HORNSEA
Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity

Introduction

This report, which updates the Settlement Studies undertaken as part of the East Riding Landscape Character Assessment (2005), describes the character and sensitivity of the landscape around the edge of Hornsea to inform land use allocations and to provide evidence for the emerging East Riding of Yorkshire Local Plan 2013-2029.

The assessment of landscape sensitivity has been undertaken in accordance with the attached methodology (Appendix A).

Settlement Profile

Hornsea is a coastal town and seaside resort 15 miles from the Hull city boundary. It is situated between Spurn Peninsula and Flamborough Head.

The town is characterised by buildings made from sea cobbles and the large Hornsea Mere to the west of the Town. The central area of the town has been designated a Conservation Area and surrounds Hall Garth Park. Most retail services are centred on Newbigin.

The South Promenade area is generally open in nature and is the location for the resorts’ boat yard. Further north, the Promenade and Marine Drive have benefited from investment in the seafront’s townscape.

Hornsea Freeport to the south is an area of commercial development that provides employment and attracts around one million visitors annually. Industrial activity is generally confined to the Hornsea Bridge Estate and to a small number of properties on Cliff Road.

Landscape Sensitivity

The following sections describe the landscape around the periphery of Hornsea in a loosely anti-clockwise direction starting from Cliff Road to the north of Hornsea and finishing at South Cliff and Hornsea Burton (in the southeast). The landscape has been divided into a number of discrete landscape areas (numbered 1-8) each displaying a specific set of unique characteristics that have been assessed collectively to determine its sensitivity. The areas are located on the accompanying settlement plan (Drawing 8).

Landscape Setting

Hornsea is located on the East Coast within the Holderness (NCA 40) National Character Area identified by Natural England. The landscape surrounding the town of Hornsea is influenced by a variety of landscape characteristics and three landscape character types identified in the East Riding Landscape Character Assessment (2005) that contribute to the setting of this coastal town. They are:

- Landscape Character Type 18 – Drained Floodplain Farmland;
- Landscape Character Type 10 – Open Farmland; and
- Landscape Character Type 20 – Coastal Farmland.
1.0 AREA 1 - NORTH OF HORNSEA; CLIFF ROAD TO ATWICK ROAD

1.1 Introduction

Area 1 is known as East Field and Church Land. The area is bordered to the east by linear caravan sites and residential properties that line the cliff top, whilst Atwick Road, scattered farmsteads and open agricultural fields border the western boundary. To the north, the area is bordered by open agricultural land and to the south by a Chalet Camp, warehouses and residential properties.

The area is located within Landscape Character Area 20C, Bridlington to Hornsea Coastal Farmland.

Medium sized gently rolling fields are under arable production. There are few physical boundaries around field edges whilst neglected, fragmented hedgerows occur around the built up areas. There is almost no tree cover present throughout the area.

1.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

Linear development exists to the east along the cliff top and Cliff Road, which is a mixture of old residential, new residential, industrial buildings and caravan parks. The predominant building material for the housing is red brick with the older (Victorian) houses tending to be a darker shade of red than newer properties.

A limited amount of visible hydrological channels are visible within the area including drainage ditches, which are present around the fields.

Beyond the southern boundary of Area 1 is Hornsea School and the Language Centre’s playing fields and recreational space, which are well maintained and bounded by lined groups of mature trees and native hedgerows. Neighbouring the playing fields to the north is a household waste incinerator along Atwick Road, the chimney of which is a prominent feature within the landscape. 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 discordant appearance.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Low

1.3 Visual Sensitivity

High density caravan sites occupy a considerable amount of land within, or adjacent to Area 1. The cumulative appearance of large numbers of caravans arranged in a formal layout is not consistent with the local vernacular. This, coupled with the open nature of the landscape, results in the high visibility of the developments which has a negative impact upon the rural landscape character.

Recent housing on the southern edge of Area 2 forms a ‘prominent urban edge’. The lack of screen planting around the development means many of the houses overlook the open fields to the north.

Fields behind existing warehouses located along Cliff Road and to the north of Ashcourt Drive Estate, which run west to the household waste site, are reasonably well contained.

A brick built tower and chimney off the B1242 (adjacent to the household waste site) are prominent landmarks.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Medium

1.4 Landscape Value

The area is not subject to any landscape designations; however, it should be recognised that the coastal landscape is valued by both tourists (contributing towards the local economy) and the local community.

There are few hedgerows and trees to help integrate development on the edge of Hornsea with the neighbouring rural landscape. Through a lack of vegetation and diversity, the landscape makes little positive contribution to the natural landscape. The scattered caravan sites and other developments along the coastal edge are detractors that have a negative effect on landscape character.

Landscape value for this area is assessed as: Low

1.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

With a diversity of land uses that are poorly integrated, this open area is aesthetically discordant, with several visual detractors. This results in a fragmented but prominent urban edge along the southern and south-eastern edges of Area 2. These boundaries, particularly the southern boundary could be rationalised through the implementation of extensive screen planting and through sensitive infill development to create a more robust and less intrusive edge to the open countryside.

Any new development should maintain views of the brick tower/chimney, which are prominent landmarks in a comparatively featureless landscape.

Development that continues to spread in a linear fashion down the coast on both sides of Cliff Road will result in further encroachment upon the open rural character of the coast and the further application of uncharacteristic urban features.
The landscape of the coast line has high sensitivity to further built development including caravan parks.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: Low

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2.0 AREA 2 - NORTH OF HORNSEA; ATWICK ROAD TO WEST FIELD AND HONEYSUCKLE FARM

2.1 Introduction

Area 2 is known as ‘The Leys’ and is bordered to the east by Atwick Road, to the south by the Cheyne Walk housing estate, and to the west and north by open agricultural land and scattered farmsteads. The Magpies Country Park lies along the northern boundary.

This area is located in the transition between Landscape Character Area 19C, North Holderness Open Farmland and Landscape Character Area 18D, Hornsea Mere.

Agricultural fields are used for both arable and pasture. 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.

2.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

Development within the area is limited to existing farms. Honeysuckle Farm, to the west, operates as an open farm, attracting a number of visitors to the area.

An area reserved for allotments is located to the southeast next to Atwick Road, opposite the household waste incinerator and north of the residential area on Northumberland Avenue. The allotments are bounded by mature hedgerows beyond which to the north and west are open fields.

The only built landscape feature of note is the incinerator chimney at the household waste site located to the east of Atwick Road, which is visible from within Area 2.

The housing estate to the south forms an abrupt and prominent edge to the farmland (defined as a ‘prominent urban edge’). Some separation between the open farmland and the development is provided by the allotments, although the majority of the housing is visually intrusive and would benefit from screen planting to soften the interface between urban area and the open countryside.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Medium

2.3 Visual Sensitivity

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 and the brick tower/chimney by the household waste site.

Due to the different types of farming within the Area 2, the landscape has a reasonably colourful appearance. As farming is the major land use, the landscape also appears balanced, tended and regular in appearance.

The area is visually exposed from the properties along the southern boundary. North facing properties which do not have dense garden vegetation are afforded open views across this landscape.

Unrestricted views across the farmland are afforded to drivers using the Bewholme Lane and the B1242.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Medium

2.4 Landscape Value

The allotments located to the southeast of the area are an important open space and a valuable community resource. The remainder of Area 2 is agricultural land, which is not accessible to the public.

The landscape is not protected or subject to any policies/designations with respect to landscape or conservation value.

The area provides a locally important open rural backdrop to the north of Hornsea, and creates a rural gateway into the main settlement area.

The landscape value of this area is assessed as: Medium

2.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

The arable area is typical of the region. It is generally a pleasant rural landscape with large rectilinear fields enclosed by occasional hedges. Housing development on its southern edge and to the east is very prominent. The area does have some ability to accommodate low rise development towards the settlement boundary. Development which intrudes into the open countryside should be avoided.

The landscape character may 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.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: Medium
3.0 Area 3 – Land North of Seaton Road and Hornsea Mere

3.1 Introduction

Area 3 is made up of the open fields that run down to Hornsea Mere, bound to the north by vegetation associated with the open agricultural fields (Area 2), to the east by residential development, to the south by the B1244, and to the west by Bewholme Lane.

This area is located in the transition between Landscape Character Area 19C, North Holderness Open Farmland and Landscape Character Area 18D, Hornsea Mere.

Fields within Area 3 are used for both arable and pasture: gently rolling before dropping down to the Mere edge. On the sloping ground down to the Mere the fields are of a smaller size than those found to the north (in Area 2), and are used as pasture; bounded and divided by mature hedgerows. The large number of mature hedge trees is a key characteristic of this area.

3.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

Development within the area is limited to a cottage. Overall, the landscape is of a small scale where the pastoral fields are enclosed by mature hedge boundaries. The vegetation associated with the Mere also contributes to the added enclosed appearance of the area.

The fields which compared to the wider landscape are fairly small and have well defined boundaries which comprise clipped hedges with mature trees. These contribute to a more diverse and attractive area, which provides the setting to the western edge of the town. The Mere itself is a designated SSSI recognised for its geological importance and ecological value.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: High

3.3 Visual Sensitivity

The existing housing estate that borders the eastern boundary of Area 3 is well screened by mature vegetation along 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, with good integration of both land uses.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: High

3.4 Landscape Value

The area is not subject to any landscape designations; however, it is an important gateway to the town north of Hornsea Mere. The landscape provides a pleasant approach to the main settlement area, channelling views east towards the town, with the rural character contributing to the landscape setting.

This area is also an important setting to Hornsea Mere, which is designated as a SSSI for its geological importance and ecological value.

The area creates a strong, defined edge to the urban area, integrating the built environment into its rural setting.

The landscape value of this area is assessed as: Medium

3.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

This landscape would be sensitive to development, as the loss of fields and associated vegetation would change the character of the area, enclosing views and extending urban influences into the countryside. This would impact on the landscape setting of the Mere and the main settlement area.

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.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: High

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4.0 AREA 4 – HORNSEA MERE

4.1 Introduction

Area 4 is coincidental with the eastern boundaries of Hornsea Mere SSSI, which lies to the west of the urban edge of Hornsea. The area surrounds the water’s edge with Seaton Road along the northern boundary. To the east lies the settlement edge of Hornsea, to the southeast lies Hull Road and to the south lies Southorpe Medieval village site (a scheduled monument).

Area 4 is located within Landscape Character Area 18D, Hornsea Mere.

Generally, the topography of the area slopes down to the Mere edge. Hornsea Marina and Sailing Club, with associated buildings, is the only development in the area and is located on a small peninsula of land jutting into the eastern edge of the Mere.

4.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

Development within this area is limited to the marina and sailing club; the other visible landscape built features are minor and major roads, street lamps, telegraph poles and communication masts. While the mere is a large landscape feature, the overall landscape is of a small scale, enclosed by the sloping topography down to the Mere edge and existing mature vegetation. Field patterns are irregular and the landscape has a reasonably well tended appearance.

A number of mature trees are found growing within the hedges in this area, particularly on the sloping ground down to the Mere edge. Mature woodland blocks lie to the northern lake edge creating valuable ecological habitats, an attractive backdrop to the mere landscape and screening from Seaton Road.

Area 4 is an attractive landscape area with quality landscape features. The only detrimental aspect comes from noise pollution created by traffic on the busy Hull Road; a major route into the main settlement area.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: High

4.3 Visual Sensitivity

Hornsea Mere is a SSSI and is the main landscape feature in Area 4, with views to the northeast from the higher ground. Hornsea Church is a prominent feature on the skyline.

This is an important landscape and provides an attractive backdrop to the Mere. The area acts as a gateway along Seaton Road to the main settlement area, providing a pleasant approach, channelling views to the east and enhancing the overall landscape setting of the west side of Hornsea.

The area is highly visible from roads, footpaths, residential properties and use of the mere.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Very High

4.4 Landscape Value

Existing statutory (SSSI) designations offer protection to the landscape in this area. These designations have protected the area from development and allowed the condition of the landscape, its features, and characteristics to remain a valuable setting and nature resource.

The headland at the east end of Hornsea Mere which contains the sailing club is an important area of open space and valuable recreational facility/visitor attraction.

The landscape value of this area is assessed as: High

4.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

The landscape character of this area is assessed to have high sensitivity to development that would affect the character of the fields at Southorpe; an important aspect of the setting of Hornsea and Hornsea Mere. Loss of vegetation and change in views as a result of development in this area would impact upon the existing qualities of the statutory designated Mere. Hull Road acts as barrier between the Mere and the urban edge. New development west of Hull Road would adversely impact on the setting of Hornsea Mere and its statutory designations. The landscape in this area has little capacity to accommodate additional development without adversely affecting the character of the landscape.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: High

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5.0 AREA 5 – SOUTHWEST OF HORNSEA; WEST OF HULL ROAD AND NORTH OF SOUTHRORPE ROAD

5.1 Introduction

Area 5 is known as Southorpe and was the site of a medieval village. The area is bordered to the north by the landscape surrounding Hornsea Mere (Area 4), 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.

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.

5.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

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. Development within this area is limited to Southorpe Farm.

Visible built landscape features constitute minor and major roads, street lamps, telegraph poles and communication masts. Overall, the landscape is small scale, enclosed by the sloping topography down towards 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 main settlement area.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: High

5.3 Visual Sensitivity

Southorpe Medieval Village site, a scheduled monument, is the main landscape feature in this area with views to the northeast from the higher ground. Hornsea Church is a feature on the skyline.

Residential properties along Hull Road and users of this road are afforded clear views into the area.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: High

5.4 Landscape Value

Existing statutory designations offer protection to the landscape, which is recognised as a visually attractive gateway when travelling to Hornsea from the south, offering views over the Mere and towards the main settlement area. These designations have protected the area from development and allowed the condition of landscape and its features to remain intact.

The area has recreational value for walkers and those accessing the Mere on foot. The scheduled monument also provides a cultural asset for the area.

Landscape value for this area is assessed as: High

5.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

Development in this area would impact on the setting of Hornsea and Hornsea Mere. A loss of vegetation, change in field pattern, or change in views as a result of development in this area would impact the setting of the scheduled monument and the Mere (a SSSI). Any new development west of Hull Road would obstruct the expansive views of the lake from the highway and should be avoided.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: High

| Area 5 – Southwest of Hornsea; west of Hull Road and north of Southorpe Road |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Area                          | Landscape       | Visual        | Landscape       | Overall          |
|                               | Character       | Sensitivity   | Value            | Landscape        |
|                               | Sensitivity     |               |                  | Sensitivity      |
| 5                             | High            | High          | High             | High             |
6.0 AREA 6 – SOUTH OF HORNSEA

6.1 Introduction

Area 6 is located to the south of Hornsea and is bordered to the north by the Hornsea Freeport Retail Park, car parking areas and Southorpe Road, to the east by the Strawberry Gardens residential area and to the south and west by open agricultural fields.

This area is located on the boundary of Landscape Character Area 180, Hornsea Mere. The arable fields are slightly undulating and of a medium size but confined by existing development to the north, east and south. A disused railway line, now the Trans Pennine Trail, runs through the area and is an important corridor linking the town with the countryside.

6.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

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 and mature vegetation.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Medium

6.4 Landscape Value

The golf course is an important open space and recreational facility. The rest of the area (which is the majority) is not subject to any landscape designations.

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. This results 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 main settlement area with the countryside.

The landscape value of this area is assessed as: Medium

6.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

This area plays an important role in providing the setting for the southern edge of Hornsea.

Development at Strawberry Gardens has already oneroad on field pattern in this area. An existing strip of land remains surrounded by development on three sides (north, east and south). This land has the capacity to accept development without detriment to the 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, extending the influence of the urban edge at the expense of 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.

6.3 Visual Sensitivity

Mature vegetation throughout the area provides screening from the main visual detractors.
The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: Medium

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7.0 AREA 7 – SOUTH OF HORNSEA/EAST OF HORNSEA BURTON, WEST OF SOUTH CLIFF

7.1 Introduction

Area 7 stretches from Carr Farm in the north to Hornsea Lakes Caravan Park in the south. The site is bordered by caravan parks to the northeast, by undeveloped coastline to the east, open agricultural land to the south and southwest, and the residential area of Hornsea Burton to the northwest.

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 in the north of the area, but few trees are found to the south.

7.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

The area is dominated to the northwest by the large residential estate. The newest areas of this estate to the south impact more on the landscape. This is due to a limited amount of vegetated screening and the boundary between the fields and built up areas is more severe.

The area 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.

Other built features visible within the area include tracks, minor roads, major roads, street lamps, telegraph poles, and communication masts (by Carr Farm).

The southern part of the Area 7 comprises a large area of rough ground with areas of hard standing and tractor loading to isolated stiles and remnants structures associated with previous development on the site.

There is a group of houses on the B1242 opposite Hornsea Golf Club which are surrounded by large mature gardens with a number of large trees.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Low

7.3 Visual Sensitivity

The boundary between the recent residential development and the surrounding landscape lacks vegetation (trees and hedgerows). The high density of development close to the boundary results in a harsh and highly visible interface between the settlement and the open countryside (‘prominent urban edge’). This 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 area is not visible.

Due to the slightly elevated nature of the land numerous views are afforded to the sea; but these areas are also exposed to natural elements which may account for the lack of tree cover.

The area is visible from the B1242 which affords road user glimpsed views across the area towards the east, although the sea is not visible.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Low

7.4 Landscape Value

The area is not subject to any landscape designations. Apart from the coast, which is eroding the farmland and has formed a medium height mud/rock cliff, there are no significant landscape features which characterise the area.

The landscape value of this area is assessed as: Low

7.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

Due to the surrounding land uses, particularly the ‘prominent urban edge’ to the north and the caravan site to the northeast the landscape quality within the area is already partially reduced; making the area less sensitive to future development.

The ‘prominent urban edge’ could be softened with screen planting; creating a buffer zone between the settlement and the rural landscape. This would improve the approach to Hornsea from the south (on the B1242) and the aesthetic quality of the adjacent farmland.

The aesthetic quality of the brownfield site to the south could be improved through the introduction of appropriately designed ‘rural development’, which was not visually intrusive and which was not perceived as encroachment into the open countryside, or a ‘satellite settlement’, divorced from the main town.

Overall, Area 7 has capacity for sympathetically designed development that would create a more rational edge to the settlement and would not adversely affect the setting of the existing development. It is important that any new development does not encroach on to the coastal strip.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: Low

| Area 7 – South of Hornsea/East of Hornsea Burton, West of South Cliff |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Area | Landscape Character Sensitivity | Visual Sensitivity | Landscape Value | Overall Landscape Sensitivity |
| 7 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
9.0 AREA 8 – EAST OF HORNSEA BURTON

8.1 Introduction

Area 8 stretches from Cherry Burton Road in the north, to Carr Farm in the south. The site is bordered by caravan parks to the northeast, open agricultural land to the south (Area 7) and the residential area of Hornsea Burton to the west.

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.

A small play area and recreation ground is located to the southwest of this area adjacent to the urban edge.

8.2 Landscape Character Sensitivity

The area is dominated by the large residential estate to the west and the caravan park to the east. The older area of the housing, located to the west, is partly screened from the surrounding landscape by mature fragmented hedgerows that form the field boundaries within the area.

The area consists of small scale linear fields that slope up from the road to form the raised cliff tops. Surrounding land uses detract from the landscape character resulting in a discordant feel, conflicting with the small scale, open and rural character of the coastal farmland characterised in this area.

The landscape character sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Medium

8.3 Visual Sensitivity

The caravan and camping area around Beverley Farm to the east impacts visually on the landscape due to a 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).

Views are channelled by the sloping land and vegetation patterns. The main detractor within this area is noise pollution from a constant stream of visitors travelling to the South Promenade area.

The visual sensitivity for this area is assessed as: Medium

8.4 Landscape Value

The farmland is fairly featureless although it does provide separation between the housing to the west and the large caravan site to the east.

The play area to the south east and the school playing field to the north are important open spaces/community facilities, although the rest of the area is under arable cultivation and is not accessible to the public.

The landscape is not protected and is not subject to any statutory designations.

The mature hedges around the fields and track leading up to and around Carr Farm add some value to this area.

The landscape value of this area is assessed as: Medium

8.5 Overall Landscape Sensitivity

Due to the surrounding land uses, the landscape quality within the area is already partially degraded, making the area less sensitive to development. The surrounding development combined with the topography has the effect of screening the area from the wider landscape.

Overall, the area has some capacity for development that would retain the existing landscape features and is considerate of the adjacent development, particularly the caravan site to the east, which may require screening.

The overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as: Medium

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**SUMMARY**

The sensitivity of the landscape around Hornsea is summarised below:

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The sensitivity of the landscape surrounding Hornsea varies with changes in landform, vegetation cover and land use around the edge of the settlement. The quality of the surrounding landscape ranges greatly from low to high. High value areas are associated with Hornsea Mere, which is enhanced due to its recreational, wildlife and amenity value, along with its statutory designations.

There are opportunities for the expansion of the town. However, due in part to its location on the coast, development is limited to the east and must consider views to the sea, the Mere, residential properties and Hornsea Church.

Areas identified as being of a low sensitivity in landscape terms are located adjacent to the East Coast at both the north and south of Hornsea. These areas have been impacted from poorly integrated infill developments and lack of trees and vegetation.

**General Guidelines**

Where development is required to meet strategic objectives or local demand it is important to consider the height, scale and form of the buildings and integration of these buildings into the surrounding landscape context. This is particularly true for housing developments where the requirement to meet housing density targets can often overshadow the respect of a development to its surroundings, resulting in significant impact upon the existing character.

New buildings should reflect those in the locality and follow local building styles. Abrupt edges with little or no vegetation at the urban edge should be discouraged. Where existing vegetation occurs it should be retained and enhanced to create natural, softer boundaries which integrate developments into their surrounding landscape. New planting will need to be resistant to exposure particularly close to the coast.

Native species found in the area include gorse, hawthorn and blackthorn bushes, oak, ash, field maple, beech and birch trees. Non-native trees found in the area include pine and sycamore.

Development should take account of, retain and enhance existing landscape features that contribute to character and quality, such as hedgerows, trees, field pattern, landmarks and views.

Views of landmark features such as Hornsea Mere should be safeguarded and where possible enhanced. Similarly views of landmark buildings including Hornsea Church and the brick tower to the north of the town should be considered in any future development proposals. The importance of these prominent structures is enhanced by the general lack of landmarks elsewhere in the locality.

Views of the sea are restricted due to landform, vegetation and built development, and are negatively impacted by caravan developments. However, any existing views of the sea should be retained as they contribute to the character of the resort. This is particularly true of views from the main settlement area, which should be actively encouraged and promoted.

Where appropriate ‘prominent urban edges’ to the north and south of Hornsea could be ‘softened’ through the introduction of strategic landscape/planting measures; creating a ‘transitional zone’, or ‘buffer’ between the settlement and the open countryside.
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