

**East Riding of Yorkshire
Landscape Character Assessment
Detailed 1:10,000 Assessment of selected settlements in the
East Riding of Yorkshire**

Submitted to:

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

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Sub-regional urban area

(Anlaby, Willerby, Kirkella, Cottingham, Hessle)

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Towns

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Introduction

The 1:10,000 detailed assessments describe the character of the landscape around the edge of selected settlements in the East Riding and make judgements about landscape quality, capacity and sensitivity.

The purpose of the detailed assessment is to inform the preparation of the East Riding Local Development Framework, and in particular consider the potential impact of development on landscape character at the settlement edge. This will be one set of information used to help identify those areas most appropriate for development.

Scope

The 1:10,000 detailed assessments aim to describe the character of the landscape on the edge of settlements, to assess the quality of the landscape and its sensitivity to change and its capacity to accept development. The types of development for which landscape capacity and sensitivity were assessed are residential, commercial and recreational.

The settlements requiring detailed assessment were defined in the brief as the sub regional urban area (i.e. the area around Hull), principal towns and towns as identified in the Joint Structure Plan for Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding (June 2005). The extent of the assessment was largely limited to those fields adjacent to the settlement edge and separating settlement.

Method

Each of the settlement edge landscapes were assessed using the 1:25,000 district wide Landscape Character Assessment (November 2005) as the starting point for assessing landscape character. The 1:10,000 ordnance survey base plans and aerial photographs were also used. The desk study identified statutory sites e.g. SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments, on the edge of urban settlements. The existing four local plans that cover the East Riding were a source of information regarding existing land use and land use designations.

Field survey was carried out for each of the settlements to verify and augment the findings of the desk study. The field survey used the same field survey sheet as for the district wide landscape character assessment. In particular key views that contributed to the distinctiveness of the landscape were noted. For example land mark buildings such as churches and lighthouses contribute to sense of place and the character of a settlement and its surroundings. Approaches to settlements and the visibility of the settlement edge were also considered during the field survey. The key factors that affect the visibility of the urban edge in the landscape are landform, vegetation cover and built form. Built development which respects vernacular and

incorporates mature vegetation generally integrates with surrounding landscape. New development on settlement edges is often screened from the surrounding countryside by utilising existing mature vegetation and/or new woodland planting. Where there is little existing vegetation and limited new woodland and tree planting, new built development may be highly visible and a detractor in the landscape.

The landscape characteristics that have been looked at in detail for the settlement edges are:

- topography/landform;
- land use;
- field boundaries;
- built development;
- field pattern;
- views of settlements from approaches;
- views from the edge of settlement across the open countryside;
- tree cover;
- roads and footpaths, and
- water courses and water bodies

The descriptions contained within the assessment for each settlement should be read with the descriptions of the wider landscape contained in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment,.

Assessment of **landscape quality** is a matter of subjective opinion. Landscape character assessment introduces an element of objectivity by itemising those aspects of the landscape which contribute to quality. For this assessment quality has been assessed on the basis of the following:

- Intactness/fragmentation of landscape characteristics e.g. hedgerows, field pattern, tree cover, water courses. (i.e. landscape condition)
- Presence of distinctive and/or important views for example views to landmark features e.g. churches, and key characteristic such as the coastline.
- Distinctiveness (e.g. local vernacular, historic sites, pattern.)
- Integration/visibility of the urban edge (as a general rule the more visible the urban edge the less well integrated it is). The current situation was assessed and where new planting effectively screens new development this was taken into account.
- Diversity of landscape characteristics contributes to interest and perception.
- Presence of detractors (i.e. elements/features in the landscape that are not typical of landscape character/vernacular e.g. communication masts, pylons, industrial buildings)

Low quality landscapes are usually fragmented and already have detractors present whereas high quality landscapes have intact characteristics e.g. hedges and field pattern, and no or very few detractors. In addition a diversity of characteristics may contribute to high quality e.g. undulating landform, vernacular buildings, good tree cover, extensive views etc. Integration of the urban edge will depend upon the visibility of built development in the landscape and its design. Landscape quality has been assessed as high, medium or low.

Landscape sensitivity to development depends upon the type of development proposed. Sensitivity is assessed based on the affect a particular type of development might have on the characteristics and features of a landscape. Low sensitivity would mean that key characteristics are robust and not adversely affected. Sensitivity is also affected by landscape condition (i.e. the intactness or fragmentation of landscape characteristics) and hence landscape quality. The scale of the landscape and nature of views in the landscape are also factors to be considered when assessing sensitivity. The criteria by which sensitivity has been assessed are:

- Visibility of the landscape from its surroundings (urban and rural) and hence the potential visibility of different types of development.
- Tree and vegetation cover.
- Potential loss of landscape characteristics e.g. trees, hedges, views
- Predicted impact on landscape pattern e.g. effect on settlement pattern, fragmentation of field pattern, fragmentation of vegetation cover.
- Landscape quality
- Ability of the development to incorporate existing landscape characteristics/features
- Type of development and its scale

Landscape sensitivity has been assessed as high, medium and low.

Landscape capacity is related to sensitivity. A landscape that has low sensitivity to a particular type of development would have high capacity to accept change as a result of the same type of development. Therefore the criteria by which landscape capacity has been assessed are the same as those for sensitivity.

Cumulative impact of development also needs to be considered when making judgements. Increasing the density of and or extending a particular type of development can result in increased adverse impact and ultimately a change or loss of character.

Presentation

The landscape around the settlements has been split into areas for the purpose of description and making judgements. These areas are discrete areas of landscape

easily identified at the urban edge by features such as field boundaries, and roads. The areas are distinguished from each other by their combination of characteristics. Distinctiveness between the areas identified varies. Each area is described in terms of its character, quality, capacity and sensitivity.

A summary has been written for each settlement along with general guidelines that highlight the particular issues which should be considered in relation to landscape when considering new development at the settlement edge. Key views are identified and character and quality has been mapped on the 1:10000 raster OS maps for the settlement edges. Photographs have been used to illustrate landscape character and views of landmark features.