
Human influence	←————→	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

The few public rights of way include the Trent Valley Way and The Peatlands Way.

Based on the above, and the assessments made against the factors in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**. This is mainly due to the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, which acknowledges the character and heritage of the landscape to the west of the river.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The area's distinctive character arises from its flat landform, openness and sense of remoteness. The landscape offers high visibility, but the long views towards the rising land of the Trent valley sides are interrupted and dominated by the many wind turbines and pylons within the valley. Therefore, while a new 400 kV overhead line would contribute to the existing infrastructure, it would not fundamentally change the overall quality and character of the landscape.

The landscape of Isle of Axholme ASHLI as well as the surviving areas of strip farming systems are susceptible to further visual intrusion and erosion of their historically open character.

The landscape setting and views from Crowle Conservation Area are susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**. This is mainly due to the susceptibility of the landscape within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI to the west of the river.

Trent Levels: Flat Drained Treed Farmland LCT

Context

This LCT occurs in two distinct geographical areas both of which are included in the study area. The larger area lies west of Epworth and extends from a short distance beyond the A18 south to the tree lined banks of the River Idle Mother Drain. A small 'satellite' area is located around the village of Eastoft, which is located to the northeast of Crowle.

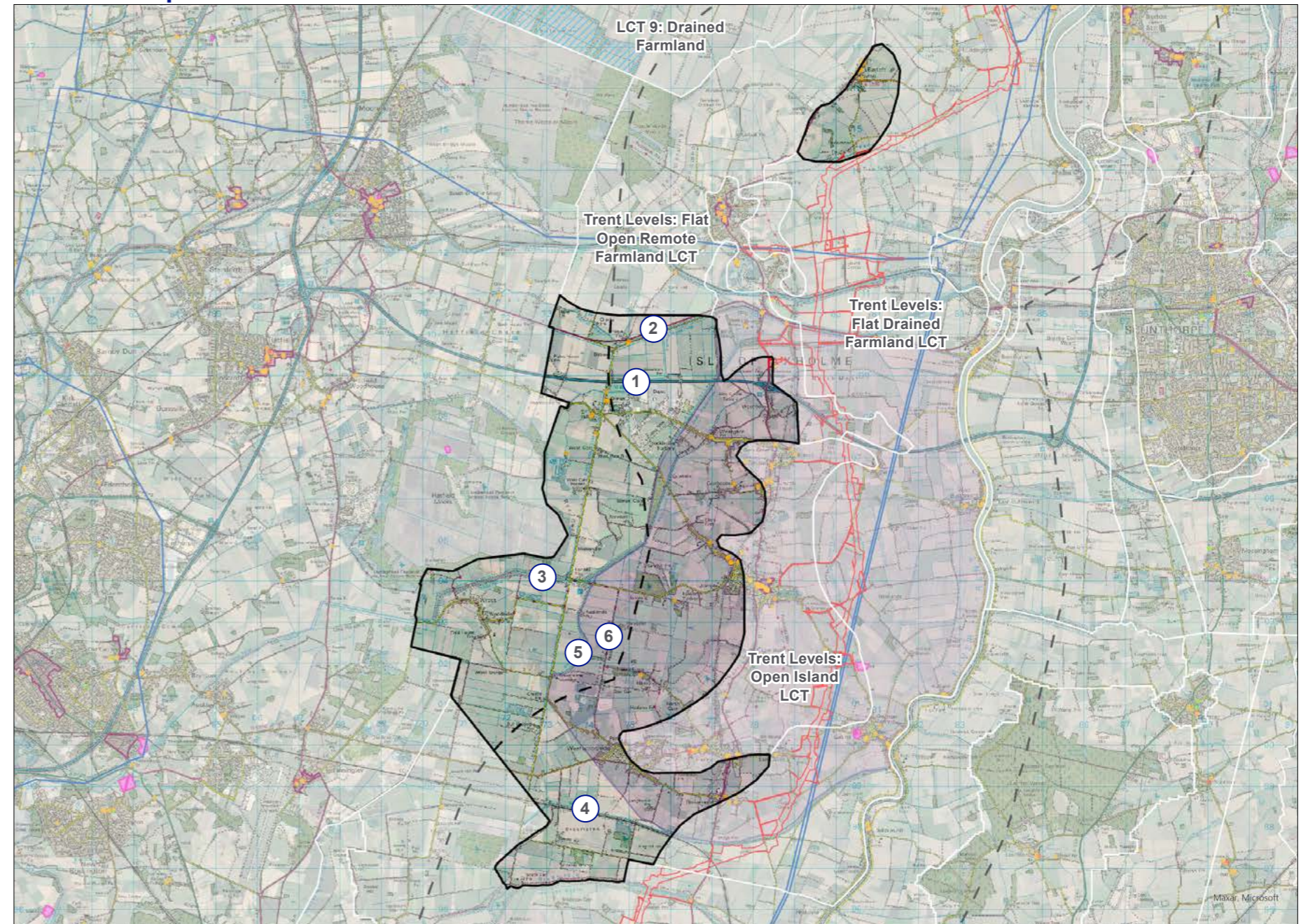
The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Trent Levels.

Key Characteristics

- Flat topography, varying between 0-5 m AOD.
- Level and expansive arable landscape which is generally open although with longer views often contained by landform and tree cover.
- Tree belts around settlements, pockets of woodland, and the surrounding Hatfield Moors (outside the LCT) create a relatively well-treed landscape, particularly to the west.
- Settlements such as Eastoft are mostly linear and situated on slightly raised areas, with scattered farmsteads.
- The southern LCT lies within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, with gently rising land creating visual enclosure and notable landmarks.
- Large, regular fields with few hedgerows but frequent boundary trees and woodland copses.
- Small pockets of early enclosed land and turbarry landscape.
- Straight, slightly elevated roads edged by drainage ditches and with abrupt changes of direction are common in the southern LCT but around Eastoft, roads are more sinuous.
- Field boundaries generally indistinct or defined by ditches, occasionally more visibly defined by unmanaged and gappy hedgerows, boundary trees or berms.
- Views out from the LCT are affected by wind turbines, overhead lines and large farm units.
- Some areas feel more open due to industry for example at Sandtoft.
- Wetlands/open water created through sand and gravel extraction.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Isle of Axholme ASHLI |
| Scheduled Monument | Important Landscape Area |
| Listed Building: | 5 km Study Area |
| Grade I | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① M180
- ② A18
- ③ River Torne
- ④ Warping Drain
- ⑤ South Engine Drain
- ⑥ Peatlands Way

Baseline Description

The LCT is defined by its flat terrain, large geometric fields, straight embanked rivers and ditches, and expansive skies. In some areas, particularly near settlements, field boundaries are hedged, but they are more commonly marked by straight, well-maintained ditches and occasional large dykes such as Lister Dyke and Eastoft Main Parish Drain. Modern farming practices have led to the removal of boundaries, consolidating smaller enclosures into larger fields.

The landscape has an open quality despite a high tree cover due to the nearby Thorne and Hatfield Moors, wooded turbaries, shelterbelts, and planting around quarries and motorways. The rising land of the Isle of Axholme forms a distinctive eastern horizon, with landmarks such as water towers, windmills, and church spires.

Settlement consists of scattered farms, including large agricultural buildings, and the villages of Eastoft, Sandtoft, and parts of Epworth and Belton. These are often linear and include historic farms on the main street, infilled with more recent development. Surrounding



Epworth Turbary, a word that describes the ancient right to cut turf or peat for fuel, and now a LNR Photo © Chris (cc-by-sa/2.0)

them are irregular fields of early enclosed land with occasional green lanes.

Although the LCT comprises mainly arable farmland, there are pockets of industrial development, notably around Sandtoft, where there is also a small airfield. Former and active sand and gravel extraction sites, often bordered by trees are now areas of open water. The M180 motorway has a localised impact in the north of the area.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

Much of the farmland has been heavily altered by modern farming practices and flood defence schemes. The large regular field pattern has few hedgerows, but relatively frequent boundary and field trees and woodland copses. Several of the Hatfield Chase ditches are designated as SSSI for their habitats supporting aquatic and emergent plants. Haxey and Epworth turbaries are designated SSSI and LNRs. Langholme Wood is designated as a LNR. There are no designations within the LCT around Eastoft. The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

The larger area of this LCT is partly within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI. The strong sense of history in this landscape is enhanced by the presence of historic settlements, churches, farms, roads, field patterns and sites. There are also small pockets of moorland allotments, early enclosed land and turbary landscape.

Unlike the neighbouring Flat Drained Farmland LCT, this LCT retains small areas of woodland, and boundary and woodland copse tree cover which contains longer views and provide a sense of enclosure.

Discordant elements include the large modern farm units and the wind turbines which lie outside the LCT but are prominent in views. Active aggregate extraction at Greenholme Bank Quarry and the former site at Langholme Farm are both well-screened by vegetation.



The River Torne
Photo © Jonathan Thacker (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**. This is mainly due to the value of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, which acknowledges the character and heritage of the landscape found on the eastern edge of the southern part of this LCT.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape's open farmland and strong sense of place make it highly susceptible to overhead line development. Introduction of pylons would affect the strong horizontal form of the landscape.

The historic landscape, views towards the Isle of Axholme, and the wooded horizon of Hatfield Moors are vulnerable to visual intrusion from new overhead line development. Prominent ridge-top landmarks including the windmills, water towers, and churches within the LCT, and in views from surrounding farmland, are especially sensitive to new developments.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**. This is mainly due to the susceptibility of the landscape within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI on the eastern edge of the southern part of this LCT.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland LCT

Context

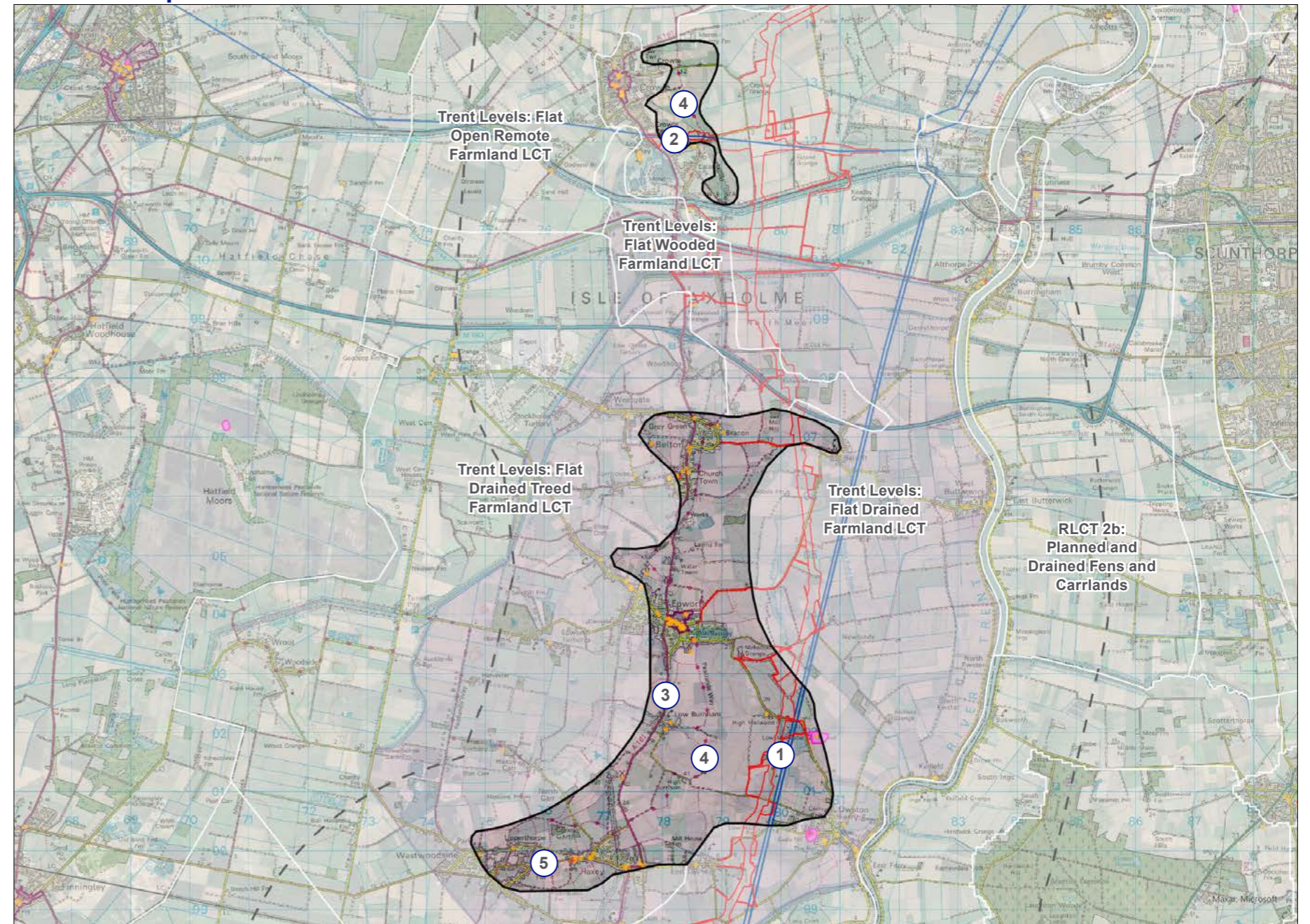
This LCT is found in two distinct areas, both of which are within the study area. The larger area, located south of the M180, extends from Belton in the north to Haxey in the south. The smaller area lies to the north of the M180, starting near the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and extending northward past the eastern edges of Ealand and Crowle, before tapering back to the lower-lying landscape adjacent to the A161 on the outskirts of Crowle. The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Trent Levels.

Key Characteristics










- Gently undulating landform ranging from 5-40 m AOD, forming an 'island' above lower-lying areas.
- Both parts of the LCT are part of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, which features medieval open strip fields at its core, surrounded by early enclosed fields.
- The strip fields lack physical boundaries but create a distinctive 'striped' landscape, contrasting with the smaller hedged fields around the perimeter.
- Tree cover is limited to settlements and occasional woodland.
- The combination of historic influences and the high tree cover around the settlements creates a well-structured intimate landscape.
- Sandy, free-draining land does not require complex drainage systems, contributing to the area's unique character.
- The old ridge road (now the A161) links the historic villages to the market town of Epworth.
- A network of winding lanes connects farms and smaller settlements.
- The embankment of the former railway line from Crowle to Haxey Junction runs through both parts of the LCT.
- Linear strips of deciduous and inappropriate evergreen planting highlight the former rail route and border some strip fields.
- Prominent ridge-top buildings, such as windmills, water towers, and churches, serve as local landmarks.
- The former aggregate extraction at Low Melwood was set in a topographical depression, minimising visual impact. The Belton Household Recycling Centre is similarly screened by woodland.
- Views from the LCT are affected by development, including wind farms, overhead lines, and large farm units.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Conservation Area |  Isle of Axholme ASHLI |
|  Scheduled Monument |  5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: |  Existing 400 kV OHL |
|  Grade I |  Draft Order Limits |
|  Grade II | |
|  Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead lines (4KG and 4TM)
- ② Existing 400 kV overhead line (ZDA)
- ③ A161
- ④ Peatlands Way
- ⑤ Haxey Water Tower

Baseline Description

Both parts of this LCT within the study area feature open arable fields and gently undulating landform with local hillocks and ridges, creating elevated 'islands' in a flat landscape. The larger area, south of the M180, extends from Belton to Haxey, while the smaller area is north of the M180 and extends between the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and the A161 on the Crowle fringes. The larger is part of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, reflecting the region's well-preserved historic landscape which includes settlements, churches, farms, roads, field patterns, and sites such as the motte and bailey castle at Owston Ferry and the medieval priory at Melwood (Scheduled Monument). The old ridge road (now the A161) connects the historic villages, including Haxey and Belton with the market town of Epworth, while a network of winding tree-lined lanes contrasts with the straight roads on the surrounding lower lying land. Prominent landmarks, including windmills and water towers, enhance views from surrounding areas.

The larger area is more densely populated than the northern area, with some of Crowle extending into the LCT. Overall, this LCT is



The slight rises in landform allow for long distance views which contain overhead lines

the most diverse in the Trent Levels, combining expansive views across the arable landscape with more intimate enclosed pockets of historically important land surrounding the settlements. Both areas appear as low wooded ridges in views from the surrounding lowlands, with the water tower on Crowle Hill a local landmark.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The larger area within this LCT is within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI and is rich with historic influences. Although much of the nationally important medieval strip farming system has diminished due to farm intensification and locations where strips have been fenced to provide pastures for horses, remnants can still be seen, particularly along ridges and surrounding the villages. Side slopes consist of historic enclosures, more irregularly patterned and bordered by hedgerows. Together with the high tree cover, these create a well-structured intimate landscape with high tree cover around settlements. The historic settlement of Epworth contains a Conservation Area. These and the churches, farms, and sites such as the medieval priory at Melwood (Scheduled Monument) further enhance the area's historic significance.

A 1.6 km section of the former railway embankment from Crowle to Haxey Junction is part of the Axholme Line LNR. The LCT lies within the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, promoting a multi-functional wetland landscape.

The larger area of this LCT has a dense network of public rights of way, while the smaller area has few footpaths but is crossed by the Peatlands Way.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**. This is partly due to the value of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, which acknowledges the character and heritage of the landscape across much of the LCT.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	



The water tower at Haxey is a prominent feature on elevated landform
Photo © Alan Murray-Rust (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The Isle of Axholme has a very distinctive character and a strong sense of place. Long views from the slightly elevated terrain means that it is vulnerable to visual intrusion from new developments over a wide area. A new overhead line development would affect these views but would not necessarily alter the quality and character of the historic landscape within the LCA. This is because the landscape is already affected by the presence of nearby windfarms and the overhead lines, which run through the southeastern part of the larger of the two areas and stay in close proximity to the eastern edge of the LCT throughout. These influence the elevated views out from the LCT towards the east. The landscape setting and views to and from Epworth Conservation Area and the medieval priory at Melwood (Scheduled Monument) are susceptible to new overhead line development.

Prominent ridge-top buildings including windmills, water towers and churches provide landmarks both within the LCA and in views from the surrounding farmland. These views are highly susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

Trent Levels: Flat Wooded Farmland LCT

Context

This small, narrow LCT extends from Crowle, near the western edge of 7 Lakes Country Park, then widens slightly as it continues south, encompassing Hirst Priory and Belton Grange. Around Mosswood Grange, it follows the sweep of the M180, briefly crossing the motorway to include woodland northeast of Belton.

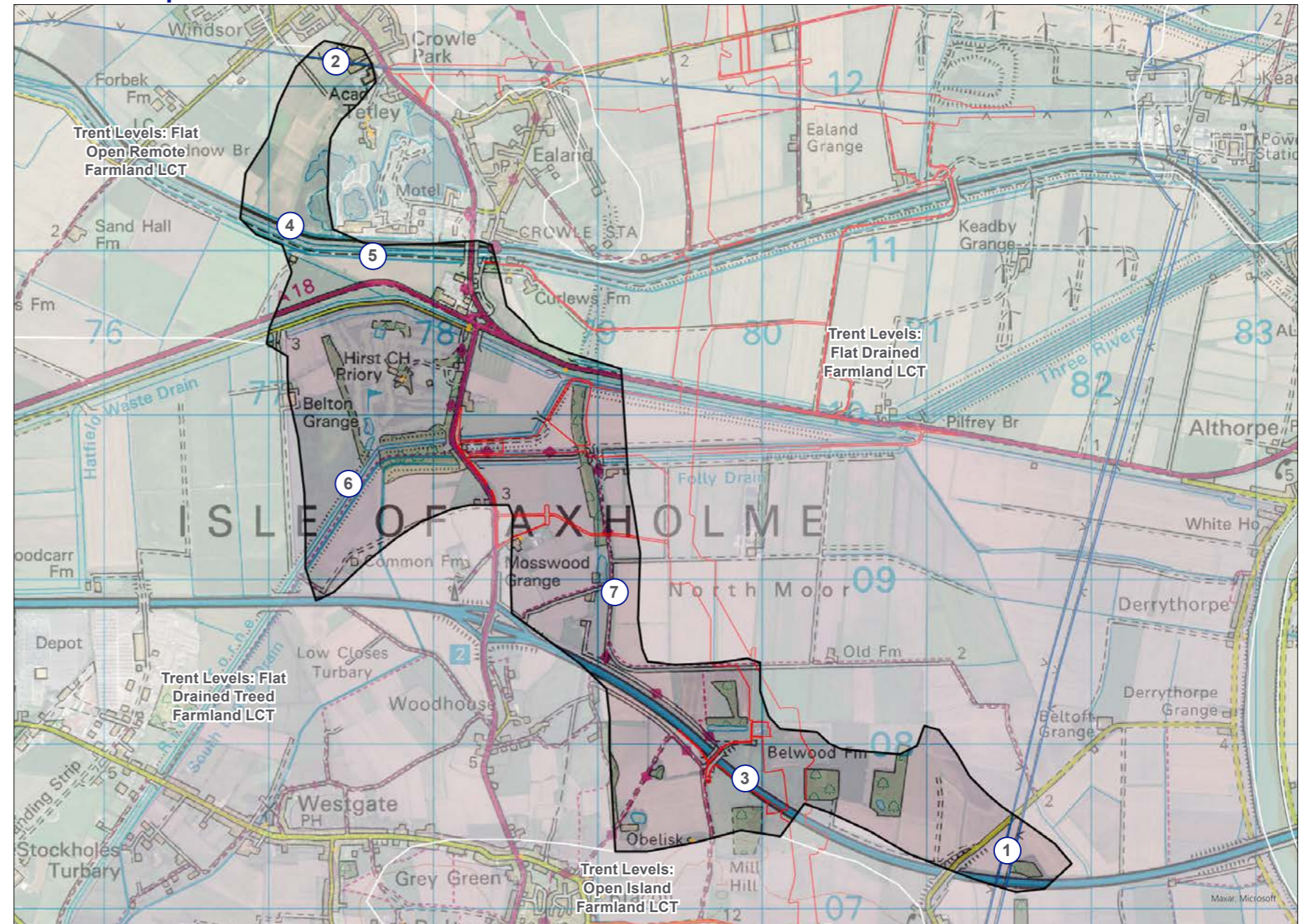
The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Trent Levels.

Key Characteristics

- Flat, artificially drained land mostly below 5 m AoD.
- High woodland cover encloses a mix of pasture, grassland, and open arable fields with few hedgerows. Tree-lined avenues are a common feature.
- Minimal settlement comprises mainly scattered farmsteads.
- Key transport routes include the South Humberside railway, A18, M180 (east-west), and A161 (north-south).
- Remnants of earlier transport, including the former Crowle to Belton railway embankment, are located between Hatfield Waste Drain and the M180.
- Large man-made waterways include the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, Hatfield Waste Drain, and the River Torne, South Engine Drain and Folly Drain to the south of Hirst Priory.
- Hatfield Waste Drain and a section of South Engine Drain are designated as part of the Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI. Many other drains are LWS.
- Much of the LCT is within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI.
- The Peatlands Way runs through this LCT and is well-connected to surrounding footpaths.
- Woodland along the M180 embankments and around 7 Lakes Country Park has a notable presence.
- Tree-lined avenues flank roads, drainage channels and former railways.
- Parkland at Hirst Priory and Temple Bellwood further influences the landscape.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Conservation Area | Isle of Axholme ASHLI |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade I | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II | |
| Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead lines
- ② Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ③ M180
- ④ Railway
- ⑤ Keadby Canal
- ⑥ River Torne/South Engine Drain
- ⑦ Peatlands Way

Baseline Description

This LCT is characterised by enclosed farmland with mainly deciduous woodlands, some of which are amongst of the oldest in North Lincolnshire. These enclose a mix of pasture, grassland, and medium-sized arable fields. Hedgerows are either clipped and patchy or overgrown with intermittent tree cover. Tree-lined avenues are a distinctive feature, flanking roads, drainage channels, and former railway corridors.

Although much of the LCT is within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, historic features are less prominent than in other LCT. Major transport infrastructure includes the South Humberside rail line, A18, M180, and A161. Maturing woodland around the M180 embankments and around the nearby landscape of 7 Lakes Country Park strongly influences the character of the LCT, with diverse tree species contributing to the area's character. The remnant parkland at Hirst Priory and Temple Bellwood adds time depth to the landscape.



View from the Peatlands Way as it crosses the M180

Several large waterways, including the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, Hatfield Waste Drain, and River Torne, and a network of smaller drains cross the area. Despite the presence of two prominent overhead lines which cross the eastern end of the LCT, away from the influence of the main roads, the landscape retains a rural quality.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The LCT is within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI although the historic features are less noticeable than in other LCT. The historic landscape of Hirst Priory and Temple Bellwood parkland landscapes contribute to local landscape character. The landscape benefits from significant drainage engineering, similar to neighbouring floodplain areas, but retains a less intensively farmed appearance.



Footpath between South Engine Drain and the River Torne
Photo © Neil Theasby (cc-by-sa/2.0)

The condition of the landscape is moderate, with medium sized fields defined by tightly clipped and patchy, or overgrown hedgerows and small pockets of broadleaved woodland. Ecological connectivity is good. A section of South Engine Drain and the whole of the

Hatfield Waste Drain are part of the Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI. Many of the other drains are LWS. Crowle Borrow Pits SSSI overlaps the LCT.

The area is part of the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, which aims to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape. The Peatlands Way runs through the centre of this LCT and is connected to a small public rights of way network. Hirst Priory Golf Course and 7 Lakes Country Park also add recreational value.

The presence of transport infrastructure and overhead lines which cross the easternmost boundary of the LCT detract from the otherwise rural character.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **high**. This is partly due to the value of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, which acknowledges the character and heritage of the landscape across much of the LCT.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The historic landscape, with its semi-enclosed mix of pastures, grassland, and arable fields, together with views towards the tree-lined horizons of the Isle of Axholme, is highly susceptible to visual intrusion from overhead line development. The parkland landscapes of Hirst Priory and Temple Bellwood are particularly vulnerable. Other susceptible features include the rural character, enhanced by woodland cover and tree-lined avenues, which could be diminished by the presence of new overhead lines, especially if vegetation is lost. However, these same woodlands and trees also offer potential to screen and filter views of a new overhead line.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**. This is partly due to the semi-enclosed area of arable farmland, parkland and village fringe landscapes associated with the Isle of Axholme ASHLI.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Lincolnshire Edge: Steep Wooded Scarp Slope LCT

Context

Located wholly within the study area, this LCT is a narrow strip of well vegetated steep scarp slope, locally known as 'The Cliff'.

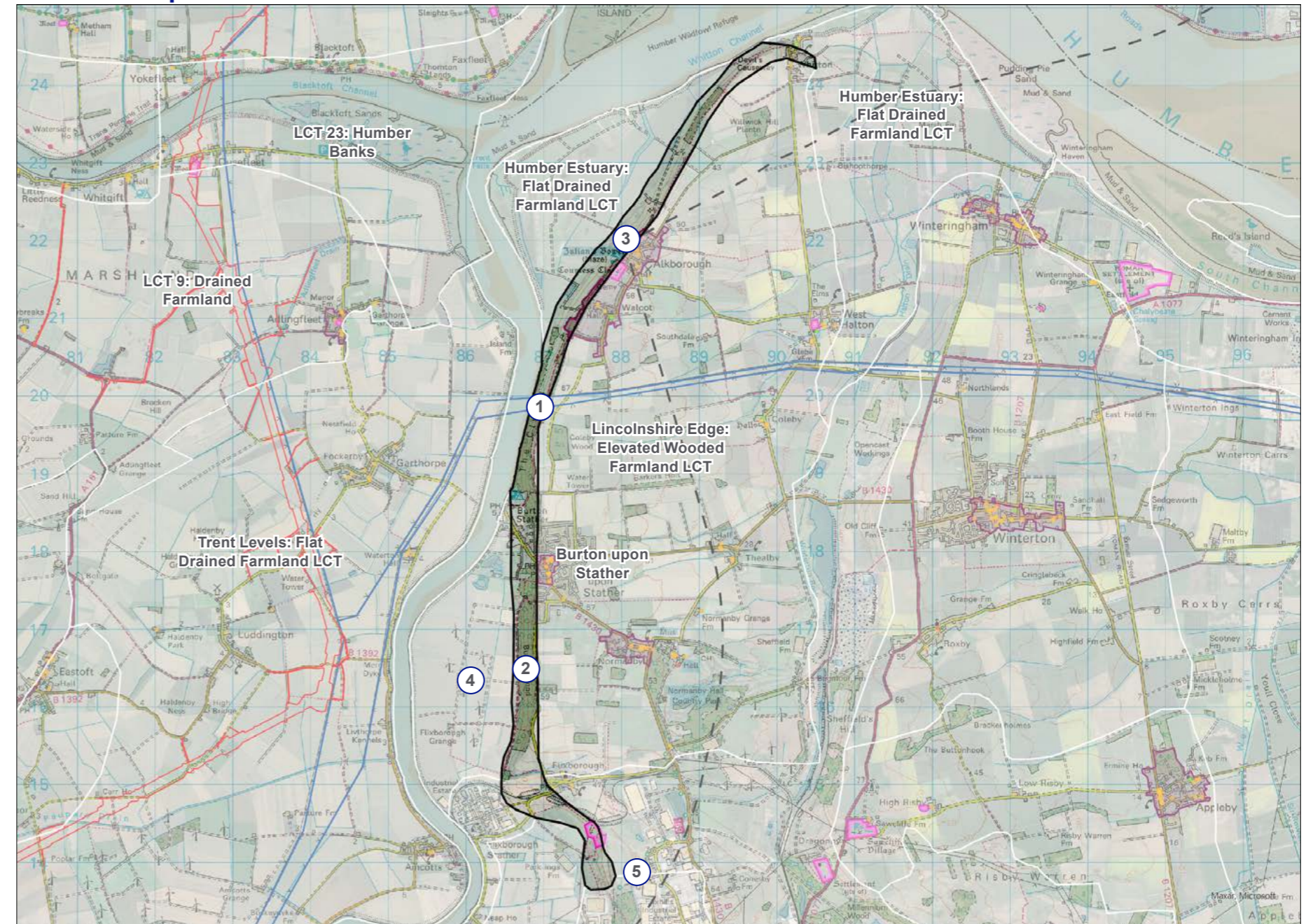
The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 45 - Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands
- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Lincolnshire Edge.

Key Characteristics

- A steep, west-facing scarp slope rising from around 2 m AOD in the Trent Levels to 60 m AOD.
- Extensively wooded, with patches of pasture, scrub, and rough grassland.
- The landscape is intimate in scale, often-enclosed by vegetation, with few local roads and tracks.
- Built development is largely absent from steeper areas, with settlements mainly at the top, except for Burton upon Stather.
- To the north, the scarp runs through Whitton as it tapers to the Humber Estuary.
- Industrial estates at the southern end of the LCT include Flixborough Stather to the west and Foxhills Industrial Estate to the south.
- The public rights of way network follows local roads and often skirts woodland edges.
- The large woodland named The Cliff is north of Burton upon Stather, with similarly sized Burton Wood to the south and an unnamed woodland southwest of Whitton.
- The ecologically rich slope features a mosaic of woodland, scrub, and neutral grassland habitats.
- Cultural heritage includes the Flixborough Saxon nunnery and All Saints medieval church Scheduled Monument, along with the nearby Julian's Bower turf-cut maze at Alkborough.
- The LCT overlaps exists with the Conservation Areas of Alkborough and Burton upon Stather.
- Long views across the Trent Levels and the confluence of the Rivers Trent, Ouse, and Humber.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Conservation Area | 5 km Study Area |
| Scheduled Monument | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Listed Building: | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade I | |
| Grade II | |
| Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead lines
- ② Burton Wood
- ③ Viewpoint at Julian's Bower
- ④ Grange Wind Farm
- ⑤ Industrial estates

Baseline Description

This LCT features a prominent west-facing scarp slope, rising steeply from around 2 m AOD in the Trent Levels to 60 m AOD at the top. The slope is ecologically rich with extensive woodland, pasture, scrub, and rough grassland. The landscape feels intimate, enclosed by dense vegetation, with few roads. Settlements are mainly at the top of the slope except for Burton Stather on the banks of the River Trent. The edges of Alkborough and Burton upon Stather provide visual interest as houses, interspersed with vegetation extend across part of the slope. At the shallower northern end, the scarp tapers to the Humber Estuary and runs through the centre of Whitton. At the southern end there are industrial estates on the periphery of the LCT with Flixborough Stather to the west and Foxhills Industrial Estate to the south and southeast. A railway line crosses the LCT, heading east near Flixborough.

From the top of the slope, there are expansive views across the Trent Levels, as well as the confluence of the Rivers Trent, Ouse, and Humber.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The Lincolnshire Edge features dramatic topography emphasised by the high woodland cover interspersed with small areas of pasture, scrub and rough grassland which all contribute to its scenic quality.

Due to the high woodland coverage, ecological integrity is strong and gives the landscape functional strength overall. Interspersed with the woodland are areas of scrub and neutral grassland which add to the overall ecological diversity. Ecological designations include Phoenix LNR at the very southern end of the LCT. The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

Culturally, the area is noted for its heritage sites, including the Flixborough Saxon nunnery and the Scheduled Monument of All Saints medieval church, located just south of Flixborough. Julian's Bower turf-cut maze Scheduled Monument, while just outside the LCT, is linked to the prominent viewpoint at the top of the scarp slope.

The landscape also intersects with the Conservation Areas of Alkborough and Burton upon Stather, enhancing its cultural richness.

The elevated landform affords long-ranging views across the Trent Levels from the top of the slope as well as across the confluence of the River Trent, Ouse and Humber. Wind turbines and overhead lines are present and are prominent in these views.

The public right of way network includes the Trent Valley Way.

Based on the above, and the judgement made against the factors in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **medium**.



Expansive view from promoted viewpoint at Julian's Bower



The steep wooded scarp slope beyond the River Trent and Grange Wind Farm Photo © Mat Fascione (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		High
Scenic quality		High
Conservation interests		High
Recreation value	Low	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	Low	
Associations	Low	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be medium .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		High
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		High
Scale		High
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		High
Human influence	Low	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The area's distinctive character arises from its dramatic landform and wooded character, which contrasts strongly with the flat low-lying valley of the River Trent. Panoramic views out across the Trent Levels from the top of the slope and across the confluence of the Rivers Trent, Ouse and Humber are a key characteristic of this LCT and are vulnerable to intrusion from a new overhead line. However, while a new line would contribute to the existing infrastructure, it would not fundamentally change the overall quality and character of the landscape, which is already affected by views of wind turbines and pylons.

The landscape setting of the Scheduled Monument and views to and from Alkborough and Burton upon Stather Conservation Areas are susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

Lincolnshire Edge: Elevated Wooded Farmland LCT

Context

This LCT comprises of three separate geographical areas, the largest of which lies around Normanby, Burton upon Stather and Alkborough and is mainly within the study area. The two smaller areas are outside the study area.

The LCT is covered by the following NCA and LCA:

- NCA 45 - Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands
- NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels
- LCA - Lincolnshire Edge.

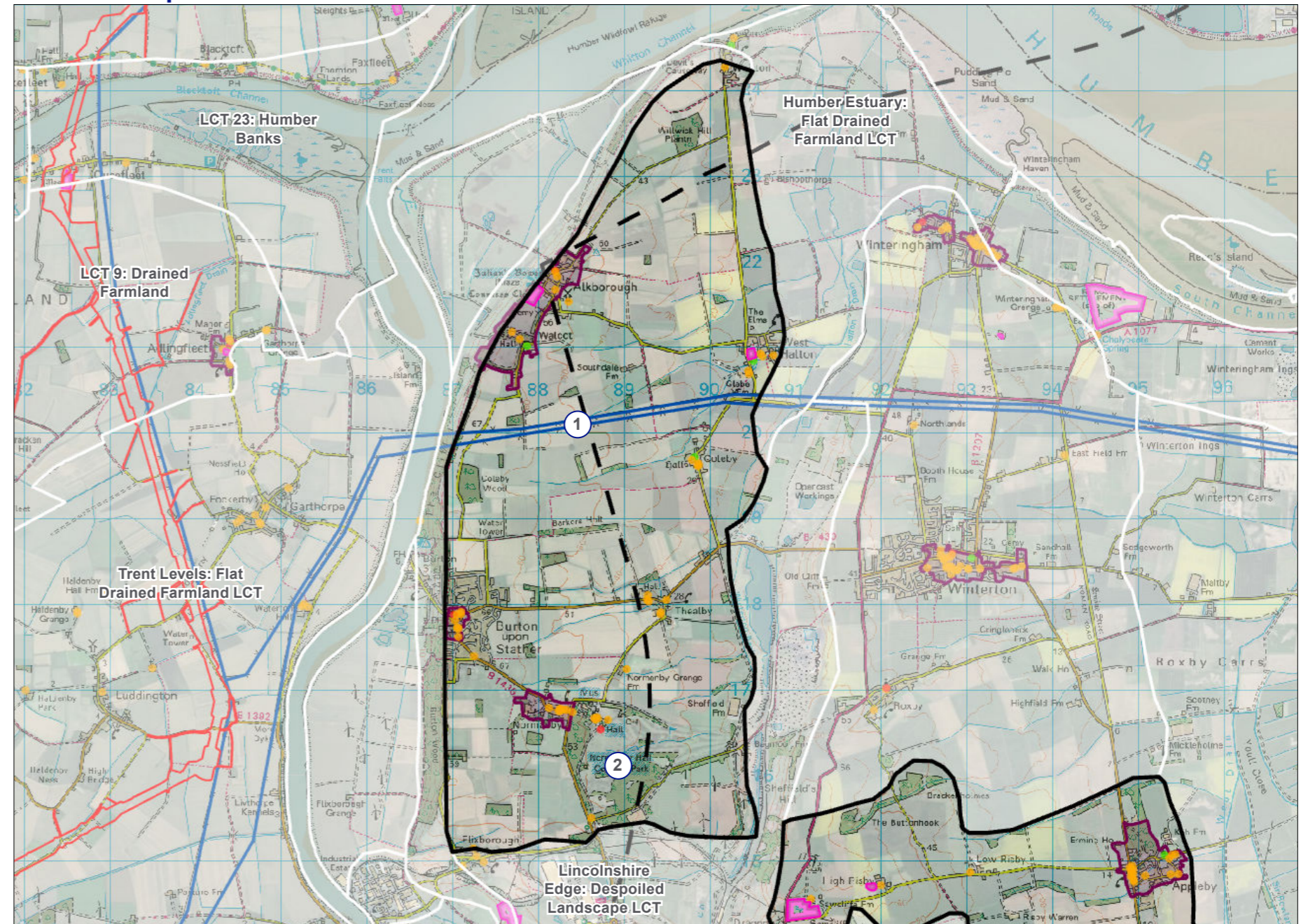
Key Characteristics

- Rolling upland with large hedged fields enclosed by landform and woodlands.
- Elevated location offers extensive views across lower-lying areas.
- Some hedgerow loss from field enlargement and amalgamation.
- Woodlands provide a containing influence, extending into the LCT from neighbouring areas.
- Normanby Hall Country Park is an LWS.
- Settlements have a strong rural character.
- Conservation Areas are designated in Alkborough, Burton upon Stather and Normanby.
- Scheduled Monuments include Countess Close, and Julian's Bower turf-cut maze at Alkborough.
- Cultural heritage features include many listed buildings, notably the Grade I listed Normanby Hall and the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Alkborough.
- Normanby Hall Country Park and Normanby Golf Course add recreational value.
- Bagmoor Windfarm and overhead lines to the south of Alkborough and Normanby are discordant elements.

Baseline Description

This LCT lies above and to the east of the Steep Wooded Scarp Slope LCT at around 50 m AOD. It is a rolling upland landscape on the dip slope of the Lincolnshire Edge escarpment with large fields mostly well contained by landform and deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and hedgerows with trees. The influence of woodlands is not just limited to those found within the Elevated Woodland Farmland LCT but is also provided from

Location Map



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Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
 - Grade I
 - Grade II
 - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

- 1 Existing 400 kV overhead lines
- 2 Normanby Hall Country Park

neighbouring LCTs. There has been some hedgerow loss due to field enlargement and consolidation.

Settlements maintain a strong rural character, utilising traditional building materials, with Conservation Areas in Alkborough, Burton upon Stather and Normanby. Historic sites include the Scheduled Monuments of Countess Close, and Julian’s Bower turf-cut maze at Alkborough. Cultural heritage is further enriched by many listed buildings, notably the Grade I listed Normanby Hall and the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Alkborough.

There are no statutory ecological designations within this LCT but Normanby Hall Country Park is an LWS. The landscape is crossed by overhead lines from east to west, south of Alkborough and is also influenced by Bagmoor Wind Farm and overhead lines on the southern edge of the LCT near Normanby Hall Country Park.



Overhead lines to the south of Alkborough

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The high-grade arable farmland has seen some hedgerow loss due to field enlargement and amalgamation. Overall however, the

landscape is in moderate condition, characterised by a large-scale field pattern defined by woodlands and hedgerows interspersed with trees. There are no statutory ecological designations within this LCT although Normanby Hall Country Park is an LWS and there are some remnant acid grassland and other priority habitats.

The LCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape

The area has a rich and varied cultural heritage. Settlements have a strong, rural character with historic cores and Conservation Areas at Alkborough, Burton upon Stather and Normanby. Scheduled Monuments include Countess Close, and Julian’s Bower turf-cut maze at Alkborough. Other cultural heritage features which add value to the landscape include the many listed buildings, notably the Grade I listed Normanby Hall and the Church of Saint John the Baptist in Alkborough. Due to the elevated location, there are extensive and long-range views to the northwest over the Humber Estuary and west across the Trent Valley. Some of these distant



Normanby Hall and Country Park
Photo © Chris (cc-by-sa/2.0)

views feature wind turbines and overhead lines although these are not prominent. More noticeable are Bagmoor Wind Farm and the overhead lines south of Alkborough and Normanby.

The public rights of way network includes the Trent Valley Way, Normanby Hall Country Park and Normanby Golf Course.

Based on the above, and the judgements made against the factors in Table A, the value of the LCT within the study area is considered to be **medium**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

Alkborough affords expansive views to the northwest over the Humber Estuary and to the west over the River Trent, with similar views available from Burton upon Stather. These views are a key characteristic of this LCT. A new overhead line would contribute to the existing infrastructure present in these views but would not fundamentally change the overall quality and character of the landscape within the LCT which is already affected by views of the overhead lines south of Alkborough, and Bagmoor Wind Farm and overhead lines south of Normanby Country Park around the southern edge of the LCT.

The landscape setting and views to and from the Scheduled Monuments and Alkborough and Burton upon Stather Conservation Areas are susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be medium .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

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East Midlands

RLCT 2b: Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands

Context

This RLCT extends across nearly the full width of the study area south of West Woodside and Owston Ferry.

The RLCT is covered by the NCA 39 - Humberhead Levels and is classed as Group 2 - Fenland and Fenland Margins in the East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.4).

Key Characteristics

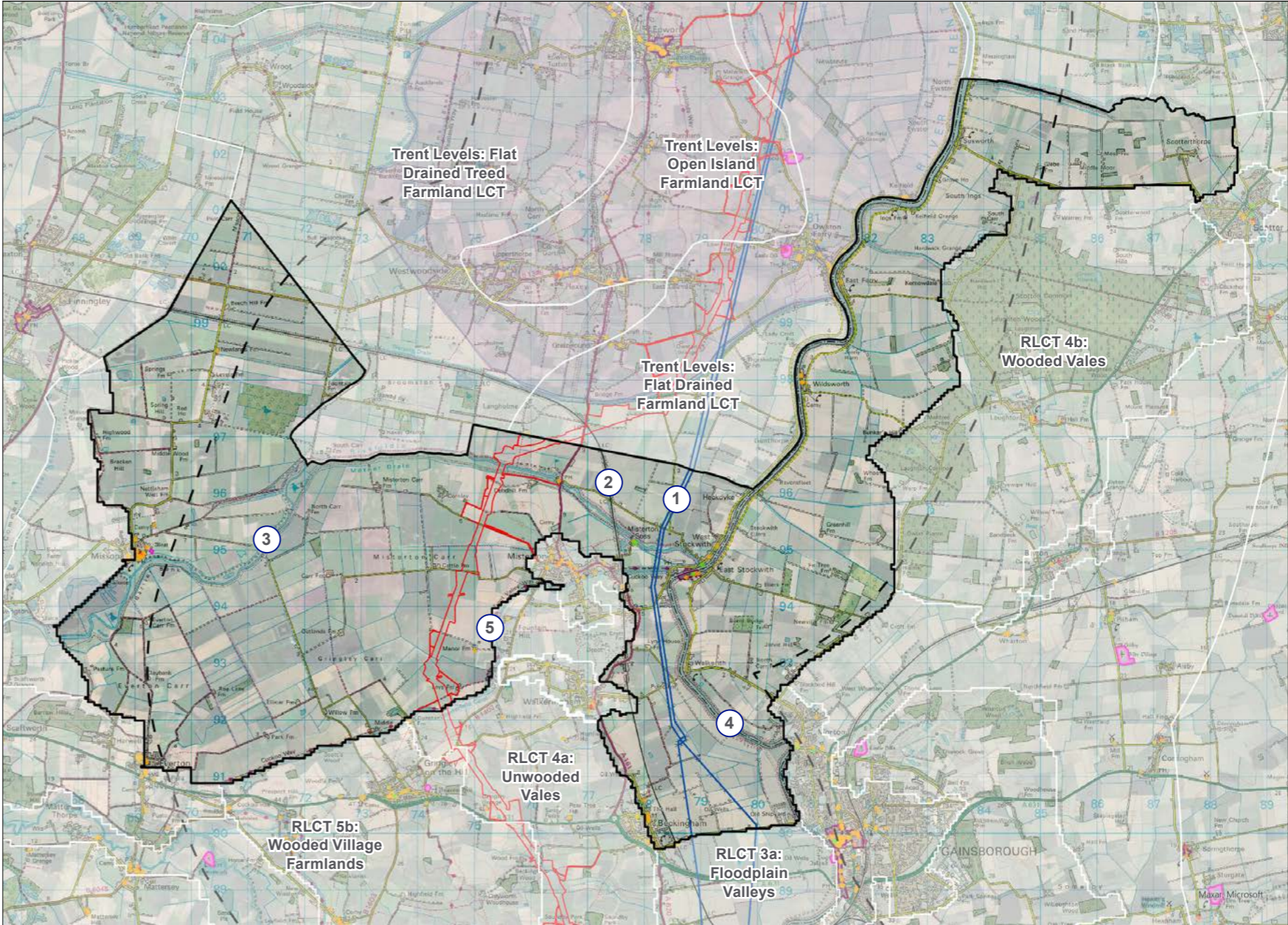
- Low-lying terrain often at or below sea level and simple land uses create visual unity and a strong sense of identity.
- Large, open flat farmland affords long views to distant horizons beneath vast skies.
- Historic landscape patterns are underpinned by a complex history of drainage and enclosure.
- Canalised rivers, drains, and ditches create rigid geometric patterns and have historically influenced the pattern of roads and settlements.
- Sparse settlement of isolated farms and linear villages, mostly brick buildings with tile roofs, reinforcing uniformity.
- Biodiversity interest with SSSIs associated with the River Idle.
- The arable crops create seasonal variations in colour and texture.
- Expansive, sparsely settled areas evoke a strong sense of remoteness.
- Large farm units and piecemeal roadside development with light industrial uses, such as garages, are eroding the sense of remoteness and causing localised visual intrusion.
- Overhead lines east of Misterton and Walkeringham are a discordant element.

Baseline Description

This RLCT has a strong landscape character and visual unity shaped by its low-lying terrain and simple land uses. The open arable farmland provides expansive, uninterrupted views toward distant horizons under vast skies, emphasising the landscape’s scale and simplicity.

Centuries of water management, including the canalisation of the River Idle and straightening of streams, have created a geometric pattern of fields defined by a network of drainage channels and ditches, allowing widespread use of the productive soils for arable farming. Agricultural intensification has led to the removal of hedgerows. Tree cover is limited to shelterbelts and plantations near farmsteads, and often comprises fast-growing conifers often planted around settlements.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Conservation Area | Isle of Axholme ASHLI |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade I | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II | |
| Grade II* | |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead line
- ② Doncaster to Gainsborough railway
- ③ River Idle/Mother Drain
- ④ River Trent
- ⑤ Chesterfield Canal

Settlement consists of scattered, mainly isolated farms and linear groups of residential properties along the roads. Villages such as East Stockwith, West Stockwith, and Walkerith are positioned along the banks of the River Trent, highlighting their connection to the region's waterways. More recent piecemeal development along roads and pockets of light industrial uses such as garages, are eroding the sense of remoteness and causing localised visual intrusion. The industrialised nature of modern farming practices has led to a proliferation of large farm buildings, which reduce the sense of remoteness and create adds further visual intrusion.



The Chesterfield Canal forms the boundary of this RLCT, the Cuckoo Way and Trent Valley Way following the towpath

Overhead lines to the east of Misterton and Walkeringham further diminish the landscape's open character and introduce visual clutter.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This rural landscape has strong visual unity and identity, shaped by its low-lying terrain and predominantly intensive arable farmland. This focus on agriculture has left limited areas of biodiversity,

although some remnant semi-natural habitats mainly along the River Idle, designated as SSSIs. Other semi-natural habitats are highly fragmented within the vast expanses of intensively managed farmland.

Although the RLCT has few designated historic sites aside from Conservation Areas in West and East Stockwith, the landscape reflects centuries of complex drainage and field enclosure.

The RLCT is in the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative which seeks to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape.

The public rights of way network is limited, although the Trent Valley Way and Cuckoo Way follow the Chesterfield Canal.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **medium**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

Existing overhead lines cross the area east of Misterton and Walkeringham, and while these detract from the scenery, they do not diminish the farmland's integrity or the area's overall character. Introducing a new overhead line would not fundamentally alter the rural character that defines the landscape. However, it would be an additional skyline feature, disrupting the expansive rural vistas that define this area and affecting both scenic quality and the remote, tranquil character. Other aspects of the landscape that are susceptible to the project include the wider landscape setting of Misterton and the landscape setting of the Conservation Areas, which are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be medium .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys

Context

The part of this large RLCT within the study area covers much of the broad and low-lying River Trent floodplain south of Gainsborough.

The RLCT is covered by the NCA 48 - Trent and Belvoir Dales and is classed as Group 3 - River Valley Floodplains in the East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.4).

Key Characteristics

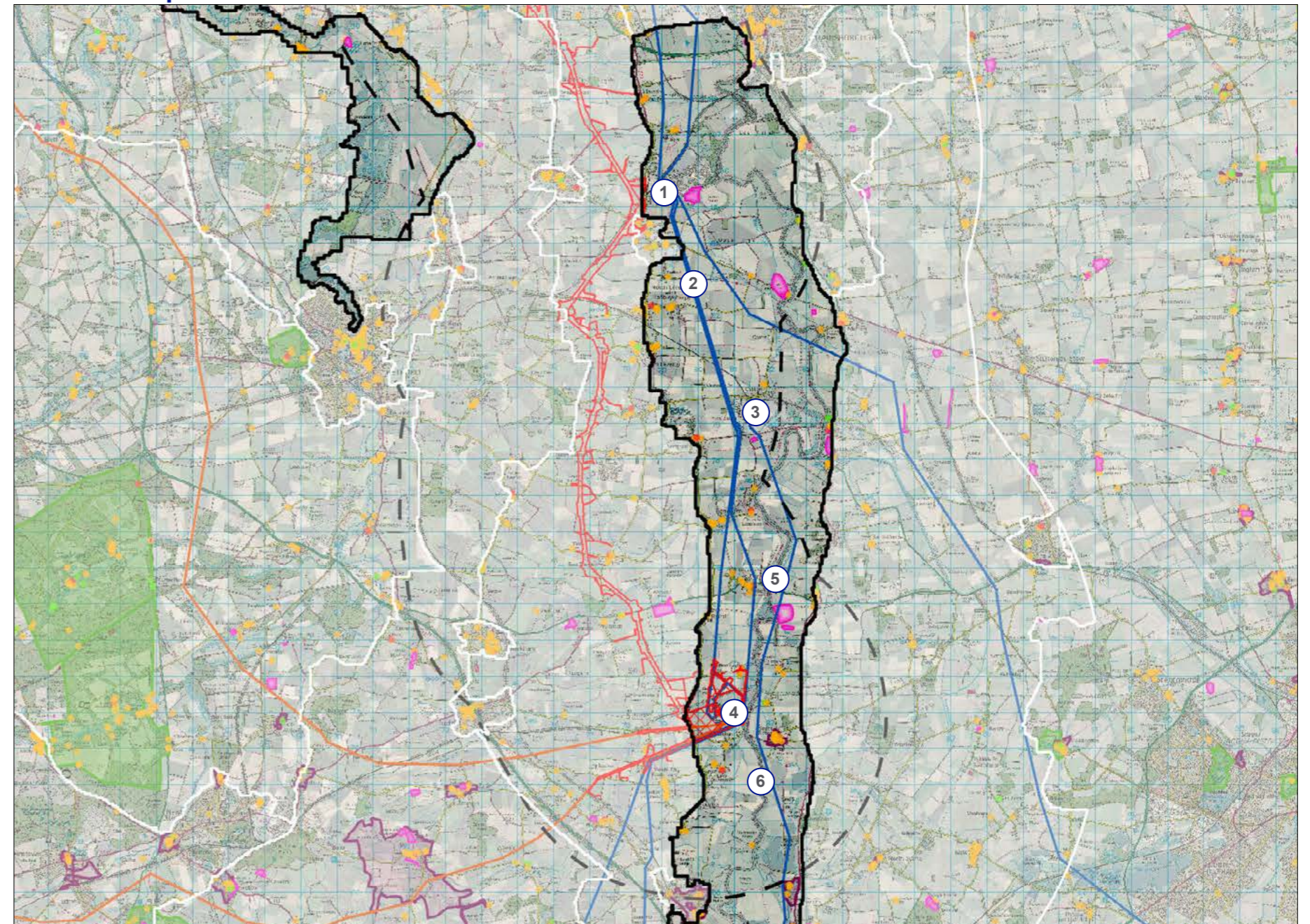
- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits cover the underlying bedrock, forming a wide, flat floodplains surrounded by rising land in adjacent landscapes.
- The River Trent channel is heavily managed and bordered by riparian habitats.
- Predominantly arable land with medium to large fields often defined by drainage ditches and roads.
- Some floodplain meadows and wet pastures designated as SSSI.
- Limited woodland cover, with more trees around settlements and on ash disposal sites such as Bole Ings.
- Hedgerow and riverside trees, including alder, willow, and poplar, are key landscape features.
- Sparse settlement and development in rural areas.
- Former power stations and overhead lines follow the Trent Valley and are defining skyline elements.
- Roads and communication routes often define the floodplain's edges.

Baseline Description

The River Trent floodplain features flat, expansive terrain with washlands along its eastern edge. Rising land and woodlands near Gainsborough, one of the river's few crossing points, provide some enclosure. The river course, which has been heavily managed for flood protection and drainage, has elevated flood banks that limit many views. Several villages on slightly higher ground to the west and east of the floodplain maintain a traditional character and have a higher tree cover.

Arable farming predominates, with large geometric field patterns from the parliamentary enclosure period. Field amalgamation has led to the loss of many hedgerows, creating open farmland often defined by drainage ditches and roads. Where hedgerows remain, trees such as ash, oak, and willow enhance the landscape. Surviving meadowlands retain a pastoral character, with permanent pastures and flood meadows. Although woodland cover is

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Registered Park and Garden |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade I | Existing 275 kV OHL |
| Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II* | Proposed Substation Works |

Notes

- ① Former West Burton Power Station
- ② Existing 400 kV overhead lines
- ③ Cottam Power Station
- ④ Existing High Marnham Substation
- ⑤ A57/Dunham Toll Bridge
- ⑥ River Trent

sparse, hedgerow and riverside trees contribute to a perception of a well-treed landscape, particularly at ground level. Recent years have seen scrub and woodland regeneration around ash disposal sites such as Bole Ings.

One of the key influences on the landscape of this RLCT is the range of highly modified and disturbed landscapes created by the former West Burton and Cottam Power Stations and their associated physical and transport infrastructure. The former cooling towers and multiple overhead lines are prominent in the otherwise flat and open landscape.



Former power stations and overhead lines are defining features of this RLCT

Key Landscape Value Attributes

Within the study area, the landscape is largely defined by the distinctive floodplain landscape of large open fields often defined by drainage ditches and roads. Overall, the landscape is in moderate condition, with a coherent pattern of landscape elements. While

the area has few designated historic sites aside from Conservation Areas in South Clifton, Girtton and Besthorpe, it reflects centuries of complex drainage and field enclosure. The landscape offers long, open views, though these are frequently interrupted by the industrial nature of former power station sites and the multiple overhead lines that follow the Trent Valley in a broadly parallel alignment.

Ecological designations within this area include Lea Marsh SSSI, an important floodplain meadow and wet pasture, and Spalford Warren SSSI to the southeast. LWS include an old Trent oxbow and several drainage dikes. Patches of marginal wetland habitats along the river further enhance biodiversity and the riparian character. The ecological network is of moderate integrity. The area is part of the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, a Natural England initiative aimed at creating a multifunctional wetland landscape.

The public right of way network includes the Trent Valley Way which follow the River Trent throughout much of this RLCT, and other public rights of way along the river and drains. The highest concentration of footpaths is around Laneham and around Cottam.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **medium**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape has a large scale and simplicity of its elements and features, including flat topography and large rectilinear fields. While a new overhead line would contribute to the existing infrastructure, it would not fundamentally change the overall quality and character, which is already affected by the former power station sites and associated overhead lines. However, it would introduce more pylons into skyline views and affect scenic quality and the tranquillity which

is experienced away from the settlements and energy infrastructure. Other aspects of the landscape that are highly susceptible to the project include the wider landscape setting of the Conservation Areas, which are vulnerable to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape within the study area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality	←————→	
Scenic quality	←————→	
Conservation interests	←————→	
Recreation value	←————→	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	←————→	
Associations	←————→	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be medium .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	←————→	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	←————→	
Scale	←————→	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	←————→	
Human influence	←————→	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium .	

RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

Context

Much of this large RLCT is within the study area where it extends south from Misterton and west of the Trent floodplain. Initially relatively narrow, the RLCT widens out south of Woodbeck.

The RLCT is covered by the NCA 48 - Trent and Belvoir Dales and is classed as Group 4 - Lowland Vales in the East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.4).

Key Characteristics

- Extensive, low-lying rural landscape lying around 30-60 m AOD.
- Expansive, panoramic views from higher ground at the vale margins create a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain prominence in an otherwise low-lying gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns with watercourses flowing through shallow undulations, often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover, with shelter belts and hedgerow trees provide visual interest and habitat value.
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with recent increases in arable cropping.
- Regular patterns of medium-sized arable fields enclosed by low, well-maintained hedgerows and ditches.
- Sparsely settled, featuring small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.

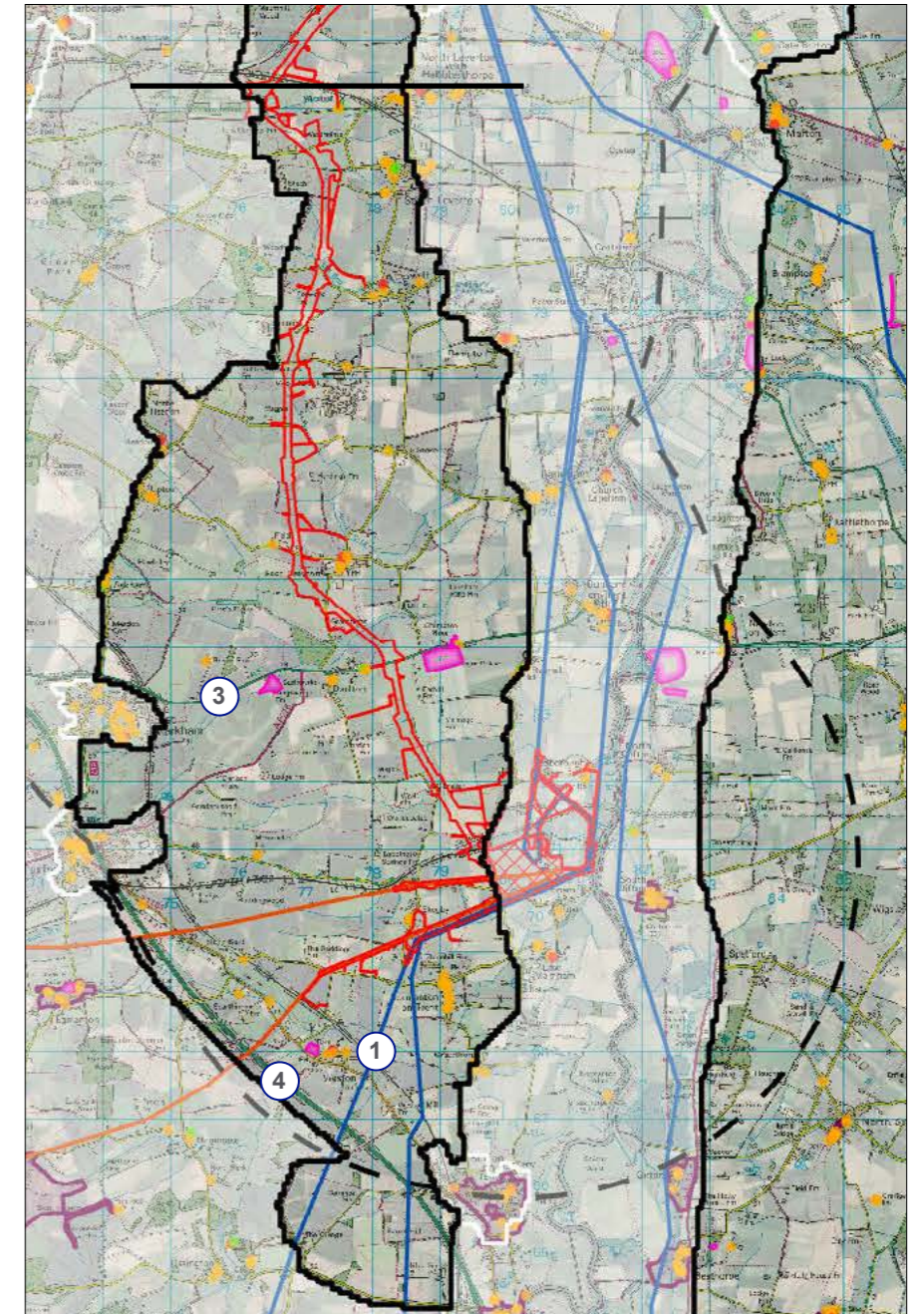
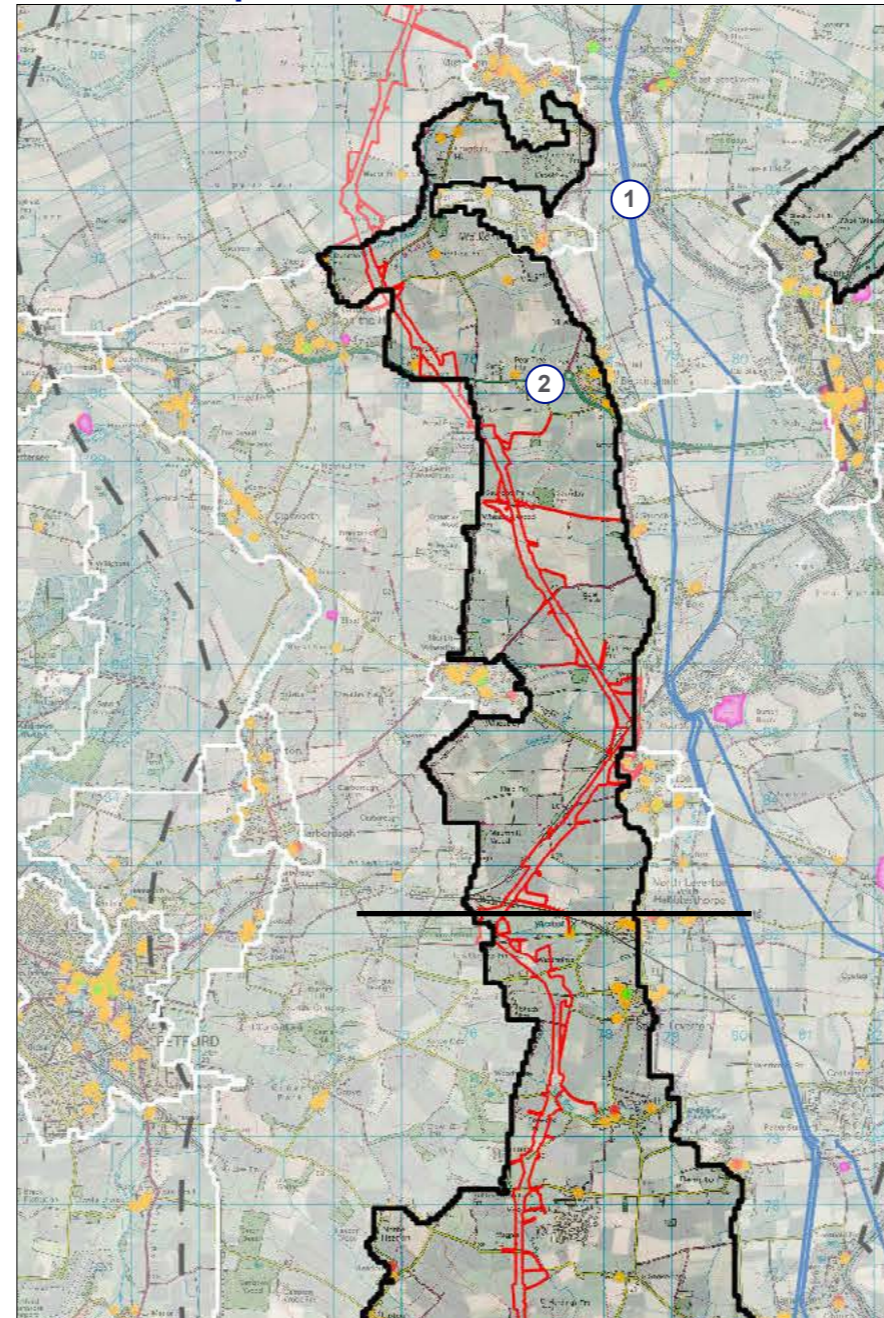
Baseline Description

Belts of mudstones and clays underlying this RLCT have created a low, gently undulating terrain. Rising landform to the east and west create visual containment, with glimpses of neighbouring elevated areas contributing to a strong sense of place. While this is sometimes difficult to discern, glimpses of neighbouring elevated areas are often sufficient to provide a strong sense of place.

The broad vales, particularly along river and stream valleys, feature more intimate areas defined by low hills and ridges, which foreshorten views and create subtle relief. Rivers and streams, though not immediately visible, can be traced by their sinuous riparian habitats and riverside trees.

The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Permanent pastures, often grazed by dairy herds, are typical along alluvial belts, where

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Registered Park and Garden |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade I | Existing 275 kV OHL |
| Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II* | Proposed Substation Works |

Notes

- ① Existing 400 kV overhead lines
- ② A631
- ③ A57
- ④ A1

rough grass and rushy pastures are common. Cereal and vegetable cropping is widespread and, in some locations, hedgerow removal has created some very large fields, often under a single crop. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly noticeable near settlements.

Woodland cover is generally low, with few remnants of ancient woodland. Despite this, the landscape appears well-treed due to hedgerows and moderately sized game coverts and shelter belts. While not common, hedgerow trees, notably oak and ash, are also important both to provide shelter and to add to the overall treed character of the landscape.

The RLCT is relatively sparsely settled, with villages, hamlets and farms widely distributed throughout the rural landscape and connected by narrow winding lanes and more direct arterial routes. These settlements are typically small and nucleated, often integrated into the landscape by surrounding tree belts, with church spires or towers punctuating the skyline. The flat, open landscape

also contains several former wartime airfields, including at West Burton.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This RLCT presents a simple, unified landscape characterised by productive mixed farmland arranged in planned patterns of late 18th and early 19th century hedged and ditched enclosures. The landscape includes permanent pastures along watercourses, nucleated villages, and dispersed farmsteads connected by narrow winding lanes and more direct arterial routes. Its soft, gently undulating terrain, combined with low woodland cover, creates an open and expansive environment. Panoramic views are experienced from the low hills and ridges that separate the watercourses, while more intimate settings are found in lower-lying areas where intact hedgerow networks and riverside trees limit visibility.

Historic influences are present, with Scheduled Monuments at Whimpton Village and Kingshaugh Farm. There is a Conservation Area at East Drayton which covers much of the village. The Grade II* North Leverton Windmill is a notable feature in the landscape.

In this long settled and productive agricultural landscape there are typically low levels of woodland cover and very low levels of surviving ancient woodland. The shelterbelts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result. The landscape has also retained little semi-natural habitat, reflected in the low occurrence of areas designated for their nature conservation value. However, the wet soils along the alluvial belts bordering rivers and streams support valuable riparian habitats and rushy pastures. Designated areas include Chesterfield Canal SSSI to the north and Ashton's Meadow SSSI at the centre of the RLCT. The RLCT is also part of the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area, an initiative by Natural England aimed at developing a multi-functional wetland landscape.

The public rights of way network is relatively limited although the Trent Valley Way crosses this character area to the west of Sturton le Steeple, and locally promoted routes link to the Fledborough Viaduct to the east north of High Marnham.

Overall, the rural landscape maintains a harmonious character, with few discordant features. Pylons are distantly visible to the east but do not detract from the quality or tranquillity of the farmland. The exception to this is the area to the west of High Marnham north of Normanton on Trent, where four overhead lines converge from the west on route to the substation to the east.



North Leverton Windmill remains a working mill with small museum located to the west of North Leverton with Hablesthorpe



Hedgerows give a well-treed character despite the absence of larger blocks of woodland

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		
Scenic quality		
Conservation interests		
Recreation value		
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		
Associations		
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be medium .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)		
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		
Scale		
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		
Human influence		
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **medium**.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

Aspects of the RLCT which are of higher susceptibility to the project include the strongly agricultural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of rural tranquillity. This is particularly evident where the landscape is intact, with farmland interspersed with small villages and hamlets.

The panoramic views from the high ground are susceptible to visual intrusion. Although pylons can be distantly seen on the skyline to the east, they do not significantly detract from the quality or tranquillity of the farmland. The landscape setting of the historic villages and views to and from the Scheduled Monuments and East Drayton Conservation Area are susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

RLCT 5b: Wooded Village Farmlands

Context

Much of this large RLCT is within the study area where it extends south from the Chesterfield Canal and west of the Trent floodplain.

The RLCT is covered by the NCA 48 - Trent and Belvoir Dales and is classed as Group 5 - Village Farmlands in the East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 1.4).

Key Characteristics

- Varied topography, ranging from gently undulating farmlands to rolling hills lying around 50-80 m AOD.
- Scattered farm woodlands, ancient woodlands on prominent hills and tree lined valleys contribute to a well wooded character.
- Well maintained pattern of small to medium hedged fields enclosing pasture and arable fields, with evidence of decline close to urban areas.
- Sparsely settled, with traditional pattern of farms and small rural villages linked by quiet country lanes.
- Strong sense of landscape history.

Baseline Description

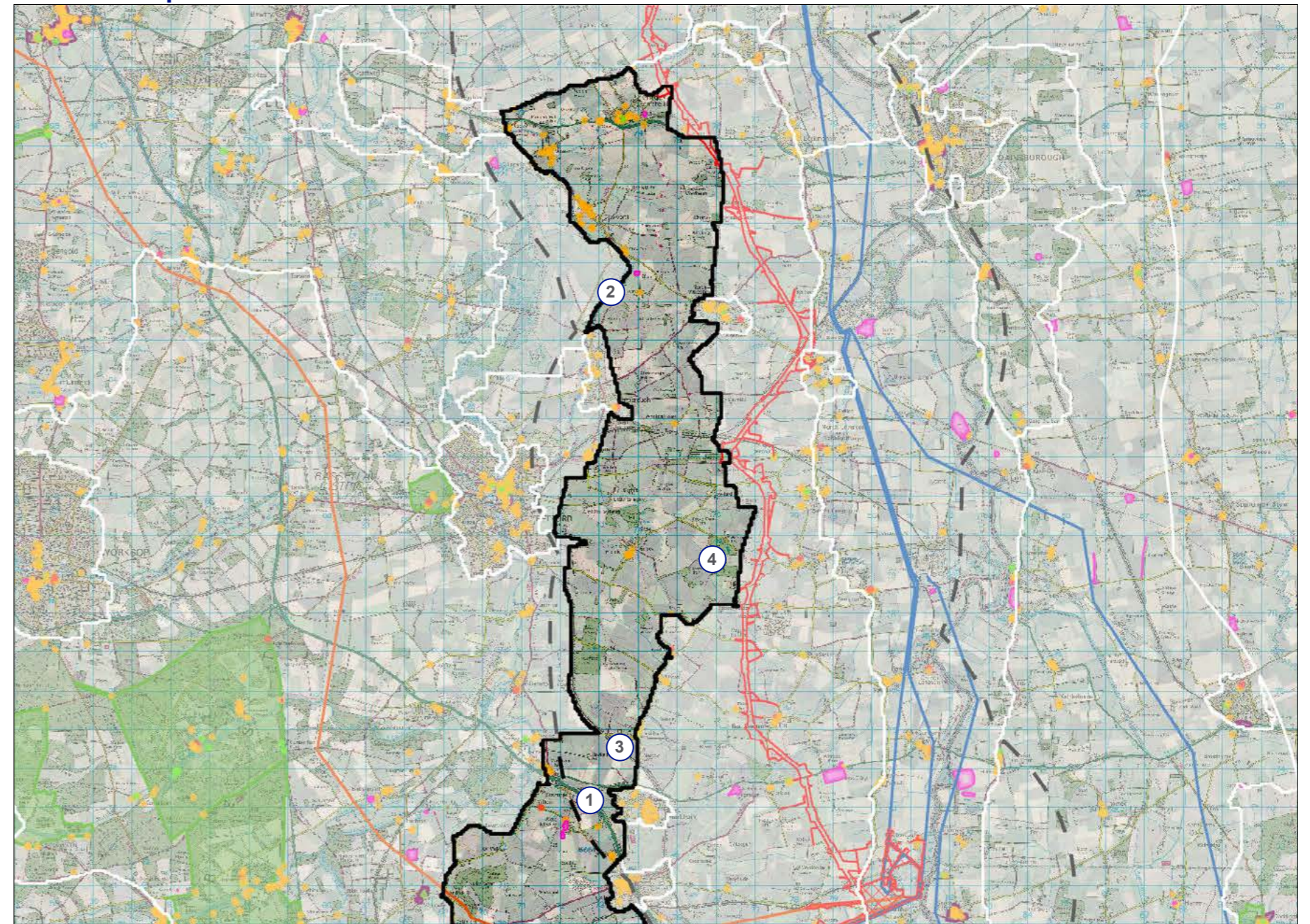
The RLCT features productive, well-wooded rolling farmlands and valleys, drained by a network of small rivers and streams that occupy defined valleys with narrow alluvial floodplains. The landscape is marked by mixed farmland within an enclosed area of low, well-maintained hedgerows, with permanent pastures, often grazed by dairy herds, common along the floodplains. Where intensive arable production dominates, hedgerows are often gappy, low, and heavily clipped, with few hedgerow trees.

Woodlands are typically deciduous or mixed and are generally small to medium size. Of particular importance is the wide distribution of ancient woodlands, often prominently sited on hilltops and higher ground. Parklands and estate copses and coverts further add to the well-wooded character of the landscape, as do the many willow lined streams and hedgerow trees.

Villages, hamlets and farmsteads are dispersed throughout the rural landscape and linked by a network of often narrow winding lanes.

The landscape retains a relatively intact historic character, with sinuous hedgerow patterns and winding rural lanes that evoke historic land management practices.

Location Map



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Key

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation Area | Registered Park and Garden |
| Scheduled Monument | 5 km Study Area |
| Listed Building: | Existing 400 kV OHL |
| Grade I | Existing 275 kV OHL |
| Grade II | Draft Order Limits |
| Grade II* | Proposed Substation Works |

Notes

- ① A1
- ② Chesterfield Canal
- ③ Railway
- ④ Treswell Wood

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape is in good condition, with rolling landform, mixed agriculture, and relatively high woodland cover creating a strong visual unity. It retains a rural character, particularly in areas where ancient hedgerows, woodlands, and winding lanes remain largely unchanged. However, in places where agriculture has changed to intensive arable farming, gappy hedgerows and reduced woodland suggest declining landscape quality.

Semi-natural habitats are limited, but broadleaved woodlands and local species-rich meadows remain, contributing to nature conservation. Ecological connectivity is variable, with hedgerows, hedgerow trees, and riparian habitats serving as vital links between woodlands and unimproved grasslands. However, in areas of intensive arable production, hedgerows are often gappy, low, and heavily clipped, with few hedgerow trees. In contrast, hedgerows on steeper terrain and estate farmlands are generally better maintained, forming continuous habitat networks.



Expansive views north from Beacon Hill Scheduled Monument which sits within Gringley on the Hill Conservation Area

Where field patterns remain intact, and local villages have seen limited late 20th century growth and development, the landscape retains a strong historic character, with tangible evidence of land use and settlement stretching back into the medieval period. Of particular significance are the ancient woodlands, organic field patterns and winding rural lanes between long established villages and hamlets. Historic sites, such as Beacon Hill and Hayton Castle Scheduled Monuments and numerous conservation areas including Gringley on the Hill, North Wheatley and East Markham, enhance the area's cultural value.

Recreational value is added by the Trent Valley Way, Cuckoo Way, and a well-connected public rights of way network, along with the Chesterfield Canal. Overall, the rural landscape maintains a harmonious character, with few discordant features.



The Chesterfield Canal located on the western boundary of the character area, the Cuckoo Way following the towpath

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape within the study area is considered to be **high**.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value	
	Lower	Higher
Landscape character and quality		High
Scenic quality		High
Conservation interests		High
Recreation value		High
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity		High
Associations	High	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be high .	

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility	
	Lower	Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	High	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)		High
Scale		High
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)		High
Human influence		High
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high .	

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape has a strong agricultural character, with much of it retaining a sense of rural tranquillity and visual unity. Where the field patterns, woodlands and winding rural lanes remain intact, and local villages have seen limited late 20th century growth and development, the landscape also retains a strong historic character, with tangible evidence of land use and settlement. These elements and features are all susceptible to a new 400 kV overhead line, which would alter the perceptual qualities and character of the landscape.

The undulating landform and woodlands generally combine to create visual containment and sense of enclosure. Despite this, some panoramic and extensive views are possible from elevated locations where views are uninterrupted by intervening vegetation. These views are susceptible to visual intrusion from a new 400 kV overhead line.

The surroundings of the villages and the landscape setting and views to and from the historic elements including the conservation areas, as well as the Beacon Hill and Hayton Castle Scheduled Monuments are also susceptible to visual intrusion.

Based on the above and the judgements made against factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

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