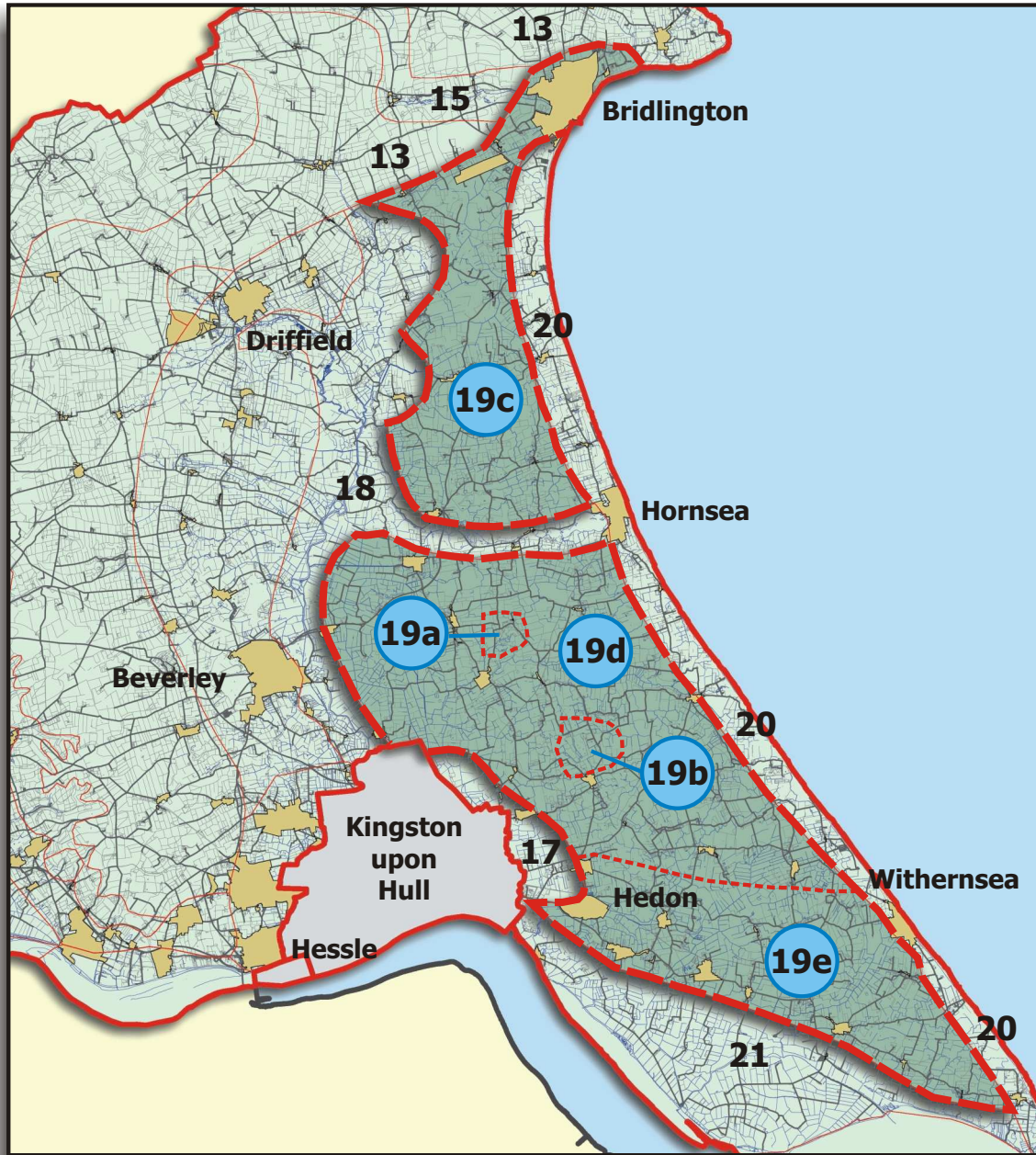


LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE 19



HOLDERNESS OPEN FARMLAND

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COUNTRYSIDE CHARACTER AREA: Holderness

Location

This landscape type is located on the east side of the East Riding and covers a large area of farmland that extends from Bridlington in the north to Spurn Point in the south and from the Coastal Farmland character type in the East to the Drained Floodplain Farmland of the River Hull in the west. The area is dissected in an east west direction by the Drained Farmland character type between Brandesburton and Hornsea.

Key characteristics of the Open Farmland of Holderness

- Gently undulating topography, hummocky in places
- Very open landscape with few trees overall
- Irregular field pattern of pre parliamentary enclosure
- Dispersed villages linked by winding roads
- Red brick buildings with pantile roofs sometimes painted white
- Churches are often prominent features on the skyline
- Irregular drainage pattern overall
- Hedgerow field boundaries with few trees
- Intensive farmed arable landscape

Physical Influences

The underlying solid geology of the area was laid down during the Cretaceous period and is chalk. This has been overlain by glacial till (boulder clay) during the Devensian period. There are also sand and gravel deposits in parts of the area.

Soils are a combination of surface water gleys and brown earths that have been drained resulting in an agricultural land use classification of Grade 2 and Grade 3

This landscape type is in the River Hull catchment. The land drains west into the River Hull via a series of streams and drainage ditches. Overall the drainage pattern is widely spaced and a combination of improved natural water courses and man made ditches.

Landform is undulating and hummocky in places; influenced by erosion and deposition during the last Ice Age.

Human Influences

There are several scheduled monuments in this area. Several of them date back to medieval times. It is apparent that human activity has been going on in this area for many centuries but the above ground physical evidence for this cannot be seen in the landscape today. There is considerable evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement mostly as crop marks.

The land is intensively farmed in irregular shaped fields that are medium to large. The majority of the area was enclosed by agreement as can be seen in the random pattern formed by the fields for most of the area. There are pockets of rectilinear enclosure fields in between.

Larger villages in the area tend to be nucleated and the smaller villages more strung out. The dispersed villages are linked by winding roads that fits in with

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irregular field pattern. Vernacular buildings are generally red brick with pantile roofs. Some older buildings are built in limestone. Cobbles are sometimes used for construction particularly nearer the coast.

Villages and hamlets with Conservation Area designation in this character type include Bewholme, Atwick, Dunnington, Brandesburton, Great Hatfield, Aldborough, Sproatley, Wyton, Burton Pidsea, Halsham, Ottringham, Winstead, Patrington and Hedon on the edge of this character type near Hull. The large number of conservation areas in this part of Holderness indicated the quality of the character of the built heritage.

Older buildings tend to be red brick with pantile roofs. There are also cobble buildings in the area such as the church at Burton Pidsea.

Patrington church and Hedon Church are important landscape features in the south of this character type.

Ecological Influences

There are only three SSSI designations in this character type indicating the limited natural habitat in the area that was once covered by marshes and meres.

Hedgerows and watercourses coupled with small areas of woodland provide habitats.

CHARACTER AREAS

Five character areas have been identified in this landscape character type. They are:

- Character Area 19A: Rise Parkland
- Character Area 19B: Burton Constable Farmland and Parkland
- Character Area 19C: North Holderness Open Farmland
- Character Area 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland
- Character Area 19E: Burstwick to Withersea Farmland

Character Area 19A: Rise Parkland

Rise is located approximately 4 miles southwest of Hornsea and is an area of Parkland in the middle of open arable farmland. As a result it adds diversity to the monotony of this landscape type.

Rise Park originated from a medieval deer park. The present park land may have been created by Capability Brown. The Hall was rebuilt in 1815-1820. The old village was removed and present houses were built in the mid to late 19th century.

Woodland within this area supports several ancient woodland indicators, including yellow pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), soft shield fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), hart's-tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and sanicle (*Sanicula europaeus*). Roe deer are found in the woodland areas.

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There are also areas with good examples of reedswamp containing several fenland plant species. The lake in the parkland contributes to diversity in the area. Several bat roosts have been recorded within the parkland.

Character Area 19B: Burton Constable Farmland and Parkland

Burton Constable is located approximately 7 miles south of Hornsea in the middle of open arable farmland and coupled with Rise Parkland adds diversity to the monotony of this landscape type. The gardens are on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. This is a very important historic landscape.



Burton Constable Hall (2005)

Burton Constable village has been deserted. A manor house was present in the 12th century but the present Hall dates mainly to the 16th and 17th centuries. Burton Constable is perhaps the East Riding's greatest country house. The park was designed by Capability Brown and replaced earlier formal gardens and the medieval deer park. Work began in 1772 and involved the creation of a lake and informal planting buildings (Orangery, Menagerie, Bridges etc) were moved so they were in context with Brown's landscape.

This area is predominantly farmland, composed of a mixture of intensively managed arable crops and grassland.

As with the other parts of Holderness, woodland is scarce. The small blocks of semi-natural woodland present are composed of tree species such as ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), and in wetter areas alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and various willows (*Salix* spp.). Roe deer have been recorded in these wooded areas. The woodlands at Burton Constable are important for populations of butterflies, in particular white-letter hairstreak and purple hairstreak.

A brown long-eared bat roost has been found at Sproatley.

Character Area 19C: North Holderness Open Farmland

This character area extends from north of Brandesburton and Seaton in the south to Carnaby industrial estate south west of Bridlington in the north and encompasses the villages of Lisset, Beeford and Bewholme and their surrounding Farmland. The area contains three disused airfields at Carnaby, Lisset and Brandesburton. The majority of the area is under intensive arable production. There are very few woodland blocks.

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Burton Agnes Hall is an Elizabethan House located on the northern boundary of this character area with the Yorkshire Wolds. The Hall is located on the north side of the A614. The village has a pond. St Martins Church is a Norman building over 900 years old.

Carnaby industrial estate is a large development on the northern edge of this character area that also impacts upon views from the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds to the north. The area is the location of a large Iron Age Square Barrow Cemetery.

Typical of Holderness, this area consists mainly of open agricultural land, mainly intensively managed arable, with generally large fields and very little woodland. The small blocks of semi-natural woodland present are composed of tree species such as ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), and in wetter areas alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and various willows (*Salix* spp.). The woodland present at Burton Agnes are important for birds such as great spotted woodpecker and willow warbler.

The hedgerows in Holderness are dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with hazel (*Corylus avellana*), ash, blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), field maple and dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*).

Character Area 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland

This character area surrounds the two parkland character areas of Rise and Burton Constable. The character area includes the villages of Leven, Routh, Long Ritson, Great Hatfield, Witherneck, Skirlaugh, Ellerby, West Newton, Sproatly and Humberton plus numerous hamlets.

The land surrounding Lambwath stream valley has a concentration of unimproved neutral grassland, which is scarce in Holderness. This is mainly of two grassland community types, classified using the National Vegetation Classification: MG4 (*Alopecurus pratensis* – *Sanguisorba officinalis*) and MG5 (*Cynosurus cristatus* – *Centaurea nigra*). These meadows are low-lying and seasonally flooded, and maintained by the traditional management of cutting for hay then the aftermath grazed. In addition to the plants mentioned above, common meadow rue and various sedges and rushes are found in this area. It is also important for various bird species.

Agricultural intensification within the River Hull floodplain means that, as with the other parts of Holderness, woodland is scarce. The small blocks of semi-natural woodland present are composed of tree species such as ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus* spp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elm (*Ulmus* spp.), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). In wetter areas alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and various willows (*Salix* spp.) are found. Bail Wood, near Aldbrough, gives an example of the type of woodland that was once far more widespread.

As with other parts of Holderness, hedgerows are dominated by hawthorn with hazel, ash, blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), field maple and dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*).

The Hull to Hornsea disused railway runs through this area. Disused railway lines often provide valuable wildlife habitat and act as green corridors linking areas of semi-natural habitat which may otherwise be isolated. The ballast of this railway provides habitat for typical annuals such as silver hairgrass (*Aira caryophyllea*), fern grass (*Catapodium rigidum*), thyme-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*) and biting stonecrop (*Sedum acre*). Rarer species include strapwort (*Corrigiola*

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litoralis), squirrel-tail fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*) and sea mouse-ear (*Cerastium diffusum*). In addition, on the grass verges plant species can be found that have completely disappeared from the surrounding farmland.



Farmland west of Burton Pidsea (2005)

Character Area 19E: Burstwick to Withernsea Farmland

Several wetland habitats are present in this area. Recent extraction of sand and gravel at Keyingham and other sites has left behind open water with marginal habitats. These are developing into areas that are potentially valuable for a variety of wildlife. At Roos Bog small remnants of fen occur. Here and elsewhere

in this area in dykes and ponds, fenland plants including greater water parsnip (*Sium latifolium*) and greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*) survive.

As with other parts of Holderness the hedgerows are dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with hazel (*Corylus avellana*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*).

There is a breeding population of grey partridge on the edge of the woodland at Hollym Carrs.

Medieval field systems of Preston, Hedon and Bilton are important and contrast with the larger field systems to the east. There are several moated sites and deserted or shrunken medieval villages in the area.

Patrington was a medieval market town, held by the Archbishops of York. St Patricks' Church is one of the biggest and architecturally significant churches in the East Riding. The church spire is an important landmark on the skyline of Holderness.

Patrington and Hedon retain a few industrial structures linked to the time when the Haven was navigable.

Enholmes Farm is an important model farmstead built in the mid 19th century.

The dismantled Hall to Withernsea railway line is a linear feature across the area that is a permissive right of way. Vegetation along its course emphasised the presence of the line which dissects fields.

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Farmland at Humbleton (2005)



EVALUATION

Positive Landscape Features

- Gently undulating and hummocky land form.
- Farmed landscape of irregular early enclosure fields.
- Dispersed villages linked by winding roads.
- Red brick buildings with pantile roofs.
- Occasional cobble and limestone vernacular older buildings.
- Church landmark features.
- Historic buildings and design landscape present (e.g. Rise Park, Burton Constable and Burton Agnes).

Condition and Strength of Character

The loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees has resulted in a loss of landscape structure. Large flat arable areas are predominant in the area. There are pockets of intact landscape character associated with Burton Constable and Rise Parkland and several villages e.g. Patrington.

Quality

Vertical features and large scale farm buildings are dominant and detract from landscape character. Other detractors such as industrial development at Carnaby, pylons and communication masts, are spread throughout the area but overall do not seriously harm the quality of the landscape which is assessed to be ordinary to good with pockets of high quality at Burton Constable and Rise.

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Forces for Change

Changing pressures on the farming industry may lead to change in character over time. Environmental stewardship provides an opportunity for positive change to landscape character.

Tourism and recreation development in the area has taken place in recent years. For example, the Leisure Complex at Patrington Haven. Burton Constable Hall and Burton Agnes Hall are popular tourist destinations. There may be pressure to improve facilities.

Development for employment use, particularly southwest of Bridlington at Carnaby Industrial estate but also possible on the airfields may result in further change to the landscape.

Renewable energy targets for the East Riding may lead to pressures for wind farm development in this area. One wind farm has already been developed in the flat landscape at Out Newton Wind farm is located in this character type on the boundary with the coastal farmland.

Sensitivity and capacity

Wind turbines in this area may impact on views and will add uncharacteristic vertical elements. However, the quality of the landscape is assessed to be ordinary to good overall and this character type has medium sensitivity to development of wind farms generally. Detailed assessment to confirm this would be required for individual proposals. The area would be sensitive to the cumulative impacts of wind farm development and the scale of development should reflect the scale of the landscape and landscape pattern. There are several landmark buildings in the landscape type and views of these are sensitive to development that would interrupt those important views.

Commercial and industrial development outside current development limits would affect rural landscape character introducing urban infrastructure to the landscape. For example lighting, buildings, car parking and signs.

Tourism and recreation development varies. This landscape has capacity to accept some development of this type that respects scale, historic context, landscape pattern and vernacular.

Strategy

Maintain and enhance the characteristics that contribute to the distinctiveness of this landscape type. For example field pattern makes an important contribution to character and should be maintained and where possible reinforced. Promote hedgerow replanting and gapping up and discourage the further amalgamation of fields.

Villages are an important feature of the landscape and their character contributes to sense of place. New building in rural villages can change their character if open spaces are filled and materials and design do not respect local vernacular. New buildings in villages need to respect character and should not adversely impact.

Woodland and tree planting will help to reinforce landscape pattern and add diversity to the landscape. In particular woodland planting can help to integrate development with its surroundings. Woodland species characteristic of the area are oak, ash, field maple and hazel. Hedgerows are mainly hawthorn with blackthorn, hazel, ash, field maple, elder and dog wood.

Burton Pidsea has a village design statement. This and any others VDSs should be used to guide development proposals.

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Wind farm proposals will need to be considered landscape scale and pattern and will only be acceptable in some locations in this character type. Mitigation to screen views of proposed turbines would need to be located close to the receptor to be effective.

View of landmark features and sites should be protected. For example Patrington Church, Burton Constable Hall and Hedon Church are all important buildings in Holderness. Their setting and views of them provide diversity in the open farmland landscape of Holderness.