

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

HORNSEA

HORNSEA 1:10'000 ANALYSIS

Introduction

This report describes the landscape character of the setting of Hornsea and assesses the quality of the landscape and the sensitivity of landscape character to detrimental change as a result of development on the urban edge.

The purpose of this study is to identify the areas that have the capacity to accept change as a result of development without detriment to landscape character.

This assessment does not assess the character or quality of urban green space. However, the importance of links between the town and countryside is a consideration.

Landscape Setting

Hornsea is located on the east coast in the Holderness Countryside Character Area identified by the Countryside Agency. The landscape setting of Hornsea is influenced by a variety of landscape characteristics. Three landscape character types have been identified in the East Riding Landscape Character Assessment that contribute to the setting of this seaside town. They are:

Landscape Character Type 18 – Drained Floodplain Farmland

Landscape Character Type 19 – Open Farmland

Landscape Character Type 20 – Coastal Farmland

Hornsea Mere contributes to the character of the western approach to the town and is a unique characteristic in Holderness being the only remaining Mere. Meres were numerous in Holderness and were formed at the end of the Devensian period when water filled hollows in the ground left by the retreating ice sheet.

Land use in this area is a combination of arable fields with areas of grassland. Field boundaries where they remain intact are hedgerows. Hornsea is a tourist resort on the east coast and development reflects the importance of tourism to the town with several caravan parks located along the coastline.

Sea defences are an important feature of the coastline in this area. They protect Hornsea from the coastal erosion. These defences also impact on coastal erosion and the character of the coast either side of them.

Generic characteristics of the Hornsea landscape setting include:

- Gently undulating landform with shallow valley extending from Hornsea Mere to the North Sea;
- Rectilinear fields with a mix of intact and fragmented hedgerow boundaries;

- Highly visible caravan sites along the coast; and
- Open landscape with few trees north and south becoming more enclosed with trees around Hornsea Mere to the west.

Description of Visual Envelope

The topography of the area and, to a lesser extent, the existing vegetation and land use on the edge of Hornsea restrict the extent of the visual envelope for the edge of the town. To the north views of the urban edge from Hornsea Road are not apparent until Northorp Farm. Along the flatter cliff road adjacent to the cliff top the views of the urban edge and associated caravan sites are slightly more extensive.

From the west existing vegetation associated with field boundaries and Hornsea Mere coupled with the dipping landform of the area restricts views of the urban edge.

To the south views of the urban edge are limited to the immediate setting of the town. Along the coast the extent of visible built development is limited by landform. However, extensive caravan parks on the coast at either end of the town are prominent in the coastal landscape.

LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

The following assessment should be read with Figure Number 8. The East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment provides the description of the surrounding landscape character and is referred to throughout.

Area 1 - North of Hornsea; Cliff Road to Atwick Road

The area assessed, known as East Field and Church Land is bordered; to the east by the linear caravan sites and residential properties that line the cliff top, to the west by Atwick Road, scattered farmsteads and open agricultural fields, to the north by a caravan site and to the south by a Chalet Camp, warehouses and residential properties. New residential development is under construction along the northern edge of the town between the incinerator and Cliff Road. Views within this area can be seen on Photo Plates A and B

1.1 Landscape Character

The area is located within landscape character area 20C, Bridlington to Hornsea Coastal Farmland. The medium sized gently rolling fields are under arable production, with few field boundaries existing around the fields. Neglected, fragmented hedgerows are present around the built up areas with almost no tree cover present.

Linear development exists to the east along the cliff top and Cliff Road, development is a mixture of old residential, new residential, industrial buildings and caravan parks. The predominant building material for the housing is red brick. The older (Victorian) houses tend

to be a darker shade of red than the newer properties. There is limited amount of visible hydrology within the area. Drainage ditches are present around the fields. Recreational space borders the area with the school playing fields to the south of the incinerator. A built landscape feature of note is the chimney of the incinerator at the household waste site. The surrounding trees can be seen at a local high point on Atwick Road. Other visible built landscape features include; lanes, street lamps and telegraph poles. Overall the landscape is of a moderate scale, exposed to the elements from the sea, with a diversity of land uses. Due to the number of different and poorly integrated random land uses the area has a chaotic appearance.

1.2 Assessment of Quality

Based on the above description, the quality of the landscape of this area is assessed to be poor. There are few hedgerows and trees to help integrate development on the edge of Hornsea with the neighbouring rural landscape. The scattered caravan sites and other development along the coastal edge are detractors that have a negative effect on landscape character. However, it should be recognised that the coastal landscape is valued by tourist and locals.

1.3 Assessment of Sensitivity and Capacity

Development that continues to spread in a linear fashion down the coast either side of Cliffe Road would result in further encroachment of urban characteristics along the open rural character of the coast. The landscape of the coast line has high sensitivity to further built development including caravan parks.

Existing fields behind the warehouses and to the north of Ashcourt Drive estate, running west to the household waste site are reasonably well contained. New residential development is taking place in this area. It is assessed that landscape character would be less sensitive to change as a result of development in this area. Mitigation to help integrate new development into the landscape and improve the setting of Hornsea should include hedgerow and tree planting to soften the appearance on the urban edge adjacent to the open rural landscape.

Caravan sites are a detractor in the area. The density of caravans, their appearance and layout that is not consistent with vernacular, coupled with the open character of the area resulting in the high visibility of these developments makes a negative contribution to landscape character. The capacity of the landscape to accept similar development without further impacting on landscape character is limited and landscape sensitivity to this type of development is assessed to be high.

Area 2 - North of Hornsea; Atwick Road, west and south to Bewholme Lane and Hornsea Mere

The area assessed is known as 'The Leys' and is bordered to the east by Atwick Road, to the south by the Cheyne Walk housing estate and open fields which run down to the mere, and to the west and north by open agricultural land and scattered farmsteads.

2.1 Landscape Character

This area is located in the transition between landscape character area 19C, North Holderness Open Farmland and landscape character area 18D, Hornsea Mere. The fields, used for both arable and pasture, gently roll before dropping down to the Mere edge. The fields found on the rolling areas to the north are generally medium in size, have few field boundaries and are subject to arable production. On the sloping ground down to the Mere the fields are of a smaller size, used as pasture, with mature hedgerows. The large number of mature hedge trees is a key characteristic of this area.

Development within the area is limited to the two existing farms and a cottage. Honeysuckle Farm is operating as an open farm attracting a number of visitors to the area. An area reserved for allotments it is located to the east next to Atwick Road opposite the incinerator and north of the residential area on Northumberland Avenue. To the north and west of the allotments are open fields and the allotment boundary is surrounded by a mature hedge. The only built landscape feature of note is the incinerator chimney at the household waste site. Trees along field boundaries stand out on the horizon when looking east towards the sea (which is not visible), other visible landscape features include; tracks, minor road and telegraph poles. Overall the landscape is of a moderate scale within the larger fields to the north becoming smaller scale closer to the Mere where the pastoral fields are enclosed by mature hedge boundaries. The vegetation associated with the Mere also contributes to the more enclosed appearance of the area. Due to the different types of farming within the area it has a reasonably colourful appearance but because farming is the major land use the area has a balanced, tended and regular appearance.

2.2 Assessment of Quality

Based on the above description, the quality of the landscape in this area is assessed to be ordinary to good. The undulating higher arable area has few feature features to distinguish it and is generally pleasant. This area is assessed to be ordinary. The smaller scale pastoral fields that slope down to the Mere have strong field boundaries that are in good condition with mature trees contributing to diversity and providing a setting to the western edge of the town. The Mere itself is a designated SSSI recognised for its geological importance and ecological value. This area is assessed to be a good quality landscape.

2.3 Assessment of Sensitivity and Capacity

The existing housing estates in this area are well screened by mature vegetation along nearby field boundaries and within the boundaries of the properties. Due to this level of vegetation the current impact the built edge has on the surrounding landscape is minimal and both land uses integrate well. The area is an important gateway to the town, (in particular the southern slopes) north of Hornsea Mere. The landscape provides a pleasant approach to the town, channelling views east towards the town, with the rural character contributing to the landscape setting. The landscape would therefore be highly sensitive to development and the loss of the fields and associated vegetation would change the character of the area, both enclosing views, while also extending urban influences into the countryside, which would impact on the landscape setting of the Mere and the town.

Landscape character can be reinforced by retaining and restoring landscape features through appropriate management. In particular hedgerows and hedgerow trees play an important role in screening and integrating development with the surrounding countryside.

Area 3 – South west of Hornsea; west of Hull Road and north of Southorpe Road

The area is known as Southorpe and was the site of a medieval village. The area is bordered to the north by Hornsea Mere, to the east by Hull Road, Hornsea Centre and caravan site, and existing properties of Hornsea Bridge, and to the south and west by open agricultural fields. Views within this area can be seen on Photo C.

3.1 Landscape Character

The area is located within landscape character area 18D, Hornsea Mere. The fields, used for both arable and pasture, are medium and small in size and slope down to the Mere edge. Remnant mature and fragmented hedges exist in the area around the remains of Southorpe village, with earth works and old field patterns visible from the air. A number of mature trees are also found growing within the hedges in this area, particularly on the sloping ground down to the Mere edge. Hornsea Mere is a SSSI and Southorpe Medieval village site is a scheduled monument. These two features are the main landscape features in this area with views to the north east from the higher ground. Hornsea Church is a feature on the skyline. Development within this area is limited to Southorpe Farm, and the other landscape built features visible are minor and major roads, street lamps, telegraph poles and communication masts. Overall the landscape is small scale, enclosed by the sloping topography down to the Mere and existing mature vegetation. The field pattern is irregular and the landscape has a reasonably well tended appearance. The only detractor in the area is the traffic noise from the busy Hull Road, a major route into the town.

3.2 Assessment of Quality

Existing statutory designations offer protection to the landscape in this area that is a visually attractive gateway when travelling to Hornsea from the south offering views over the Mere and towards the town. These designations have protected the area from development and the intact condition of landscape features and characteristics contribute to the attractive approach to the town. Landscape quality is assessed to be good.

3.3 Assessment of Sensitivity and Capacity

The landscape character of this area is assessed to have high sensitivity to built development that would affect the character of the fields at Southorpe resulting in impact on the setting of Hornsea and Hornsea Mere. Loss of vegetation, change in field pattern and change in views as a result of development in this area would result in a change of setting for the SAM and impact upon the setting of the Mere, a SSSI. Hull Road acts as the development limit in this area and new development west of Hull Road would adversely impact on the setting of Hornsea as well as impact upon the character and setting of two statutory designations. The landscape in this area has a low capacity to accept built development without detriment to landscape character.

Area 4 – South of Hornsea; south of Hornsea Potteries, west of Strawberry Gardens and east of the Trans Pennine Trail

The area is located to the south of Edenfield and is bordered to the north by the Hornsea Potteries and Freeport Retail Park and car parking areas, to the east and south by the Strawberry Gardens residential area, to the south by open agricultural fields and to the west by Southorpe Grange Farm and a disused railway line (now the Trans Pennine Trail).

4.1 Landscape Character

This area is located on the boundary of landscape character area 19D, Central Holderness Open Farmland. The arable fields are slightly undulating and of a medium size but confined by existing development to the north, east and south. The mature trees around the boundaries of the residential properties to the south and east are a particular feature and screen the Retail Park and properties from one another. Mature tree and scrub vegetation can also be found along the disused railway line (Trans Pennine Trail) which borders the area to the west. Mature but partly fragmented hedgerows with hedgerow trees are characteristic of the field boundaries in the vicinity of Southorpe Grange farm. The area is also bordered to the east by Foss Dike which drains towards the Mere; this however is not visible due to the mature vegetation in the area. The golf course forms the south-eastern extent of the area and mature tree planting on the course helps to screen views of other parts of the area and also residential properties along Strawberry Gardens from the wider landscape.

The Hornsea Potteries Freeport Retail Park is a major built feature in the area; this is relatively well screened from the surrounding landscape by perimeter tree planting however the original car park and new car park for this site impact on the quality of the landscape due to the limited screen planting. Other built features include; tracks, minor roads, major roads, a railway embankment, and telegraph poles. Mature planting within the gardens of the existing housing area of Strawberry Gardens effectively screens these residential properties and limits the impact of this development on the surrounding landscape.

Overall the scale of the landscape is moderate; however the field between the Retail Park and Strawberry Gardens feels more enclosed resulting in a smaller scale. The landscape has a diverse appearance due to the different land uses but the vegetation in the area helps to counteract the impact of development on the rural landscape of the urban edge, resulting in a balance between development and rural character, within an organised pattern that appears to be managed giving a well tended appearance.

The disused railway line, now the Trans Pennine Trail, is an important corridor linking the town with the countryside.

4.2 Assessment of Quality

The mature vegetation within the established residential area of Strawberry Gardens and within some of the hedgerows is a key characteristic; however the retail park and associated car parking is a detractor and has a negative effect on character. This is partially screened from the wider landscape by the existing residential areas. Based on the above, the quality of the landscape in this area is assessed to be ordinary.

4.3 Assessment of Sensitivity and Capacity

This area plays an important role in providing the setting for the southern edge of Hornsea. Development at Strawberry Gardens has already encroached on field pattern in this area. A strip of land is left surrounded by development on three sides (north, east and south) and has the capacity to accept development without detriment to landscape character providing that existing mature vegetation (i.e. hedgerows and trees) is retained and enhanced.

The remainder of this area has medium sensitivity to built development as this would impact further on the setting of the town and approaches to Hornsea from the south by extending the influence of the urban edge into the surrounding rural landscape.

Landscape character could be improved in the area by the infilling of fragmented hedgerows near to Southorpe Grange farm and planting screening blocks around the unattractive car park areas around the retail park.

Area 5 – South of Hornsea / East of Hornsea Burton, west of South Cliff

The area stretches from Cherry Burton Road in the north, to Rolston Road in the south west. The site is bordered by caravan parks to the north east, open agricultural land to the south east and south and the residential area of Hornsea Burton to the west. Views within this area can be seen on Photo Plate D.

5.1 – Landscape Character

The area is located within landscape character area 20B – Hornsea to Withernsea Coastal Farmland. The area consists of medium sized gently rolling arable and pastoral fields, bordered by mature fragmented hedgerows. A number of mature trees are found around and leading up to Carr Farm and Beverley Farm in the north of the area, but few trees are found to the south. Due to the slightly elevated nature of the land numerous views are afforded to the sea but these areas are also exposed the natural elements which may account for the lack of tree cover.

The area is largely dominated by the large residential estate to the west of Hornsea Burton. The older area of housing to the northwest is part screened from the landscape by the mature fragmented hedgerows that form the field boundaries within the area. The newer areas of this estate to the south impact more on the landscape as a limited amount of screening vegetation exists and the boundary between the fields and built up areas is more severe. The caravan and camping area around Beverley Farm to the east also impacts visually on the landscape due to the limited amount of vegetation in the area, the layout and density of the caravans and the elevated location of the site. Other built features visible within the area include; tracks, minor roads, major roads, street lamps, telegraph poles, and communication masts (by Carr Farm).

The area has two distinct zones different characters, the zone to the north of Carr Farm consists of small scale linear fields that slope up from the road to form the raised cliff tops, the area is relatively simple but the surrounding land uses detract from character resulting in a discordant feel conflicting with the small scale, open rural character of the coastal farmland in this area. Views are channelled by the sloping land and vegetation patterns. The main detractor within this area is the constant traffic noise from people travelling down to the South Promenade area.

The zone to the south Carr Farm and east of Rolyston Road is moderate in scale with an open aspect. The area appears simple but the surrounding land uses have a discordant effect on the rural character of the farmed fields. The boundary between the new residential development and the surrounding landscape lacks vegetation (trees and hedgerows) and the high density of development close to the boundary results in a harsh and highly visible built boundary between the settlement and the surrounding rural landscape that does little to integrate the development with its landscape setting. Views are channelled inland due to the topography sloping to the west and because of this the sea is not visible.

5.2 Assessment of Quality

Based on the above, the landscape quality in this area is assessed to be ordinary to poor; the landscape to the north is assessed as ordinary due to the mature hedges around the fields and track leading up to and around Carr Farm. The landscape to the south is classified as poor due to the small number of significant landscape features and the negative impact the existing housing has on the area.

5.3 Assessment of Sensitivity and Capacity

Due to the surrounding land uses the landscape quality within the area is already impacted upon, making the area less sensitive to development. The surrounding developed land also has the effect of screening the area from the wider landscape, the area to the north is also further screened by the topography sloping down towards the existing settlement to the north. Overall the area has a medium to high capacity for development that would retain existing landscape features and is considerate of the surrounding landscape, in integrating it and screening it within the landscape.

Summary

The quality of the landscape setting for Hornsea has been assessed to be ordinary to good overall with areas of poor quality where urban and tourist development is highly visible and has not been successfully integrated with the landscape setting of the town.

There are few distinctive landmark features in the area around Hornsea. The most prominent is the incinerator located on the northern edge of the town. Views of the church from the southern approaches of the town are important and should be protected. Landform and development restricts views of the sea. Where there are views of the sea this is important to the role of Hornsea as a seaside resort and they should be enhanced and protected where appropriate.

The capacity of the landscape setting of Hornsea to accept change as a result of development varies as a result of landscape quality, its characteristics, its value and views. Generally the landscape setting to the west of the town has high sensitivity to development that would result in the loss of hedgerows and trees and the contribution they make to the setting of Hornsea and the integration of development with the surrounding landscape.

General Guidelines

Where development has to take place it is important to consider the scale of the buildings and integration into the surrounding landscape. Abrupt edges with little or no vegetation should be discouraged and replaced with more transient softer boundaries that integrate the development into the surrounding landscape. This could be in the form of linear parks and

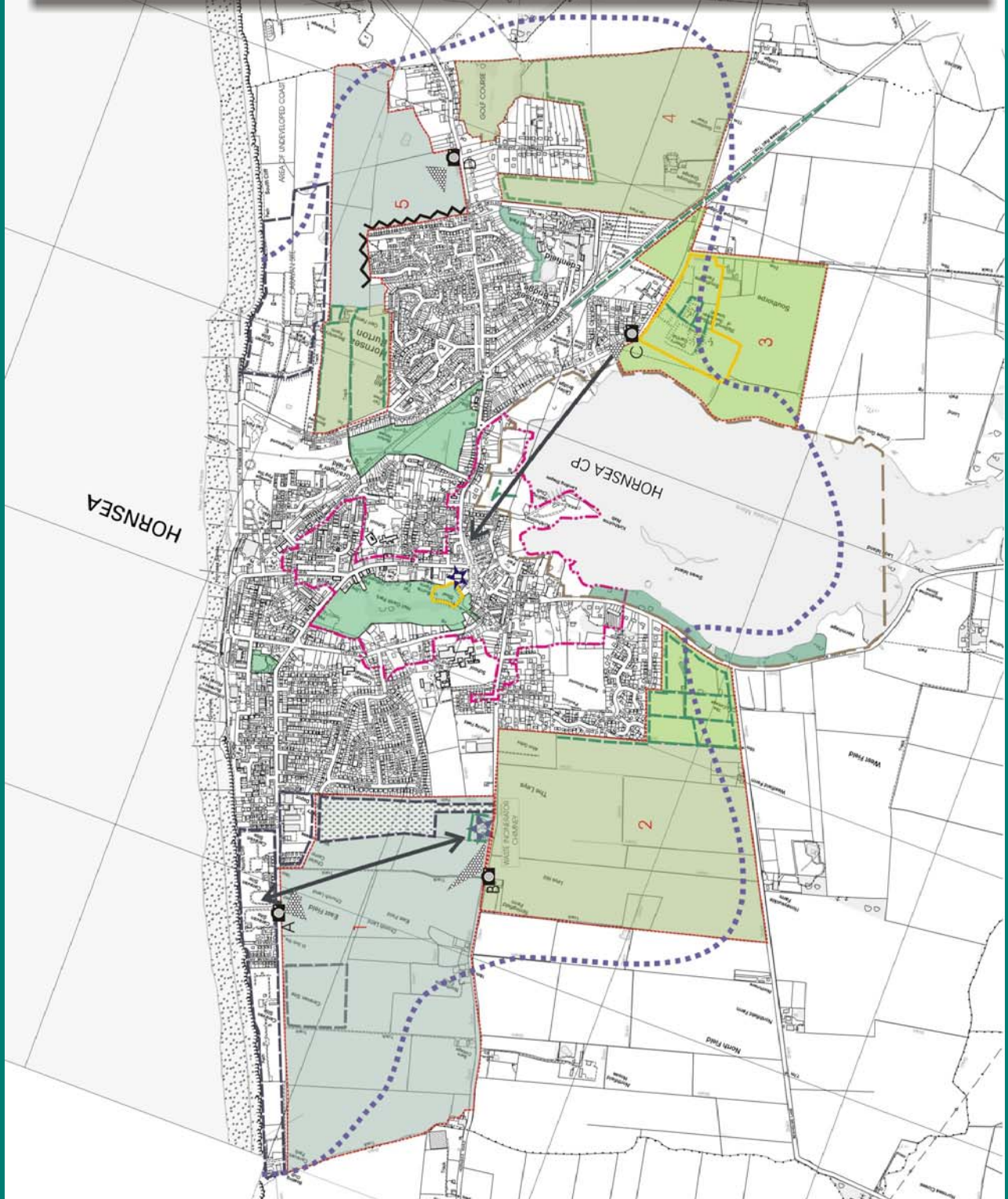
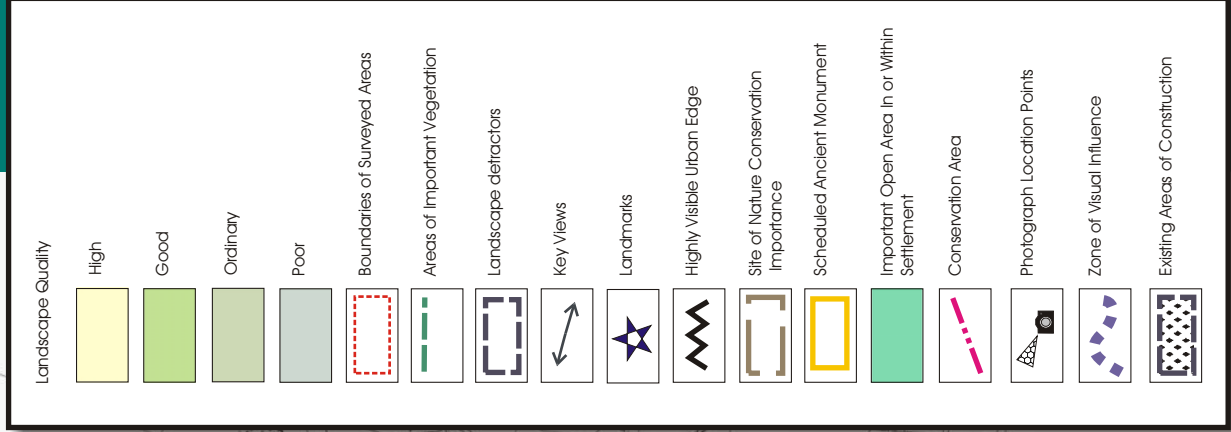
paths around new settlements, or simply by planting semi mature trees within the gardens around the edge of new development.

Development should take account of, retain and enhance existing landscape characteristics (e.g. landform, field pattern, built form, hedgerows and trees) that contribute to landscape character and quality. Mature hedgerows and trees, in particular the trees and hedgerows around Carr Farm should be incorporated into new proposals. Tree and hedgerow species used to integrate new development with the surrounding landscape should be local native species tolerant of coastal conditions.

Views of landmark features such as the church should be respected. There are few recognised landmark features in Hornsea and those that are present are important to the character of the area.

Views of the sea are restricted due to landform, vegetation and built development. However, where there are views of the sea they are important to retain as they contribute to the character of the resort.

HORNSEA LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS



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Plate A: View looking south east from Cliff Road, showing new residential development and the incinerator chimney



Plate B: View looking east from Springfield Farm towards Cliff Road and the sea, showing the new residential development



Plate C: View north from Hull Road across Mere towards church



Plate D: View north east from Rolston Road towards the new residential development around Tansley Lane