

APPENDIX 5.3: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SCHEDULE

5.3.1 This appendix provides summaries of published LPA landscape character assessments in relation to the study area and should be read in conjunction with **Figure 5.6b Landscape Character (North Kesteven and Boston Districts)** and **Figure 5.6c Landscape Character (Other Local Planning Authorities)**.

APPENDIX 5.3A: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – NATURAL ENGLAND (NCA)

Character of England Map (2005)					Landscape Character Assessment
National Character Area (NCA / JCA)	NCA Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity*	Key Characteristics
Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes	NCA42	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flat coastal plain to east, rising gradually in west to more undulating land at foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds. ▪ Predominantly open, medium-scale agricultural landscape. Tendency to smaller farm units with pasture in east. Some remnant areas of ridge and furrow, and mixed arable to west. Woodland and hedge cover sparse yet increasing to west at foot of the Wolds. ▪ Dispersed settlement pattern through most of area. Concentration of larger settlements towards the coast. ▪ Land drained to coast by combination of irregular ditches, streams and dykes. Louth Canal is major man-made watercourse. ▪ Coastline experiencing both erosion and accretion. ▪ Major coastal dune systems and saltmarshes and artificial sea defences along the coastline. ▪ Extensive shallow beach. ▪ Brick and pantile vernacular architecture to the west. ▪ Coastal strip significantly altered by discordant 20th century development including seaside resorts, theme parks, bungalows, caravan parks and industry.
Lincolnshire Wolds	NCA43	No data	No data	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium-scale undulating mixed farming landscape dissected by rivers Witham and East and West Glen. ▪ Enclosure generally by hedgerows and more locally by stone walls to the south. Species-rich verges and meadows. ▪ Significant areas of woodland including semi-natural and ancient woodland which, in combination with topography, frame and contain views. ▪ High concentration of historic houses and associated parklands. ▪ Generally a dispersed but nucleated settlement pattern, with local concentrations to Fen edge in east. ▪ Picturesque villages constructed in local limestone. ▪ Collyweston slate roofs distinctive to south and pantiles to north. Stone town of Stamford. ▪ Airfield sites, some now redundant, in exposed elevated areas. ▪ Archaeologically rich area including ancient trackways. ▪ Limestone and ironstone quarries.
Central Lincolnshire Vale	NCA44	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad low-lying arable vale. Balanced, yet simple, open landscape. ▪ A regular pattern of medium-sized fields with enclosure by hedgerows of limited species and few hedgerow trees. Variations include pre-enclosure hay meadows and pasture near Wragby and the drained landscape north of Brigg. ▪ Variable woodland cover; little in the central and northern clays. Exceptions include coniferous plantations on both the Coversands, the sands and gravels around Woodhall Spa and, most notably, the Central Lincolnshire Limewoods between Wragby and Bardney. ▪ Sparse nucleated settlements throughout the area. ▪ Traditional building materials, predominantly local brick and limestone, from adjoining Lincolnshire Edge. ▪ Rich in ridge and furrow and deserted medieval villages. ▪ Wolds scarp gives strong visual boundary to east; distant views to Lincoln Cathedral in west

<p>The Fens</p>	<p>NCA 46</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large-scale, flat, open landscape with extensive vistas to level horizons and huge skies. ▪ A hierarchy of rivers drains and ditches provide a strong influence throughout the area. ▪ Embanked rivers and roddons create local enclosure and elevation. Banks provide good grazing and grassland habitats. ▪ Modestly elevated 'islands' within fens provide isolated higher ground for most settlement. A higher proportion of grassland, tree cover and hedgerows are associated with these areas. ▪ Settled Fens or 'Townlands', in arc set back from the Wash, exhibit an ancient medieval and irregular field pattern. Typically smaller-scale with scattered farmsteads and dispersed ribbon settlements along the main arterial routes ▪ Peaty Fens drained in 17th century comprise large rectilinear fields of black soil. A geometric road and drainage pattern with major high-level drains, washes and associated pumping stations. Roads and rail links often on elevated banks. ▪ Area south of Lincolnshire Wolds most recently drained with Wolds providing marked 'Upland' horizon to north. ▪ Woodland cover sparse. Occasional avenues to roads, elsewhere isolated field trees have marked significance. Shelter belts including poplar, willow and leylandii hedges around farmsteads. Numerous orchards in Wisbech area. ▪ Fragments of relic wet fen areas at Wicken, Woodwalton and Holme. ▪ Built forms exhibit strong influence ranging from historic cathedrals and churches, like Ely and Boston to large agricultural and industrial structures. Domestic architecture displays combination of elegant Georgian brick houses and bland 20th century bungalows. ▪ Marshes directly adjacent to the Wash exhibit an exceptionally open aspect, broken only by a series of sea walls. Associated river outfall structures, tidal saltmarshes and mudflats. ▪ Rich and varied intensive agricultural land use including wide range of arable, root crops, bulbs, vegetables and livestock. Field labourers prevalent at harvesting. Horticultural glasshouses and general agricultural clutter a significant feature. ▪ Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman landscapes emerging from below the falling peat. Very rich archaeology especially on fen margins.
<p>North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands/ Southern Lincolnshire Edge</p> <p>*Natural England description is an amalgamation of both character areas</p>	<p>NCA 45/47</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large-scale 'upland' arable escarpment broadly divided into north and south by river Witham at Lincoln. Area broadens to south. ▪ Prominent scarp slope of Lincoln 'Cliff' marks western edge of area. ▪ Open landscape with rectilinear fields and few boundaries. Where enclosure still present, a mixture of limestone walls, discontinuous hedges and shelter belts. ▪ Sparse settlement on top of escarpment. Spring-line villages to west at foot of 'cliff' and small parklands to east towards the clay vale. ▪ Active and redundant airfields. ▪ More complex landscape of the northern section includes a double scarp, urbanisation and dereliction in Scunthorpe area and the Coversands area of heath, blown sand habitats and conifer woods. ▪ Roman roads and ancient track ways such as Ermine Street or High Dyke follow north-south routes with one significant east-west route - Salter's Road. Green lanes occur in the southern area.
<p>Trent and Belvoir Vales</p>	<p>NCA48</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gently undulating landform, with shallow ridges dropping down gently to broad river valleys. ▪ Open, arable or mixed farmed landscape, strongly rural in feel, with trimmed hedges and few hedgerow trees; woodlands only locally significant. ▪ Frequent nucleated villages with red brick houses, roofed with pantiles, and spired churches prominent in long views. ▪ Large market towns with historic centres and substantial churches visible from afar, notably Newark, Grantham, Southwell, Lincoln. ▪ Subtle variations within the area from the remote and pastoral landscape of the Vale of Belvoir, to the more undulating and wooded farmland north-east of Nottingham and the open arable lands to the north and east. ▪ Urban development closely confined to major centres, in particular the outskirts of Nottingham. ▪ Elsewhere the open, undeveloped and rural character strongly influenced locally by power stations, pylons and sand and gravel extraction on the Trent floodplain.
<p>Kesteven Uplands</p>	<p>NCA75</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium-scale undulating mixed farming landscape dissected by rivers Witham and East and West Glen. Enclosure generally by hedgerows and more locally by stone walls to the south. Species-rich verges and meadows. ▪ Significant areas of woodland including semi-natural and ancient woodland which, in combination with topography, frame and contain views. ▪ High concentration of historic houses and associated parklands. ▪ Generally a dispersed but nucleated settlement pattern, with local concentrations to Fen edge in east. ▪ Picturesque villages constructed in local limestone. Collyweston slate roofs distinctive to south and pantiles to north. Stone town of Stamford. ▪ Airfield sites, some now redundant, in exposed elevated areas. ▪ Archaeologically rich area including ancient trackways. ▪ Limestone and ironstone quarries.

* outline landscape sensitivity evaluation based on the methodology set out in ES Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual

APPENDIX 5.3B: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT

North Kesteven Landscape Assessment (2007)					Landscape Character Assessment
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SUB-AREA	NKD Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity*	Key Characteristics
Limestone Heath (Central Plateau Regional Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	7	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is a large landscape character sub-area situated in the centre of the District between the ridge of the Lincoln Cliff and the Central Clays and Gravels to the east. ▪ Its position on the upper reaches of the cliff's dip slope gives it a feeling of relative elevation and exposure. ▪ It is predominantly an empty, open landscape with wide views to the skyline in all directions. ▪ The landform is a gently undulating plateau which dips gently towards the east. ▪ Generally the whole area is dry, with no obvious surface drainage as a consequence of the underlying limestone geology. ▪ Scattered woodland copses pepper the whole of the sub-area, which although relatively small are prominent features because of the openness of the landscape. ▪ Roadside hedgerows are often found with mature trees within. ▪ Limestone dry stone walls are apparent along roadside and some field boundaries, but are generally in poor condition. ▪ Fields are very large and rectilinear. Field boundaries are often absent, broken or delineated by a strip of rough grass or remnant hedgerow or wall. ▪ The soil colour is a striking reddish brown colour with visually prominent stone content giving it a rough texture. ▪ Intensive arable agriculture dominates land use with wheat and root crop common. ▪ The central plateau area is generally unsettled except for isolated farmsteads and occasional ribbon development along the A15. Larger settlements are situated on the edge of the sub-area characterised by having historic cores with limestone buildings but often surrounded by significant levels of 20th Century development. ▪ Utility Infrastructure, which although sparse, makes an impact on the landscape including prominent pylons and the main A15 running north to south. ▪ RAF installations have made a significant impact on the landscape sub-area with several large bases and training centres. ▪ Mineral working is a feature of the sub-area with several large limestone quarries. ▪ Pressures for change on the Plateau predominately relate to minerals operations, decline of field boundaries, particularly walls, and intensive agricultural practices. ▪ Opportunities for landscape strengthening and enhancement mainly lie in field boundary reinstatement, particularly of dry stone walls and for more appropriately designed development on the outskirts of settlements.
Rauceby Hills (Central Plateau Regional Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	8	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A small landscape sub-area situated to the southwest of the District. It is delineated to the north by the wide gentle valley that the A17 follows. To the south the area is marked by a drop in gradient to the Slea Valley. To the west is the District boundary while to the east there is lower land surrounding Sleaford. ▪ The whole sub-area is higher than the surrounding areas with the highest part to the north (70-65m) and falling gently to the south to around 35m. ▪ The general impression is of a well managed agricultural countryside with open views to the north and south. ▪ The area is free draining with no obvious surface water due to the underlying limestone. ▪ There are a number of small copses of mixed woodland throughout the area and a single large area of woodland, High Wood, in the centre of the area. ▪ Avenues of mature trees and substantial hedgerows running along the lanes leading to North and South Rauceby, give an enclosed feeling to the area. ▪ Fields are large and rectangular in shape and away from the lanes field boundaries are often absent or marked by small hedgerows. ▪ Adjacent to the villages of North and South Rauceby smaller field and paddocks remain. ▪ Land use is predominately intensive arable agriculture. ▪ Between the two villages lies Rauceby Park, a large country estate, with sheep grazing within parkland and mature woodland. ▪ part from the two villages the area is largely unsettled except for occasional farmsteads. ▪ General absence of utility infrastructure. ▪ Pressures for change relate generally to intensive agricultural practices. ▪ Opportunities for landscape strengthening and enhancement lie in greater hedgerow planting along some of the field boundaries.
Willsford Heath (Central Plateau Regional Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	9	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small sub area on the south western edge of the District. ▪ Bounded by the District boundary on three sides, with the western boundary being the B6403 (Ermine Street). ▪ Relatively flat, high in elevation (between 90-92m) and falls away to the north towards the Ancaster gap and to the east where the land becomes more undulating. To the south and west the land rises gently. ▪ A generally level, agricultural landscape.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole area is dry with no obvious surface drainage due to the underlying limestone. There is a single large coppice of broadleaved woodland to the centre of the area with a other smaller copes closer to the areas boundaries. Fields are large and generally used for intensive arable agriculture. The area is mostly unsettled except for a few farms and associated buildings.
Slea Valley (Central Plateau Regional Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	10	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, linear shaped landscape character subarea situated in the south west of the District. It is delineated by rising land to the north and south on either side of the shallow valley. To the east it meets the lower more open land surrounding Sleaford. To the west the area meets the District boundary. The area is low at the valley bottom (approx 20m) and rises gently on both sides to 25 m before rising to the adjoining landscape character subareas. The area is dominated by the main road, the A153, and the railway line which follow the line of the valley along its whole length. A watercourse know as the Beck, which later becomes the River Slea, also follows along the length of the valley but is not an obvious feature in the landscape. In the centre of the valley are several small lakes reflecting past gravel working. The land use is generally arable agriculture, though there is evidence of set-aside and grazing. Few hedgerows but some dry stone walls. The valley sides are generally open with little woodland cover. There are some distinctive willow trees lining the Beck at Wilsford and some stands of poplar. On the valley floor to the centre of the area, around Sleaford golf course, unimproved heathland with pine trees and gorse bushes is present. The village of Wilsford stands partly in the valley but also rises up into the Upland Plateau fringe. It has attractive limestone buildings with a distinctive church. The other main settlement is around Rauceby Station where there is new development within the former Rauceby Hospital, characterised by woodland including distinctive fir trees.
Central Clays & Gravels (Central Plateau Regional Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	11	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape sub-area runs the entire length of the District. The narrowest part is in the north, widening southwards beyond Sleaford to meet the Upland Plateau Fringe. The western edge is defined by the Limestone Heath and Slea Valley, whilst the Fens lie to the east along its full extent. A gently undulating lowland, edged by areas of woodland in the north. Fields are generally smaller and more varied in shape than on the adjacent limestone plateau with some grazing land as well as arable. Surface water drains into small streams running from west to east and drainage ditches run by the sides of the fields. Well kept hedgerows along roadsides and sometimes between fields. Dark brown coloured soil. Small copses of broadleaved woodland throughout the sub-area and larger areas of woodland on the eastern edge. Three distinctive lines of settlements – the limestone villages following the spring lines coming off the limestone plateau; the line of villages on the clay strip; and the villages edging the fens to the south. Road network orientated with the main roads running from north to south (Lincoln to Sleaford) with smaller roads running west to east. Pressures for change in the sub-area relate to inappropriate development on the edge of villages and the loss of hedgerows and tree cover.
Upland Plateau Fringe (Central Plateau Regional Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	12	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South westerly fringe of the district. Topography is more varied than most other elements of the district. A series of interlocking, rolling low hills and gently rounded ridges with small river valleys with steep lower reaches. Series of small water courses in convex valley sides run from higher ground at the district boundary with South Kesteven in an eastward direction towards the fenlands. Watercourses are often difficult to see in the landscape, but provide the only significant organic, sinuous lines in the landscape. Significant series of small wooded areas, some semi—natural, some more recent, within a landscape dominated by intensive arable agriculture. More intimate network of hedgerows and hedgerow trees than elsewhere across the district, particularly to the western fringe. A sparse grid like road and lane network with wide verges and varying levels of field-side enclosure of hedges or small open ditches. Significant network of green lanes and footpaths generally reflecting the road network pattern. Series of very small traditional agricultural settlements with fine parish churches and minimal unsympathetic development. Manor halls and estate villages are influential elements of the settlement pattern.
Heath Sandlands (Trent and Witham Vales Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	1	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bounded by District boundary on all sides apart from the east where the boundary is marked by the land rising into the Terrace Sandlands landscape character sub-area. Flat, open, rural lowland. Mainly arable agriculture, though some rough pasture. Generally medium sized rectilinear fields with absent field boundaries. Small, isolated stands of Scots Pine, and incongruous conifer 'walls' around farmsteads.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birch, oak, bracken and gorse in wide roadside verges. ▪ Steep sided straight dykes along field boundaries. ▪ Small brick bridges for tracks over dykes. ▪ Radial road pattern converging on North Scarle. ▪ Very straight roads. ▪ North Scarle is a nucleated settlement with older red brick built buildings in the ▪ Centre of the village and newer mixed development on the outskirts. ▪ Variable pattern of land uses around village and along roads including "horsiculture", poultry sub-areas and some light industrial sub-areas at Lodge Farm. ▪ A number of small lakes used for angling. ▪ Open views across to the Cottam power station on the River Trent.
Terrace Sandlands (Trent and Witham Vales Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	2	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gentle, subtle undulations in topography, dominance of woodland blocks and hedgerow trees, large and less managed hedgerows. ▪ A noticeable ridge of sand and gravel deposits circles the farmland south of Norton Disney Hall, which highlights the geological contrast with the River Witham vale to the east and the Trent vale to the west, and partially defines the character area boundary. ▪ Woodland, both broadleaved and conifer plantation is a dominant feature of the landscape and plays a key role in defining landscape character. Its presence greatly influences the length of views and sense of openness or enclosure. Vistas open out and close up dependent on the position of the woodland blocks in the landscape. ▪ Sandy deposit geology gives rise to pine and gorse dominated roadsides, and sand and gravel extraction has some impact upon the landscape. Land reclamation post extraction has created a large expanse of open water with significant wildlife benefits, and a prominent but possibly incongruous landscape feature locally. ▪ Avenues of trees occasionally line minor roads, increasing the intimacy and detail of the area. ▪ Settlement is scattered and road patterns are similarly winding and irregular, in contrast to the more regular and spinal network seen in the Witham and Brant Vales. ▪ The estate village of Doddington dominates the northern section of this area, with its stunning Elizabethan Hall and parkland central to this estate village. ▪ The presence of the MOD firing range at Beckingham has mixed influence on the landscape. ▪ A lack of arable farming in this pocket of the character area creates subtle and soft layering of grassy pasture, straggly and irregular boundary hedges and post and wire fencing.
Till Vale (Trent and Witham Vales Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	3	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Till Vale is flat and low lying with open expanses and panoramic views. ▪ Large arable fields with few hedge boundaries dominate the landscape. ▪ The large, channelled drains at the northern edge of this sub-area, and the northern limit of the North Kesteven district, are significant linear landscape features. It is here that boating activity is seen and adds a different land use to the otherwise arable farmed landscape. ▪ Important and clear views of the higher parts of Lincoln city are taken from the Till Vale landscape character sub-area, and Lincoln Cathedral is a prominent feature of the easterly skyline. ▪ Woodland is virtually absent, as are significant hedgerows, but lines of Lombardy poplars stand out in the landscape, creating elongated shadows across the arable fields. ▪ A few farmsteads include modern buildings that lack any distinctive character and the one main road through the sub-area is relatively straight and without boundary features, which increases the speed at which traffic travels through the sub-area.
Lincoln Fringe (Trent and Witham Vales Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	4	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed urban areas on Lincoln City's periphery, but which fall with North Kesteven District Council. ▪ Comprise of small areas heavily developed with little 'landscape' distinctiveness. ▪ Present context for urban-rural fringe uses and issues.
Witham and Brant Vales (Trent and Witham Vales Landscape Character Type Sub-Area)	5	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defined in the east by the base of the Lincoln Cliff scarp slope, to the south by the district boundary, the Terrace Sandlands to the west, and the southern outskirts of Lincoln City to the north. ▪ Extensive low lying, generally flat valley of twin rivers Witham and Brant running from the south to north east of the sub-area. ▪ Pronounced landform or topographical variation absent from the sub-area. ▪ Twin, small rivers generally present a very subtle influence on their presence often only notable through riparian vegetation and flooded fields. ▪ Across the sub-area tree cover is limited, but has a disproportionately high influence on the landscape as the level terrain allows hedgerow and copse trees to foreshorten views across the vale, often allowing a strong band of tree and hedge between land and the large skies. ▪ Settlement pattern is defined by attractive, small nucleated and sometimes linear villages of red brick and pantile construction to the central and western extent of the sub-area. ▪ The impact of roads on the landscape is generally low once away from the A17 and A46. As across the study area elsewhere, overhead high and low voltage transmission lines can be prominent. ▪ Pressures for change in the Vale predominately relate to minerals operations, intensive agricultural practice and associated development, and to flood alleviation works ▪ There is widespread evidence of historic field boundary loss, particularly in the east. ▪ Landscape strengthening and enhancement is evident through boundary reinstatement and tree planting across the vale. Increased amounts of set-aside land are also visible within

					<p>the central and western bands which help soften the landscape and have visibly enhanced biodiversity interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development within and to the edge of the Vale's settlements has generally been delivered having sound regard to local vernacular design and has integrated well with the historic environment. New development to the south of North Hykeham is prominent within the flat landscape as the vale meets the city.
<p>Lincoln Cliff (Lincoln Cliff Regional Landscape Character Type)</p>	6	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lincoln Cliff Scarp landscape sub-area follows the limestone escarpment running north-south. The escarpment continues beyond the North Kesteven district both to the north and south. A dramatic topographical feature in the context of the wider district. After the physical slope itself, it is the villages, the countryside between the villages, and the considerable and varied treescape that form the key characteristics of the Lincoln Cliff Scarp. Villages along the scarp are generally located on its crest. Much of the building material is limestone, with some red brick. Large limestone walls curve around the network of winding village lanes and red pantiled roofs stand out against the yellow limestone. Church towers and spires from the scarp villages are a prominent feature on the skyline along the slope. Large mansion houses and halls are a striking and consistent feature along the ridge villages, taking advantage of extensive panoramic views over the Witham and Brant Vale. The scarp itself is often intimate and enclosed in character, mainly influenced by the villages, tighter field pattern extending in linear bands up the slope, boundary integrity and significant tree cover. The landscape has variety in texture and colour, with the patches of broadleaved woodland playing a major role in the colour variations, alongside glimpses of the yellow limestone of the scarp villages. Variations in scarp slope direction afford greater visual interest in the form and lines of the landscape, particularly at Wellingore's 'buttress'. The 'double cliff' at Leadenham is an important characteristic at the southern end of the landscape, where the escarpment splits and presents a flat intermediate area of land between a lower and upper slope. Whereas many of the ridge line villages sit high on the slope, Leadenham village nestles on the flat terrace between the lower and upper slopes at this point. The upper slope is not clearly apparent from the lower vale, and similarly the lower slope is hidden when this double feature is viewed from the plateau above. The northern end of the Lincoln Cliff Scarp varies in character, and represents a contrast to many of the features of the slope generally. Here the slope is a mixture of arable and pasture fields, more open in nature with a considerable reduction in tree cover.
<p>Fenland (The Fens Regional Landscape Character Type)</p>	13	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low lying with very flat relief. Occasional small islands of slightly higher land. Very large, rich arable fields divided up by drainage channels A hierarchy of rivers drains and ditches creating linear patterns across the landscape. The geometric road pattern follows the drainage pattern with small roads raised above the level of the fields, running from west to east. Generally extensive vistas to level horizons and huge skies, apart from in the north easterly direction where the Lincolnshire Wolds provide a marked "Upland" horizon. Sparse woodland cover though some occasional trees surrounding farmsteads and some shelter, belts particularly of poplars. Intensively farmed and managed it is almost entirely a man-made landscape. Except for scattered farmsteads and farm buildings the sub-area is unsettled. Prominent power lines and large-scale agricultural buildings.

* outline landscape sensitivity evaluation based on the methodology set out in ES Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual

APPENDIX 5.3C: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – BOSTON BOROUGH

Landscape Character Assessment of Boston Borough (2009)					Landscape Character Assessment
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	BBC Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity *	Key Characteristics
Reclaimed Fen Landscape Character Type	A	No data	No data	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reclaimed Fen Landscape Character Type is located inland from the Settled Fen and lies to the south of the Borough boundary with East Lindsey and north of the Settled Fen character type. It is a flat area mostly underlain by the older deposits of the Barroway Drove Beds with fertile pelo-alluvial gley soils. The area is flat and mostly underlain by Jurassic clays. These are overlain by the Barroway Drove Beds of older marine and saltmarsh deposits which in turn are overlain by the fertile soils of pelo-alluvial gleys. It is an open landscape with big skies and long distance views to the Lincolnshire Wolds in East Lindsey District to the north. These views are sometimes foreshortened by large flood embankments alongside major drains and canalised watercourses. This landscape is evidently man-made with the regular, geometric pattern and grain defined by the large water filled drains, dykes, and canalised rivers that cut across the character areas. This is an intensively farmed arable landscape with a hierarchy of drains, dykes and ditches draining the largely open and predominantly arable fields. There are occasional large scale processing plants, poultry units, horticultural glasshouses, packing plants and a caravan park, which are all mainly towards the boundaries of the areas. Tree cover is sparse with occasional small mixed woodland blocks, a few recently planted roadside trees and hedgerows. Most other mature trees are found as shelterbelts in and around the hamlets, farmsteads and dwellings. The area is sparsely populated with widely dispersed farmsteads, occasional rows of former workers' cottages, hamlets and a few roadside dwellings scattered throughout alongside a grid of roads and tracks. A railway line runs across the area. There are a few long footpaths along embankments and shorter local links across fields. It has a fairly remote feel in parts due to the partial enclosure and separation from the surrounding more settled areas by the large straight embankments, the sparse settlement pattern and the lack of through traffic.
Holland Reclaimed Fen Landscape Character Area	A1	No data	No data	Moderate / High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat and low-lying reclaimed fenland. Open and expansive views with big skies and dark night skies with some views semi-enclosed at ground level by large embankments. More distant views to Boston Stump and to the Lincolnshire Wolds in East Lindsey District to the north. A man-made intensive arable landscape laid out in a regular, geometric pattern with narrow roads and trackways alongside drains, dykes and ditches. The large North Forty Foot Drain and South Forty Foot Drain are key dominating features of the area. Field boundaries are typically open with wet ditches, dykes and drains and the occasional hedgerow. Occasional large scale horticultural glasshouses, and packing or processing plants occur near the southern boundary of the area. Sparsely populated with occasional small hamlets, scattered farmsteads, and occasional rows of former workers' cottages. Occasional derelict farm cottages and field buildings. Sparse tree cover confined to shelterbelts, with occasional hedgerows and small blocks of mixed woodland with shrubby edges. Bicker windfarm and large scale pylons on the south western tip are modern landmark features. A semi-remote, tranquil and intact working agricultural landscape.
Wrangle Common to Freiston Ings Reclaimed Fen Landscape Character Area	A2	No data	No data	Moderate / High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat and low-lying reclaimed fenland. Open views are semi-enclosed at a low level by large drain embankments. Views to Wrangle to Cowbridge Settled Fen to the south, to the Pilgrim Hospital on the outskirts of Boston, and distant views to the Lincolnshire Wolds in East Lindsey to the north. A man-made, intensively farmed arable landscape laid out with a strong geometric pattern of narrow roads and tracks alongside drains, dykes and ditches. Cowbridge and Hobhole Drain embankments and a small reservoir contained by embankments are prominent features of the area. Tree cover is sparse and is mostly confined to tree shelterbelts around farmsteads, dwellings and settlements on the edge of the character area. There are very few remnant hedgerows and an occasional small block of deciduous woodland. Sparsely populated with scattered farmsteads, former workers' cottages and occasional derelict farm cottages and field buildings. Occasional large scale processing plants. Large and small scale pylons across the whole area. Lade Bridge Pump house is a working heritage feature. Limited access with few roads and tracks and very occasional short dead end public rights of way. A relatively remote, tranquil and intact working agricultural landscape.

Settled Fens Landscape Character Type	B	No data	No data	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Settled Fen Landscape Character Type lies between the Reclaimed Saltmarsh towards the coast and the Reclaimed Fen which is inland from this character type. ▪ The area is underlain by Jurassic clays which in turn are overlain by Terrington beds of marine deposits and tidal creek and river deposits. They are covered by a mix of fertile calcareous and typical alluvial gley and pelo-alluvial gley soils. There are some small areas of man-made salterns. This area which is known locally as the Siltlands or Townlands sits on a very slightly elevated arc set back from The Wash. Some of these surface deposits were laid down recently when sea inlets extended to many of the settlements in the area. ▪ The generally flat landscape allows long distance views interrupted only by settlements and associated shelterbelts and trees. Other vertical elements such as traditional windmills, church towers and spires, and poplar trees stand out in these views. ▪ The land use is predominantly arable farming with some horticulture and associated glasshouses, large packing sheds and food processing plants. ▪ Occasional fields of pasture remain. Overall the landscape has an irregular, organic pattern formed by winding roads and watercourses which is older than the more regular, geometric pattern found in the Reclaimed Fen character type. The scale and arrangement of these patterns distinguishes between the different character areas within this type. Where the pattern is larger scale the fields tend to be geometric whereas in the smaller scale areas they remain more irregular and organic. Some areas are more mixed having both of these patterns. ▪ Trees are confined to settlements and shelterbelts, occasional hedgerows and small blocks of mixed woodland. The frequent small historic settlements are often found on marginally raised areas with farmsteads and other dwellings scattered between along the roadsides throughout. This early settled landscape has many heritage features scattered throughout and is a distinctive working agricultural landscape which is evidently continuing to evolve.
Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen Landscape Character Area	B1	No data	No data	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A largely flat landform slightly elevated above the adjacent drained fenland. ▪ Open views with big skies. ▪ Views to landmark water towers, and church towers and spires set amongst mature trees in historic villages. Other visible landmarks include the windfarm at Bicker and Boston Stump. ▪ An intact working rural landscape. ▪ Settlement pattern of widely spread villages, often medieval in origin, with farmsteads and dwellings scattered in between. ▪ Scattered agricultural buildings, horticultural glasshouses, packing sheds, poultry sheds, food processing plants and distribution centres which are of a mix of styles and ages. ▪ A relatively large scale organic network of winding roads is infilled by a geometric field pattern of predominantly arable fields. ▪ Generally tree cover is sparse with occasional hedgerows and hedgerow trees and infrequent blocks of mixed woodland. ▪ A scattering of visible heritage features with archaeological earthworks including medieval moated sites and saltern mounds, ▪ Listed Buildings and some designated Conservation Areas within historic villages. ▪ Towards the outskirts of Boston there are more modern influences including converging rows of large scale pylons and new recreational sites. ▪ A distinctive, cohesive and legibly evolving agricultural landscape, which is peaceful in parts but not particularly remote.
Frampton to Fosdyke Settled Fen Landscape Character Area	B2	No data	No data	Moderate / High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A largely flat farmed landscape with a patchwork of predominantly arable fields with some pasture. ▪ Open views with big skies. ▪ Views to landmark church towers and spires set amongst mature trees in historic villages. Other visible landmarks include Boston Stump and the windfarm at Bicker. ▪ Tree cover is generally sparse with occasional hedgerows and trees and infrequent blocks of mixed woodland. ▪ Some areas under Environmental Stewardship Schemes have more rangy hedgerows with hedgerow trees. ▪ A small scale landscape pattern of winding narrow roads enclosing small irregularly shaped fields bounded by dykes and ditches. ▪ Some agricultural buildings, horticultural glasshouses, packing sheds and food processing plants which are of a mix of styles and ages. ▪ A marina at Fosdyke. ▪ Scattered heritage features of archaeological earthworks, Listed Buildings and designated Conservation Areas within historic villages. ▪ Limited large scale modern influences include rows of pylons and views to working cranes at Boston port. ▪ An intact, fairly remote and evolving working rural landscape.

<p>Wrangle to Cowbridge Settled Fen Landscape Character Area</p>	<p>B3</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate / High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Largely flat, but slightly elevated above the drained fenland to the west and the reclaimed coastal marsh to the east. ▪ Some open views with big skies and others foreshortened by settlements within groups of trees. ▪ Views to windmills, water towers, and church towers and spires set amongst mature trees in villages. Also to Boston Pilgrim Hospital and Boston Stump. ▪ A small to medium scale pattern of winding roads, ditches and dykes infilled with a mix of both geometric and irregularly shaped arable fields. ▪ An evolving intensively farmed landscape with associated large scale infrastructure of glasshouses, packing sheds and food processing plants. ▪ Fertile soils with multiple croppings per year. ▪ A distinctive line of historic villages along the busy and winding A52 road, with a string of many smaller settlements and dwellings in between. ▪ Scattered hamlets, farmsteads and dwellings alongside minor roads in the rest of the area. ▪ A scattering of visible heritage features including archaeological earthworks, Listed Buildings and designated Conservation Areas in villages. ▪ Visible references to WWII with gun emplacements and pillboxes alongside sea banks, bridges and along the Hobhole Drain. ▪ Relatively tranquil away from the A52 but not remote with the frequent traffic of farm workers, farm and goods vehicles.
<p>Reclaimed Saltmarsh Landscape Character Type</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Reclaimed Saltmarsh Landscape Character Type lies between the Settled Fen and the coastal Wash Saltmarsh character types. ▪ This area has been reclaimed from the sea and is surrounded by a series of sea banks. It is underlain by the intertidal and sub tidal saltmarsh deposits of The Wash. The resultant fertile soils are classified as calcareous alluvial gley soils. ▪ The area is flat with raised sea banks around the edges which run parallel to the coastline. These sea banks were created to reclaim land from the sea for agriculture and their construction began possibly before medieval times and has continued into the twentieth century. Views within the area are foreshortened by the sea banks especially by those which have tree and hedgerow cover. However, there are still some long distance views from the top of the sea banks across The Wash and the flat areas of land to the north. ▪ The land is now mostly used for arable farming with large geometric fields bounded by drains, dykes and ditches. Cattle are frequently grazed on the sea banks. There are only a few buildings within the area which consist of infrequent farmsteads. The Boston Wash Banks project has created new sites which combine flood alleviation and nature conservation within this area. ▪ Farm tracks run perpendicular to the sea banks and there are infrequent straight minor roads. Public rights of way along the top of sea banks provide linear routes along boundaries of and in some cases across the character areas. Trees in the landscape are found in shelterbelts around farmsteads and along the tops and sides of some sea banks
<p>Welland to Haven Reclaimed Saltmarsh Landscape Character Area</p>	<p>C1</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A fairly remote man-made, flat landscape of reclaimed saltmarsh which is surrounded and enclosed by sea banks of varying ages. ▪ Views to big skies within the area are contained at ground level by grassed and hedged sea banks. ▪ Longer views from the tops of the sea banks extend towards The Wash and the Norfolk coast. ▪ The inner part of the Haven is a major estuarine inlet and shipping channel leading to Boston port and is contained by large embankments. ▪ A predominantly geometric pattern of medium to large scale fields bordered by open ditches and dykes. ▪ Land use is a mix of pasture and intensive arable and pasture for cattle, and also small areas for the outdoor rearing of pigs. ▪ Tree and hedgerow cover is mostly confined to the inland relict sea bank and also shelter belts around farmsteads and dwellings. ▪ Sparsely populated with occasional farmsteads and dwellings. ▪ Limited access via a very small number of minor roads and farm tracks. ▪ A long distance footpath, the Macmillan Way, runs along the top of the coastal sea bank. ▪ A newly constructed extension to Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve. ▪ The area includes the Havenside Country Park, landfill site and sewage works alongside the Haven downstream from Boston town.
<p>Glebe Farm Reclaimed Saltmarsh Landscape Character Area</p>	<p>C2</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate / High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A fairly remote man-made flat landscape of reclaimed saltmarsh surrounded and enclosed by a series of sea banks of varying ages. ▪ Open views with big skies within the area are enclosed in the mid-distance at ground level by grassed and hedged sea banks. ▪ Longer views from the tops of the sea banks extend towards Boston, The Wash, the Norfolk coast and the offshore windfarm near Skegness. ▪ A geometric pattern of medium to large scale fields containing crops such as wheat and brassicas bordered by open ditches and dykes. ▪ Grazing cattle on the sea banks. ▪ Tree and hedgerow cover is mostly confined to the inland relict sea bank and also shelterbelts around farmsteads and dwellings. ▪ Sparsely populated with occasional farmsteads and dwellings. ▪ The recently created Freiston Shore Nature Reserve has returned a reclaimed area to coastal saltmarshes with lagoons and wet grassland. ▪ Visible references to WWII in the form of strategic gun emplacements and pillboxes along sea banks. ▪ Access is limited with very occasional minor roads and several farm tracks perpendicular to sea banks with elevated footpaths.

<p>Wash Saltmarsh Landscape Character Type</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Wash Saltmarsh Landscape Character Type is located on the expansive tidal flats where Boston Borough meets The Wash. The area is enclosed by sea banks to the north west which form the boundary with the Reclaimed Saltmarsh Landscape Character Type. There are open seas to the south east. ▪ This is a tidal area which regularly changes from landscape to seascape with the ebb and flow of the tide. It is underlain by the intertidal and subtidal muds, sands and saltmarsh deposits of The Wash. ▪ It is a simple, wild landscape which consists of large expanses of flat, open tidal saltmarshes, sand and mudflats, with virtually no man-made structures. ▪ Views are restricted towards the mainland by sea banks, on the boundary of the character areas and within the adjacent landscape character areas. The views to the east are open and expansive and extend out to sea, to the Norfolk coast and to the offshore windfarm near Skegness. ▪ Within the area there is an absence of built development, man-made features, farmland, roads and trees. However, cattle graze on the saltmarshes and the adjacent sea banks. ▪ The area is of international and national importance for nature conservation and is particularly important for resident and migrating wildfowl, and wader birds. It also serves as a resource for recreation and traditional saltmarsh activities. ▪ Access is extremely limited with one public footpath along the top of the Haven Bank extending into one area. Footpaths extend along the tops of the sea banks on the character area boundaries overlook the character areas. ▪ This is a very distinctive and unspoilt coastal landscape
<p>Welland to Haven Wash Saltmarsh Landscape Character Area</p>	<p>D1</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An extensive area of open saltmarsh and intertidal winding mud and sand flats, and mud creeks. ▪ Tidal areas which regularly change from landscape to seascape with the tides. Occasional flooding by the sea in other areas. ▪ Includes the estuarine entrances contained by the large flood embankments to the River Welland and the Haven with the shipping channel leading to Boston port. ▪ A largely inaccessible, remote and wild landscape. ▪ Views with big skies and wide horizons across The Wash to Norfolk are influenced by the changing tides, light and weather conditions. ▪ A rich carpet mosaic of saltmarsh vegetation, provides grazing for saltmarsh beef cattle and habitat for wildlife. ▪ Open sand and mudflats provide further valuable habitats for wildfowl and wading birds. ▪ Protected by many international and national nature conservation designations. ▪ Built structures are virtually absent and there are no roads, and only one track. ▪ Occasional reminders of WWII with pillboxes and gun emplacements on embankments alongside the Haven. ▪ A very distinctive and unspoilt coastal landscape.
<p>Freiston Low to Wrangle Flats Wash Saltmarsh Landscape Character Area</p>	<p>D2</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A narrow strip of open saltmarsh and intertidal winding mud creeks with wider areas of tidal sand and mud flats. ▪ Tidal areas which regularly change from landscape to seascape with the tides. Regular flooding by the sea in other areas. ▪ A largely inaccessible, expansive, remote and wild landscape. ▪ Views out to sea with big skies and ships on wide horizons are influenced by the changing tides, light and weather conditions. ▪ Views to the windfarm offshore from Skegness. ▪ A rich blanket mosaic of saltmarsh vegetation provides grazing for saltmarsh beef cattle. ▪ Open sand and mud flats provide further valuable habitats for wildfowl and wading birds. ▪ Protected by many international and national nature conservation designations. ▪ There is no built development including roads and tracks. ▪ A very distinctive, wild and exposed coastal landscape.

* landscape sensitivity evaluation based on the methodology set out in the Boston Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2009)

APPENDIX 5.3D: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – EAST LINDSEY

East Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment (2009)					Landscape Character Assessment
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	EL Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity*	Key Characteristics
Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen	A1	*described as "intact"	No data	Moderate to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flat and low-lying drained fenland with open, expansive views and big skies. ▪ Intensively farmed medium to large scale arable fields form vast seas of crops. ▪ Field boundaries are typically open with ditches, occasional hedgerows or remnant hedgerows. ▪ Drained by a hierarchy of dykes forming an extensive grid network. The grid is emphasised by adjacent raised minor roads and telegraph poles and wires. ▪ Sparse tree cover confined to shelter belts, along some roads and around dwellings and settlements including occasional coniferous belts and short lines of poplars. ▪ Sparsely populated with widely scattered farmsteads and small linear hamlets. ▪ Settlements along the A16 road are more characteristic of Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen. ▪ Sibsey Trader Mill is a prominent landmark and heritage feature. ▪ Other heritage features include bridges, WWII pill boxes and occasional abandoned traditional farm buildings and dwellings. ▪ Small groups of farm workers cottages. ▪ Fairly remote and tranquil away from A16.
Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen	B1	*described as 'A relatively diverse but intact rural landscape with some detractors'	No data	Moderate to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Largely flat with some gentle undulations and slightly elevated above the surrounding drained fens and coastal marsh. ▪ Small to medium scale well settled rural landscape with many dwellings and farmsteads scattered throughout. ▪ Relatively organic pattern of predominantly arable fields with occasional hedgerows. ▪ A mix of small scale arable and pastoral fields with hedgerows are found in and around the historic port and town of Wainfleet All Saints. ▪ Frequent settlements, farmsteads and dwellings are set amongst mature tree planting and shelter belts. ▪ The Steeping River extends across the north of the area with short canalised sections enclosed by elevated grassed embankments. ▪ Limited network of minor roads and tracks. ▪ Small scale tourist and leisure activities including; small caravan parks, a golf club and public houses. ▪ Scattering of ancient earth works including salterns near Friskney. ▪ A relatively diverse but intact rural landscape.
Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh	C1	*described as 'distinctive and intact rural landscape with few detractors'	No data	Moderate to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A relatively remote man-made flat landscape of drained reclaimed saltmarsh. ▪ Lines of relict grassed sea banks running parallel to the coast. ▪ Views within the area partially constrained by sea banks with longer views from the tops of sea banks. ▪ A strong rectilinear pattern. ▪ Intensive large to medium scale arable fields of wheat and brassicas bordered by open ditches and dykes. ▪ Short straight narrow roads and tracks feed from the A52 through to the coastal sea bank. ▪ Sparsely populated with occasional farmsteads and dwellings of mixed of ages and styles along ends of the roads next to the A52. ▪ Few trees or hedgerows. ▪ Activity of field workers reduces sense of remoteness. ▪ A distinctive and intact, intensively farmed landscape.

Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh	D1	*described as 'strongly represented natural landscape with few detractors and a high concentration of nature conservation designations'	No data	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An extensive network of open saltmarsh and inter-tidal mud and sand flats with winding creeks. ▪ A largely inaccessible, remote and wild landscape. ▪ Views with big skies and wide horizons which are influenced by changing tides, light and weather conditions. ▪ A rich mosaic of saltmarsh vegetation provides valuable habitats for wildfowl, wading birds and other wildlife. ▪ Protected by many international and national nature conservation designations. ▪ An infrequent scattering of small man-made elements associated with the RAF Wainfleet Air Weapons Range. ▪ A very distinctive, evocative, naturalistic and dramatic coastal landscape.
Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland	E1	*described as "very distinctive... very intact... in very good condition"	No data	Moderate to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An open, fluted and gently rolling broad vale intersected with small valleys draining mostly into the fens to the west and a few towards the Wash Basin in the south. ▪ Long views to Lincoln Cathedral and pastoral views to church spires in tree sheltered settlements with many trees along skylines. ▪ A patchwork of medium to large mixed agricultural fields, with smaller pastoral fields in irregular patterns around small villages and hamlets. ▪ Trees are an important element in the landscape with scattered ancient lime woods, small mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and strips, as well as frequent hedgerow trees. ▪ The River Bain extends across the south eastern edge of the area. It drains towards the Wash Basin and is partially contained by embankments. ▪ Settlements include the busy historic market town of Horncastle and widely scattered hamlets, villages and farmsteads. ▪ An irregular network of winding drove roads and tracks, with a few direct main routes. ▪ Scattered scheduled monuments and heritage features. ▪ A distinctive intact and peaceful rural landscape with very few detractors.
Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace	F1	*described as "moderately distinctive but very diverse character"	No data	Moderate to low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A largely flat river terrace at the confluence of the Old River Bain and River Witham. ▪ Some gentle undulations across the terrace and flooded sand and gravel pits. Raised man-made flood embankments to the River Witham and Old River Bain. ▪ Views enclosed due to river and canal embankments, settlement and tree cover. ▪ A diverse landscape which contrasts with the surrounding rural character areas. ▪ Remnant vegetation typical of the Coversands including heather, gorse, bracken, coniferous plantations with some birch and oak woodland. ▪ Frequent ornamental tree planting along roadsides and within and around settlements. ▪ Coningsby aircraft base reflects Lincolnshire's strong historical links with the RAF. ▪ Woodhall Spa is a historic Victorian spa town. ▪ Tattershall medieval castle stands proud of the surrounding flat landscape in the historic settlement of Tattershall.
Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland	G1	*described as 'distinctive and very intact rural landscape with very few detracting features and a high concentration of landscape designations and level of protection'	No data	Moderate to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open elevated plateau with rolling hills and valleys. ▪ Series of steep sided north eastern facing cloughs. ▪ Long views to the east coast across the marshes and also closer views to rolling landscapes within the area. ▪ Views to big skies and dark night time skies. ▪ Large scale arable fields, containing mainly wheat with occasional hedgerows and large scale farmsteads with large sheds. ▪ Sparsely settled with occasional small villages and churches nestled in the deep wooded valleys. ▪ Many ancient roads run along ridge lines, converging on the market town of Louth. ▪ Former drove roads and lanes with wide verges, hedgerows and regularly spaced hedgerow trees. ▪ High level of landscape and nature conservation protection. It lies within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. ▪ Many heritage features including archaeological remains of deserted medieval villages, prehistoric barrows and WWII and RAF artefacts. ▪ Communications masts. ▪ A very tranquil, distinctive and intact rural landscape

<p>Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland</p>	<p>G2</p>	<p>*described as 'very distinctive and very intact rural landscape with very few detracting features and a high level of landscape designations and protection'</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate to high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An elevated rolling agricultural landscape that descends to Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh and the Lymn River Valley in Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland. ▪ Mix of arable farmland, pasture and woodland which frames views. ▪ Many hedgerows with hedgerow trees, and frequent woodland blocks including ancient and semi-natural and ancient replanted woodlands ▪ Streams and rivers draining eastwards into the marshes and south to the Lymn Valley. ▪ Valley bottoms that are sometimes marshy. ▪ Scattered villages are nestled into valleys and are often associated with small parkland estates. ▪ The A16 and A1028 roads provide a fast north to south transport route. ▪ A network of wide verged drove roads. ▪ Has a high level of landscape and nature conservation designations. It lies in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. ▪ Many heritage features including historic parks and gardens, archaeological remains of deserted medieval villages and groups of pre-historic barrow groups. ▪ A peaceful and rural landscape.
<p>Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland</p>	<p>G3</p>	<p>*described as "very distinctive and very intact rural landscape with few detractors"</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate to high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elevated undulating landscape of ridges, wide and narrow valleys, plateaux and scarp. ▪ Views to and from open hilltops and some uncluttered skylines. Longer views extending to Boston, the Vale of Lincoln and the Wash. ▪ Mixed agriculture which is mostly fields of wheat with some pasture around villages and on steeper slopes. ▪ Many streams draining to the Rivers Bain and Lymn in the south of the character area. ▪ Mature hedgerows with trees and occasional blocks of woodland scattered throughout. ▪ Sparsely populated with small villages nestled into valleys and a market town at Spilsby. ▪ Estates surrounded by parkland, and woodland with distinctive estate cottages and farmsteads. ▪ Has a high level of landscape designation and many nature conservation designations, with most of the area being within the Wolds AONB and parts being an AGLV. ▪ Many heritage features including archaeological earthworks, medieval ruins, and a battlefield. ▪ A network of winding lanes and drove roads with wide verges. ▪ The A158 provides a fast east-west route across the area. ▪ Several telecommunications masts including the prominent Belmont mast are prominent landmarks. ▪ A very tranquil rural landscape with few detractors.
<p>Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland</p>	<p>H1</p>	<p>*described as "moderately distinctive and intact rural landscape with some detracting features and some designations"</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A rolling landscape at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds rising gently to the Wolds from Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen. ▪ Views to the Borough of Boston and to Boston Stump to the south and to closer church spires and towers within settlements in and out of the area. ▪ Patchwork of arable fields with some ancient and semi natural and ancient replanted mixed woodland and grazed parkland. ▪ Streams, ditches and dykes drain towards the fens, becoming more geometric in layout towards the southern boundary. ▪ Settled with small traditional villages and estate farmsteads sheltered and set amongst mature trees. ▪ Heritage features include WWII Aircraft Museum, disused airfield and Scrivelsby and Revesby historic parks with an arcadian style parkland entrance avenue. ▪ It lies within an Area of Great Landscape Value. ▪ It has a busy transport corridor with the east-west A155 passing through, skirting both the lower wet fenlands and higher land of the Wolds and includes the crossroads with the southbound A16 Boston Road. ▪ In between is a sparse network of minor roads. ▪ Away from the busy A115 it is a very tranquil and idyllic rural landscape.
<p>Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh</p>	<p>I1</p>	<p>*described as 'very distinctive and very intact rural landscape with very few detracting features'</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate to high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gently undulating foothills to the Wolds rising from Tetney Lock to Skegness Coastal Outmarsh with views to Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland and Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland. ▪ Predominantly arable farmland with medium to large scale fields, some pasture with grazing sheep and cattle, bounded by ditches and dykes. ▪ Meandering rivers and streams, and the Louth Canal contained by flood embankments, which flow from the Wolds eastwards to the coast. ▪ Scattered blocks of mixed deciduous woodland throughout but more frequent around the south western boundary. ▪ Frequent scattered villages, hamlets, farmsteads and dwellings include a line of merging villages at the foot of the Wolds. ▪ Traditional and distinctive historic market towns of Louth, Alford and Burgh le Marsh. ▪ Scattered scheduled monuments and heritage features such as windmills and water mills, ridge and furrow fields, deserted medieval villages and disused railway tracks. ▪ A distinctive and tranquil rural landscape with very few minor detractors.

<p>Tetney Lock to Skegness Coastal Outmarsh</p>	<p>J1</p>	<p>*described as '...mostly a very intact and distinctive rural landscape'</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Moderate to high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A low lying, drained coastal plain contained to the east by sea embankments, sand dunes and sea defences. ▪ Mostly flat with some areas of gentle undulations including some saltern mounds. ▪ Some wide open views and big skies. Some views enclosed by landform, embankments, sand dunes or trees. ▪ Extensive network of drains, ditches and dykes with a strong geometric pattern in the northern and central parts of the area. ▪ Rivers and the historic Louth Canal cross from the Lincolnshire Wolds in the west towards the coast. ▪ Predominantly mixed agricultural landuse with both arable and pasture, and some remnants of ridge and furrow. ▪ Several important coastal nature reserves with a high level of nature conservation designation with associated wildlife. ▪ Sparsely scattered settlements set within mature ornamental trees and hedgerows. ▪ A stretch of coastal resorts from Mablethorpe to Skegness with caravan parks, and new residential and commercial developments on their outskirts. ▪ An extensive network of raised minor roads with a few larger A roads serving the coastal resorts. ▪ A predominantly intact and distinctive rural landscape with some man-made influences including a gas terminal, an oil storage facility and several wind farms.
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* landscape sensitivity evaluation based on the methodology set out in the East Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment (2009)

APPENDIX 5.3E: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – SOUTH HOLLAND

South Holland Landscape Character Assessment (2003)					Landscape Character Assessment
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE	SH Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity*	Key Characteristics
The Settled Fens	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 'S')	*landscape condition – described as average, but ranges from good (farmland) to poor (urban fringe clutter)	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predominantly flat topography, dissected by main roads, rivers, drainage channels and drainage ditches often on raised banks (1-3m) ▪ Primarily nucleated settlements with associated mature trees ▪ Church spires and towers often rise above the mature vegetation to provide prominent landmark features ▪ Medium to large fields with intensive market garden crops. ▪ Locally strong hedgerow elements. ▪ Views are restricted or foreshortened by shelterbelts and woodland or mature hedgerows. This contributes to a sense of enclosure with a more open feel between settlements. ▪ The main visual detractors are the 440kV and 132kV overhead lines on towers, electricity sub stations and power stations and urban fringe visual clutter (dominated by light industry and glasshouse horticulture)
Peaty fens	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 'P')	*landscape condition described as "good"	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flat topography dissected by long straight roads, rivers, drainage channels and drainage ditches, often on raised banks (1-3 metres high) ▪ Predominantly linear settlements and isolated farmsteads ▪ Large scale, extensive views and largely uninterrupted skyline ▪ Sense of openness/exposure ▪ Strong linear patterns, defined by geometric arable fields of cereal and root crops, bounded by drainage channels or drainage ditches
The Wash Marshes	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 'W')	*landscape condition described as good	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flat topography dissected by winding creeks, drainage channels and drainage ditches. ▪ Extensive open areas of salt marsh ▪ Expansive views over the sea and inland ▪ Wide uninterrupted horizon

* outline landscape sensitivity evaluation based on the methodology set out in ES Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual

APPENDIX 5.3F: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT

South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment (2007)					Landscape Character Assessment
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	SK Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity*	Key Characteristics
Southern Lincolnshire Edge	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 3)	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large-scale open arable landscape. ▪ Dominant western scarp slope known as the 'Cliff'. ▪ Large rectilinear fields with some fragmented hedgerows and shelterbelts. ▪ Sparse settlement pattern on top of the escarpment. ▪ Active and redundant airfields.
Kesteven Uplands	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 1)	No data	No data	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A relatively unified, simple, medium-scale agricultural landscape ▪ High proportion of historic woodland. ▪ Undulating landform based around the valleys of the Rivers Witham and East and West Glen and the Welland to the south. ▪ Picturesque villages built of local limestone, with collyweston slate roofs to the south, and pantiles to the north. ▪ High concentration of houses and parks, with areas of farm land under estate management. ▪ A dispersed, nucleated settlement pattern, mostly following the river valleys. ▪ Enclosed mostly by hedgerows, with hedgerow trees. ▪ Modern human influences include airfields and the A1, Great North Road.
Fen Margin	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 6)	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A transitional area between the wooded Kesteven Uplands and the flat open fens. ▪ Broad east-facing slope, with local variations in topography. ▪ Medium-scale rectilinear fields with some hedgerow trees and a variety of farming uses. ▪ High proportion of settlement along the A15 and B1177 roads provides activity in the landscape.
The Fens	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 7)	No data	No data	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low flat terrain, level horizons and large skies. ▪ Large-scale open rectangular fields, divided by drainage ditches and embanked rivers. ▪ Sparse trees and woodland cover. ▪ Little settlement apart from individual farmsteads, often with large-scale agricultural buildings.
Trent and Belvoir Vale	N/A (Ecotricity Ref 2)	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A relatively simple, medium to large-scale, open arable or mixed farming landscape. ▪ Flat or very gently undulating topography ▪ Simple regular fields enclosed by hawthorn hedges. ▪ Relatively few hedgerow trees and virtually no woodland. ▪ Small villages typically located on slightly rising land. ▪ Church towers and spires visible across the landscape. ▪ Buildings styles vary, but a high proportion of brick with dark red pantiles

<p>Harlaxton Denton Bowl</p>	<p>N/A (Ecotricity Ref 4)</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Varied topography, hills, slopes and valleys. ▪ Small to medium-scale landscape. ▪ Patchwork of land use including woodlands, arable and pasture land. ▪ Historic parkland at Harlaxton, and tree lined roads associated with other estates. ▪ Villages with stone built or brick properties, with some distinctive properties associated with the estates.
<p>Grantham Scarps and Valleys Character Area</p>	<p>N/A (Ecotricity Ref 5)</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Built development in Grantham is generally on the lower lying land in the valleys. ▪ Steep scarp slopes to the east and south, with woodland or pasture cover. ▪ Generally medium-scale arable fields, with relatively few hedgerow trees to the west and north. ▪ Small-scale hedged pasture fields with hedgerow trees to the east and south. ▪ Attractive parkland with attractive woodland and parkland trees at Belton. ▪ Small villages, separated from Grantham town by narrow areas of open countryside

* landscape sensitivity to wind energy proposals based on the methodology set out in the South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment (2007)

APPENDIX 5.3G: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (STUDY AREA 35KM) – WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT

West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment (1999)					Landscape Character Assessment
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	WL Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity*	Key Characteristics
Limestone Dip Slope	5	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limestone dip slope falling gently to the east from the 'Cliff' ▪ Exposed, open landscape with redundant airfields in the west ▪ Straight roads and trackways; many are ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges backed by hedgerows ▪ Important views to Lincoln Cathedral particularly from Ermine Street – very straight Roman road ▪ Sparse settlement in the west. Line of small nucleated settlements on slightly elevated more undulating land in the east ▪ Individual trees and lines of trees are important landscape features ▪ Historic halls and parkland landscape
Lincoln Fringe	6	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flat agricultural landscape with a number of expanded settlements ▪ Medium sized fields with low hawthorn hedge boundaries and few hedgerow trees ▪ Approaches to settlements generally dominated by the built form ▪ Views to Lincoln Cathedral
Fenland	7	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low-lying, flat fen-like landscape along the River Witham ▪ Large agricultural fields; some boundaries marked by clumps of shrubby vegetation ▪ Some lines of ash and willow trees indicating the wetland nature of the landscape ▪ The River Witham flood defence bund is a prominent landscape feature; generally there is little riparian planting along rivers, dykes and ditches. ▪ Large scale agricultural buildings with little associated planting
Lincolnshire Lime Woods	8	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diverse, undulating landscape crossed by many rivers and streams ▪ Ancient lime woodland caps shallow hills and forms contrast to surrounding arablefields ▪ Medium sized fields, with good hedgerow boundaries and some hedgerow trees ▪ Tiny dispersed settlements and individual farms, linked by an extensive network of minor roads and lanes ▪ Desertion and shrinkage of some settlements
Lincolnshire Clay Vale	9	No data	No data	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mix of arable and pasture; large scale field pattern with well maintained hedgerow boundaries and very few hedgerow trees ▪ South of A631, the landscape is gently undulating and there are some small blocks of deciduous woodland ▪ Land becomes flatter to the north, with open dykes and ditches draining into the River Ancholme ▪ Remnants of carr vegetation towards the north ▪ Straight roads with characteristic near right-angled corners – often ancient enclosure roads with wide verges and enclosing hedgerows ▪ Dispersed, sparse settlements including small villages and individual farms ▪ Long views towards the Wolds scarp to the east and occasional long views to Lincoln Cathedral

* outline landscape sensitivity evaluation based on the methodology set out in ES Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual