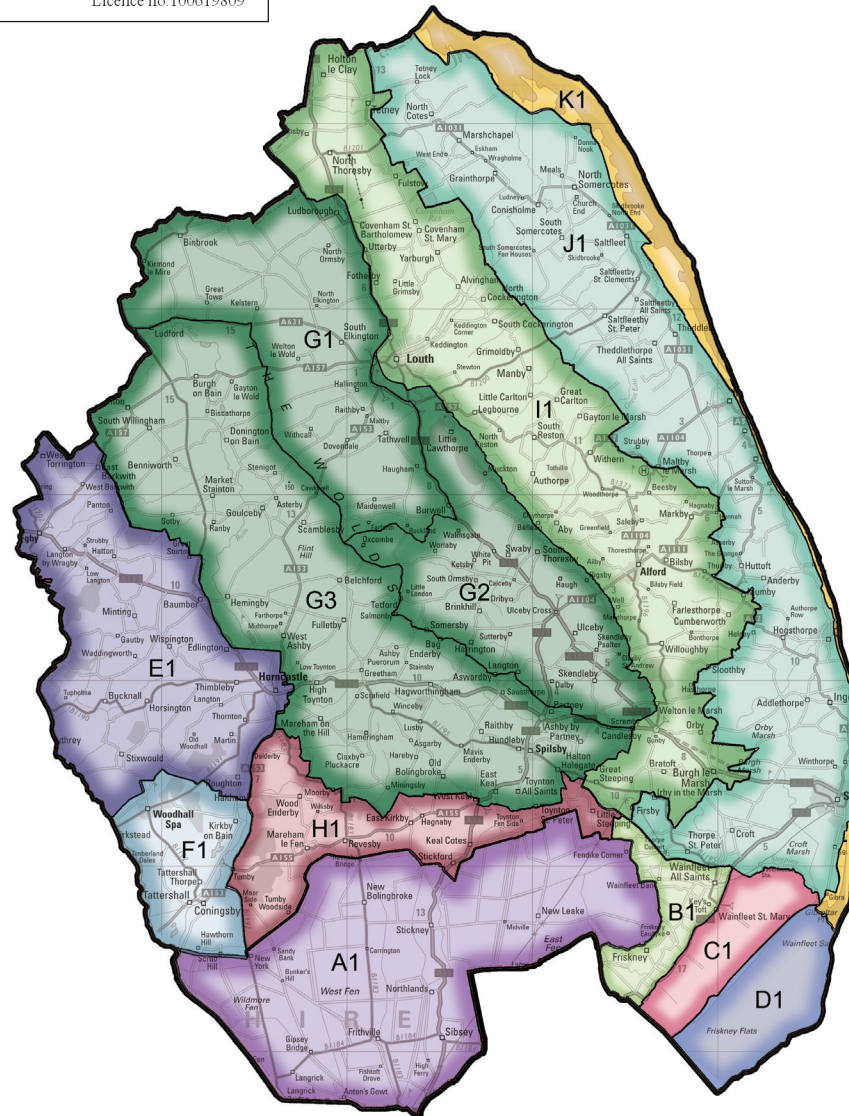


# Landscape Character Assessments

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## East Lindsey District Landscape Character Types and Areas



### LEGEND

- A1** STICKNEY TO SIBSEY RECLAIMED FEN
- B1** WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS TO FRISKNEY SETTLED FEN
- C1** WAINFLEET RECLAIMED SALTMARSH
- D1** WAINFLEET WASH SALTMARSH
- E1** WRAGBY TO HORSINGTON VALE WOODLAND AND FARMLAND
- F1** WOODHALL SPA TO CONINGSBY RIVER TERRACE
- G1** BINBROOK TO TETFORD WOLDS FARMLAND
- G2** LITTLE CAWTHORPE TO SKENDLEBY WOLDS FARMLAND
- G3** HAINTON TO TOYTON ALL SAINTS WOLDS FARMLAND
- H1** MAREHAM TO LITTLE STEEPING FENSIDE WOODLAND AND FARMLAND
- I1** HOLTON LE CLAY TO GREAT STEEPING MIDDLE MARSH
- J1** TETNEY LOCK TO SKEGNESS COASTAL OUTMARSH
- K1** TETNEY TO GIBRALTAR POINT NATURALISTIC COAST

# Landscape Character Assessments

## Landscape Character Assessments

Within East Lindsey there have been a wide range of physical and cultural influences that have shaped the landscape over time. The landscape character assessment has subdivided the East Lindsey District into areas of similar character as shown on the map above and in Figure 8. The assessment identified eleven Landscape Character Types. Landscape Character Types are areas with broadly similar character:

*'These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern.'*

One of these Types, the Wolds Farmland, has been further subdivided into three Landscape Character Areas. Landscape Character Areas are:

*'..single unique areas and are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.'*

The above quotes are from the Landscape Character Guidance for England and Scotland 2002, published by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Agency.

All the other Landscape Character Types contain just one Landscape Character Area which has the same boundaries as the Type.

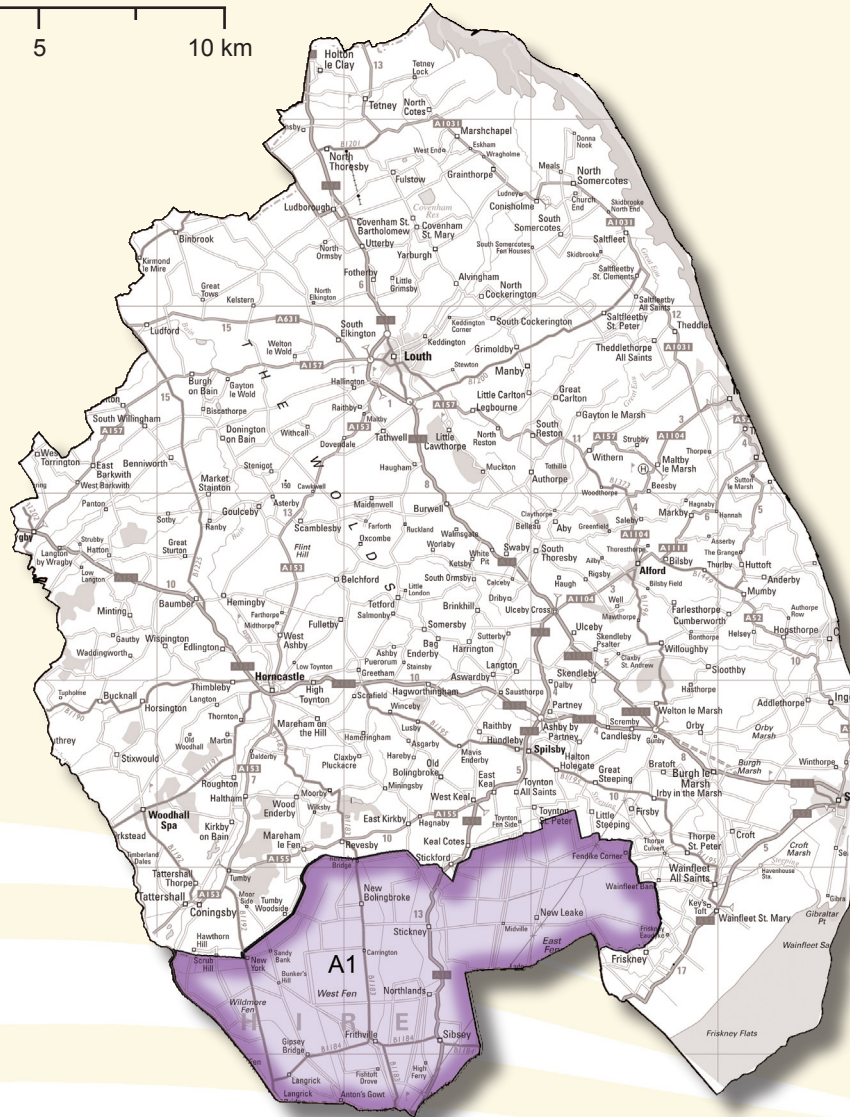
The following section describes each Landscape Character Area in turn by describing key features and characteristics, followed by descriptions of how these interact to create the landscape. Landscape forces for change that are evident in the landscape or perceived by consultees are noted followed by broad guidelines as to how any development should be designed to achieve the best fit with the landscape. Finally a judgement is made about

the overall sensitivity of the landscape of that area to change (refer to the Methodology in Appendix 2). The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within each landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies, as described in the Landscape Context.

# A 1 Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen

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0 5 10 km



## Key Characteristics

- 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.

# A 1 Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen

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## Landscape Description

*Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* lies at the southern tip of East Lindsey District at the foot of *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland*. It is bounded by the River Witham to the west, by *Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen* to the east and the Borough of Boston to the south. It includes the Friskney, East, West and Wildmore Fens which were the latest of the fens to be reclaimed from the freshwater wetlands.

The majority of the area is underlain by Jurassic clay and is overlain by the Terrington Beds of marine saltmarsh and tidal creek deposits. Sibsey and Sibsey Fenside are underlain by an island of glacial till of a chalk rich, sandy and gravelly clay composition.

The landscape is typical of the drained fenland that surrounds the Wash, being virtually flat, low lying, and in places it is partially below sea level. It is characterised by its simplicity and relative remoteness with expansive and peaceful panoramas across seas of cereal crops and big skies. Some views extend to Boston Stump to the south and the rising foothills of the Wolds to the north. Other views are foreshortened by tree shelter belts in a flat landscape.

A hierarchical grid layout of straight, open, deep drains are crossed by frequent bridges which allow access to the dyke/roadside dwellings and farmsteads. Dyke banks are well maintained in most parts with limited riparian vegetation. The mown flood defence embankment alongside the River Witham creates a prominent feature. Neat mown verges particularly around settlements are a feature as they are across the whole of East Lindsey.

## A 1 Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen



Most of this area was drained to enable food production during the agricultural and industrial revolutions. Today it still is an extremely productive landscape. Agriculture is almost exclusively arable with medium to large scale fields of crops including wheat, beans and cabbage. Some small pastoral fields with cattle and horses remain around the edges of small villages such as Eastville.

Tree cover is generally sparse with occasional remnant field boundaries, and shelter belts. There is an open vastness to the landscape as the rectilinear pattern of large to medium scale fields are separated only by ditches, and occasional remnant hedgerows. Some visual enclosure is provided by a grid network of raised roads, with some roadside trees or remnant hedgerows for shelter. Tree shelter belts are a common feature around settlements and farms, which include occasional coniferous shelter belts and short rows of fastigate poplars.

The landscape is very sparsely populated with dispersed farmsteads and dwellings, including small lines of farm worker's cottages and occasional linear settlements. The slightly raised strip of land that extends from Stickford to Sibsey along the winding busy A16 road is an older earlier settled feature similar to the *Settled Fen* character type which is more densely populated with nucleated villages rather than linear ones. There are occasional rows of prominent large scale pylons which march across the open landscape.

Settlements contain a mixture of architectural styles and materials but the notable traditional materials are mostly red brick and pantile. Traditional churches and windmills can be found in Stickney and Sibsey, notably Sibsey Trader Mill. In addition there are occasional World War II pillboxes or bunkers located alongside large wide drains and the occasional traditional brick chapel.

This is a very distinct and intact working farmed landscape with few detractors and a distinctive character.



## Landscape Forces For Change

- Abandoned and derelict traditional farm buildings and dwellings.
- Piecemeal development of bungalows and houses within some farmsteads.
- Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation has led to large scale arable cropping on large farms.
- Some recreational developments have been introduced such as small scale fishing ponds and caravan parks.
- A few new houses have been developed on the outskirts of villages.
- Farm diversification has taken place in some parts such as Stickney Farm Park.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of field edges, and dyke vegetation, through changed farming management practices.



### Landscape Sensitivity

*Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* is a strongly distinctive, very intact rural landscape with very few detractors. The aspect is largely open and flat and the small number of tree shelter belts and occasional hedgerows with hedgerow trees provide only a limited degree of enclosure. Views towards any new developments will be difficult to restrict from the small number of sensitive viewers within the landscape, including from the landscapes that overlook this area: *Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* and *Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland*. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

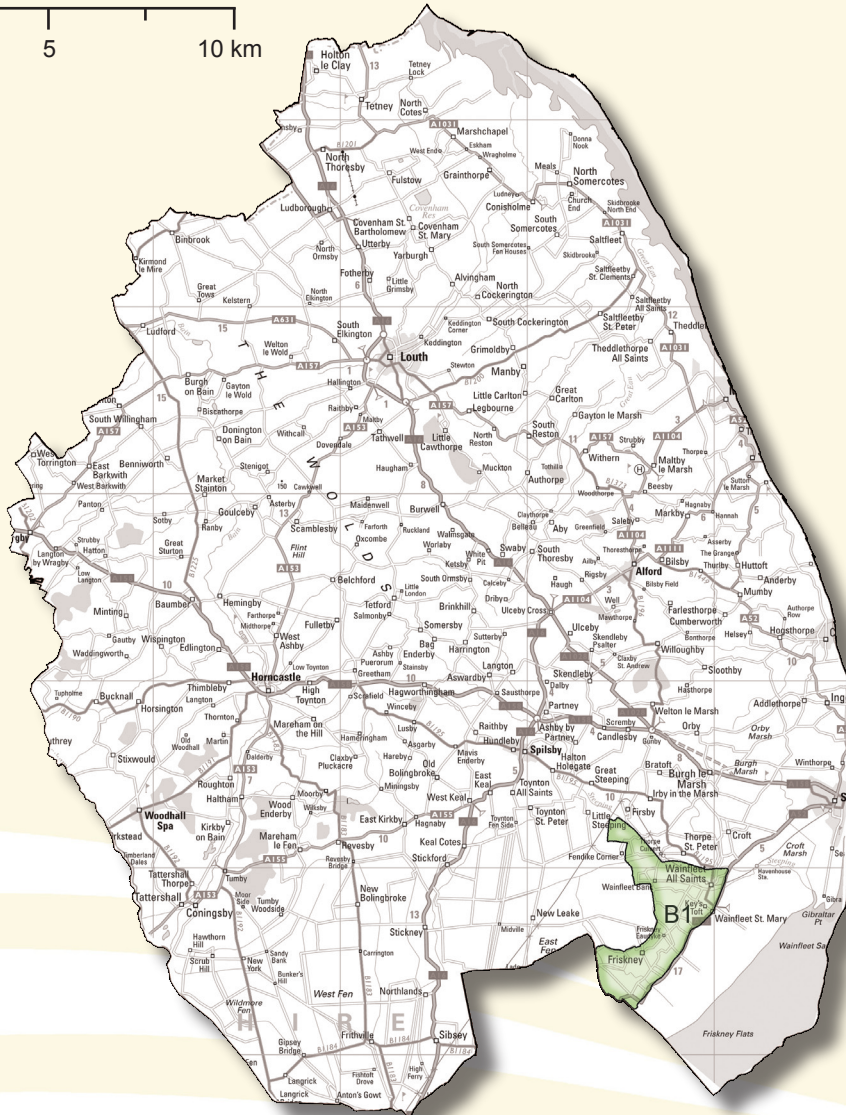
Development proposals should take into account the pattern, scale and rural characteristics of the area including the scarcity of built elements and the linear format of existing key features. Any new developments should be positioned carefully to use existing and new screening, (within this intensive agricultural landscape), without impacting upon the open character. The location of future developments should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent further loss of the remaining rural landscape. The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* is considered to be **moderate to high**.

# B1 Wainfleet All Saints To Friskney Settled Fen

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## Key Characteristics

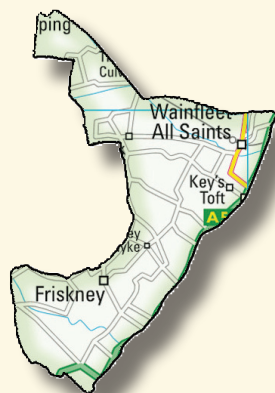
- Largely flat with some gentle undulations and slightly elevated above the surrounding drained fens and coastal marsh.
- Small to medium scale well settled rural landscape with many dwellings and farmsteads scattered throughout.
- Relatively organic pattern of predominantly arable fields with occasional 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.



# B1 Wainfleet All Saints To Friskney Settled Fen

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0 5 km



## Landscape Character Description

*Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen* is a small character area in the south of the District which extends from Wainfleet All Saints and Steeping River in the north to the Wainfleet Relief Channel, the southern District border just south of Friskney. It is bounded by the A52 and *Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh* in the east and by *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* in the west.

The area is underlain by Jurassic clays which in turn are overlain mainly by Terrington Beds, saltmarsh and creek deposits. There is a strip of older storm beach deposits of silt and very fine sand that extends from Wainfleet All Saints through to Friskney and into the Borough of Boston beyond. Within this is a strip of flattened salterns towards the south west boundary with *Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh*. These silt deposits provide very fertile soils.

This early settled landscape is very slightly elevated above the drained *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* to the west and *Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh* to the east. The landform consists of gently undulating areas with some hummocks within a few of the small scale pastoral fields. There is some visual enclosure around Wainfleet All Saints provided by the landform, trees, hedgerows and embankments. Views in other areas are generally foreshortened to the middle distance by screen and shelter belt planting, including short rows of fastigate poplars and coniferous belts.

Drainage is a key feature of the landscape with frequent ditches and dykes around the field edges and alongside raised roads. The Steeping River extends across the north of the character area and is partially straightened and enclosed by embankments, and meanders through Wainfleet All Saints. The Wainfleet Relief Channel watercourse splits off from the Steeping River north of the town.

## B1 Wainfleet All Saints To Friskney Settled Fen



Farming on the fertile soils of this area, is predominantly arable in medium to small scale fields. There is a diverse mix of arable crops including wheat, barley, rapeseed, brassicas, potatoes, and leeks.

This was one of the earliest settled areas in the District due to its slight elevation above the surrounding fens and marshes. The area's historic settlements are linked by a network of narrow winding roads. Scattered farmsteads and dwellings occur frequently alongside the roads.

In the north of the area around Wainfleet All Saints the settlements and ages and styles of buildings are generally older. There is a mix of small scale arable and pastoral farms creating an intimate landscape. The medieval town and port of Wainfleet All Saints has a very intact core of historic buildings, including Magdalen College, the remains of a landmark Batemans Brewery windmill and is designated as a Conservation Area. The area is rich in historical features including; medieval ridge and furrow field patterns, salterns and archaeological remains such as Abbey Hills and Mill Mound.

Settlements further south, in particular around and within Friskney and Friskney Eaudyke have more of a mix of building styles and ages. The close scattering of villages, farmsteads and dwellings throughout, are set within a mix of deciduous, coniferous, and ornamental tree planting, with occasional short rows of fastigate poplars.

The main A52 road runs along the eastern boundary and is the spine from which a network of minor roads run off on either side. Those running to the east terminate at the coast. Neat mown verges particularly around settlements are a feature, as they are across the whole of East Lindsey.

This is a peaceful rural landscape except close to the busy A52 road. Here the landscape has become more visually cluttered with packing sheds and the associated infrastructure of intensive agriculture.



### Landscape Forces For Change

- An increase in and modernisation of the infrastructure associated with intensive agriculture.
- Telephone mast at Friskney.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of hedgerows, field edges and dyke vegetation, through changed management and farming practices.

## B1 Wainfleet All Saints To Friskney Settled Fen



### Landscape Sensitivity

*Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen* is a distinctive, relatively diverse and intact rural landscape with some detractors. The shelter belts and settlements provide a moderate degree of enclosure which may help to screen future changes to the landscape to the small number of sensitive viewers in the area. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts in this area as described below.

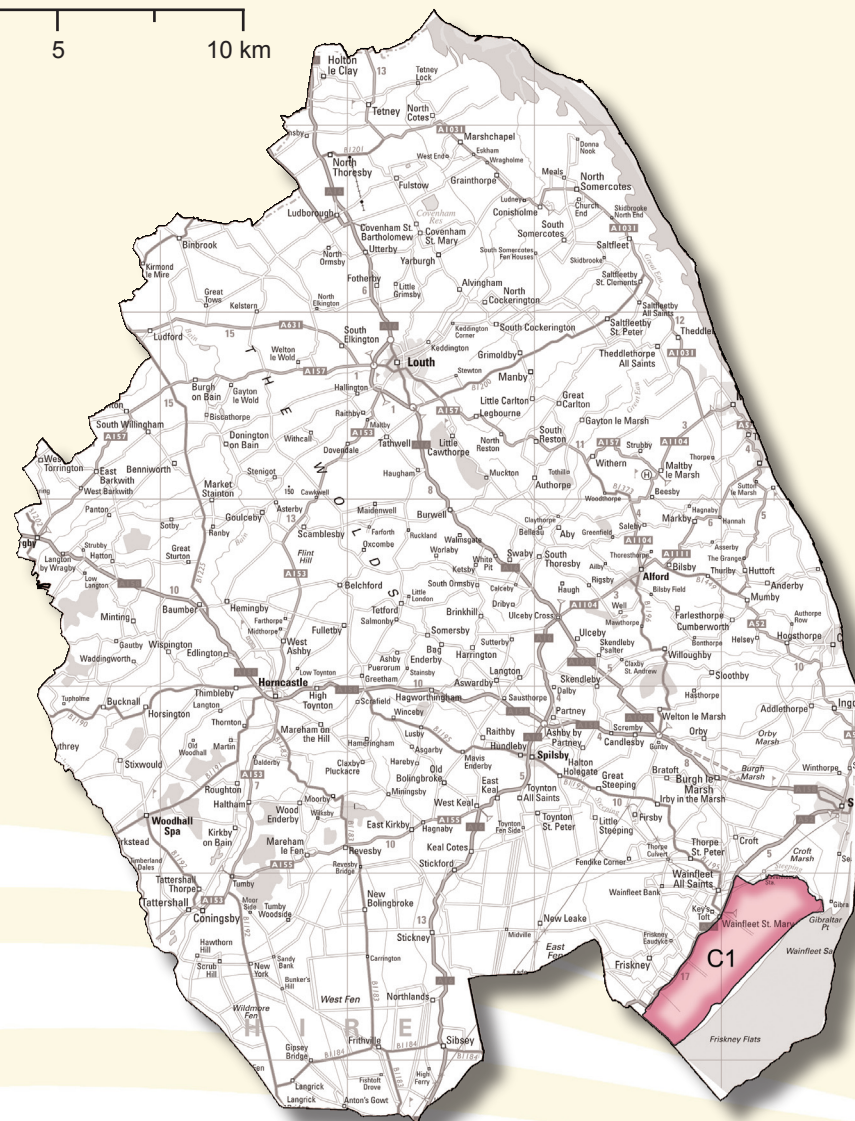
Any development should be designed to fit the pattern, scale and character of the existing landscape. It should take into consideration the intimate scale and pattern of the existing settlements and agricultural landscape and be sympathetic to the remaining vernacular architecture. The location of future developments should also take advantage of the screening elements already existing in the landscape and not further visually clutter the landscape. The location of future developments should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent further loss of the remaining rural landscape. The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen* is considered to be **moderate to high**. The sensitivity is likely to be higher in the north around Wainfleet All Saints where the scale is more intimate and there are many visible historic features.

# C1 Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh

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## Key Characteristics

- 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.

# C1 Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh

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## Landscape Character Description

*Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh* is a small area which extends from the Wainfleet Haven/Steeping River in the north east to the Borough of Boston in the south west, *Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh* to the south east and to the A52 and *Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen* in the north west.

The area is underlain by Jurassic clay and a series of Cretaceous sandstone mudstone and ironstone, overlain by Terrington Beds of saltmarsh and tidal creek deposits.

This flat, man-made and open landscape has been reclaimed from the sea by the construction of a series of parallel lines of sea banks which run alongside the most recent coastal sea bank which currently protects the land from the sea. Construction of these began in medieval times and continued into the twentieth century. It is still drained by a series of straight large and smaller dykes. Views within the area are partially constrained by the sea banks but there are long views from the top of the sea banks across the Wash and the flat areas of land to the north. Some views also extend to the tree sheltered settlements of the more populated *Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen* beyond the A52.

The area is characterised by its relative remoteness with big skies and peaceful panoramas across seas of cereal and strips of brassica crops. The activity of field workers and intensive farm machinery reduces the sense of isolation.

This intensively farmed arable landscape has a strong rectilinear pattern of fields and dykes which run perpendicular to the sea banks. Crops are predominantly wheat and brassicas.

## C1 Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh



Occasional trees, clumps of shrubby hedgerow and new mixed deciduous woodland planting are scattered on the grassy sea banks.

Settlement cover is sparse and consists of occasional farms with large sheds and smaller linear settlements of mixed style dwellings on minor roads and tracks leading to the A52. Some tall Ministry of Defence watch towers overlook the area and the coast beyond.

The few straight, narrow roads and tracks are slightly elevated above the surrounding land and are bordered by drainage channels, and occasionally by lines of old leaning telegraph poles. There are few public rights of way. Neat mown verges are a feature in settled areas as they are across East Lindsey as a whole.

Heritage features include relict sea banks and WWII pill boxes.

This is a relatively remote small intact intensively farmed landscape with few detractors.

### **Landscape Forces For Change**

- Intensification of farming methods.
- New tree and hedgerow planting.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of field edges and dykes, through changed farming management and practices.



### Landscape Sensitivity

*Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh* is a distinctive and intact rural landscape with few detractors. The landform is flat and partially enclosed by the sea banks and occasional associated trees and clumps of shrubby hedgerows restricting views beyond to both *Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh* and *Wainfleet All Saints to Friskney Settled Fen*. Views towards new developments will be difficult to screen from the few viewers residing along and using the few narrow elevated roads. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

Any development should take into account the pattern, scale and rural characteristics of the area including the scarcity of built elements. The location of future developments should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent further loss of the rural landscape. The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

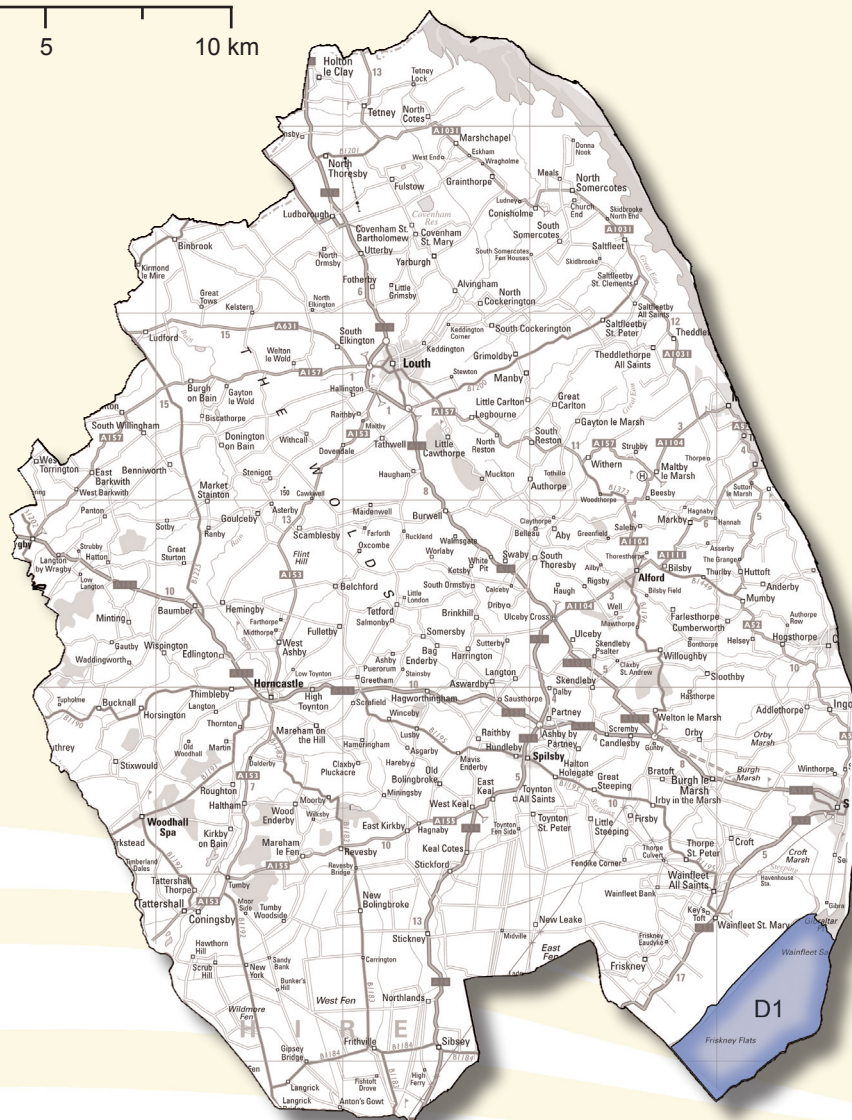
The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh* is considered to be **moderate to high**.



# D1 Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh

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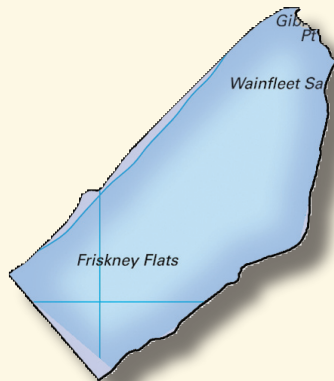
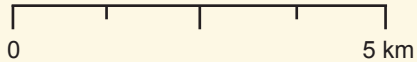


## Key Characteristics

- 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.

# D1 Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh

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## Landscape Character Description

*Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh* is a small area formed by a flat tidal strip in the south east corner of East Lindsey District which includes Wainfleet Sands and Friskney Flats. It stretches from Gibraltar Point in the north to the Borough of Boston in the south. It is separated from *Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh* to the west by a sea bank and to the east it meets Boston Deep, a shipping channel in the Wash.

This is a flat, open and simple landscape with expansive views to level horizons, and big skies, which are only interrupted by occasional RAF watch towers. Views to the west are foreshortened by the sea embankment which divides this area from *Wainfleet Reclaimed Saltmarsh*.

The area is underlain by undifferentiated marine deposits and is made up of tidal saltmarsh, mud flats and sands and their associated mosaic of saltmarsh vegetation. A dendritic pattern of narrow creeks, is apparent from higher elevations on top of the sea embankments which border the area. This type of coast provides many important habitats for wildlife and is protected by many national and international nature conservation designations. It forms part of the Wash area which is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area and a Ramsar site. It is a highly productive ecosystem and is particularly important for providing food for many resident and migrating wildfowl and wading birds.

The only built development is the RAF Wainfleet air weapons range, which is also known as the Wash (North Side) Bombing Range. RAF target practice still takes place here and has done intermittently since World War I. Range observation huts, a helipad and various instruments for target and bombing practice are scattered in the southern part of this small character area.



*Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh* is a remote and largely inaccessible landscape. It is a very distinctive and simple but dramatic landscape, with big skies and wide horizons which are influenced by changing tides, light and weather conditions and flocks of birds sweeping over and settling on the flats.

### Landscape Forces For Change

- Construction of structures within the RAF Wainfleet Air Weapons Range such as the helipad.

### Landscape Sensitivity

*Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh* is a strongly represented natural landscape with few detractors and a high concentration of nature conservation designations. The open and flat aspect of this landscape provides little opportunity for screening and so the level of enclosure is low. Any development will therefore be highly visible in the landscape to a very small number of sensitive viewers. In general terms development would not be in keeping with the landscape character, and would not be considered to be appropriate for this area. Landscape and visual impacts could not be easily mitigated for.

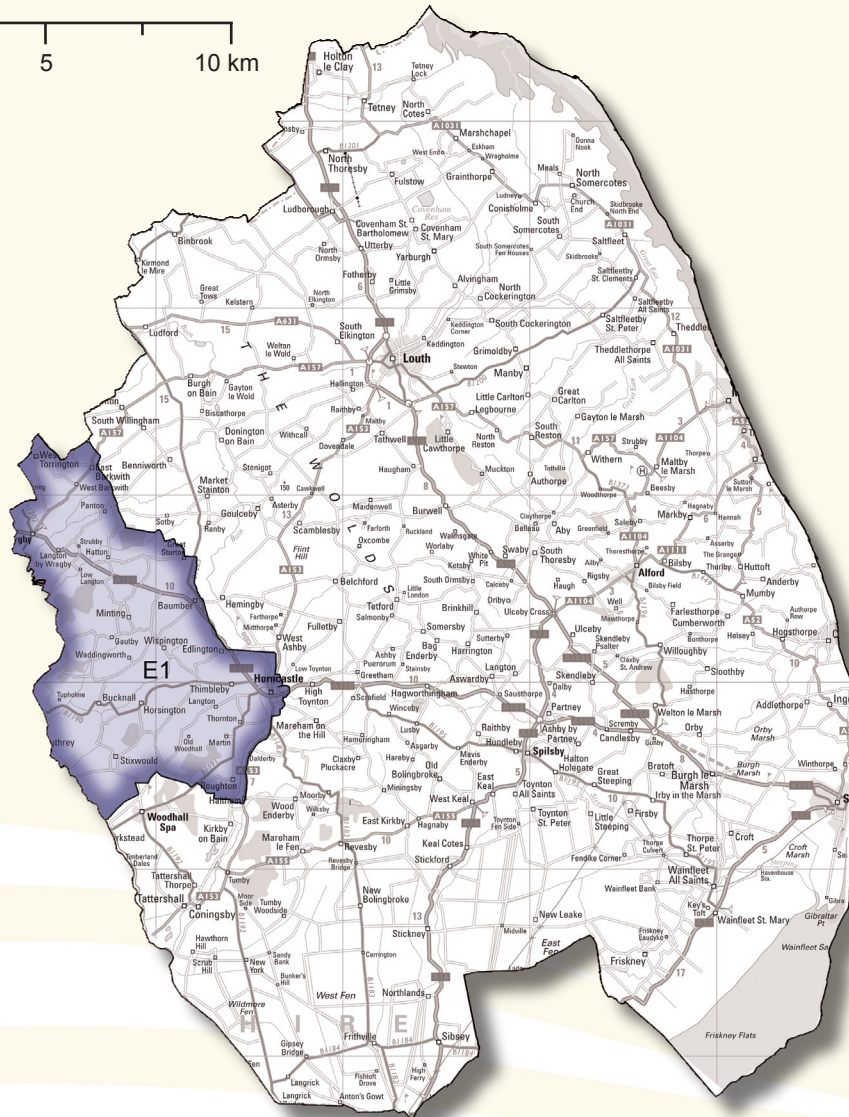
This area contains only small scale built elements associated with the RAF weapons range. Further built development would detract from the naturalistic character of the area. Any essential development should be of a similar scale and character to existing elements. It should be sensitive to the habitats and vegetation that are unique to the area. The potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies of any essential development should also be considered.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Wainfleet Wash Saltmarsh* is considered to be **high**.

# E1 Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland

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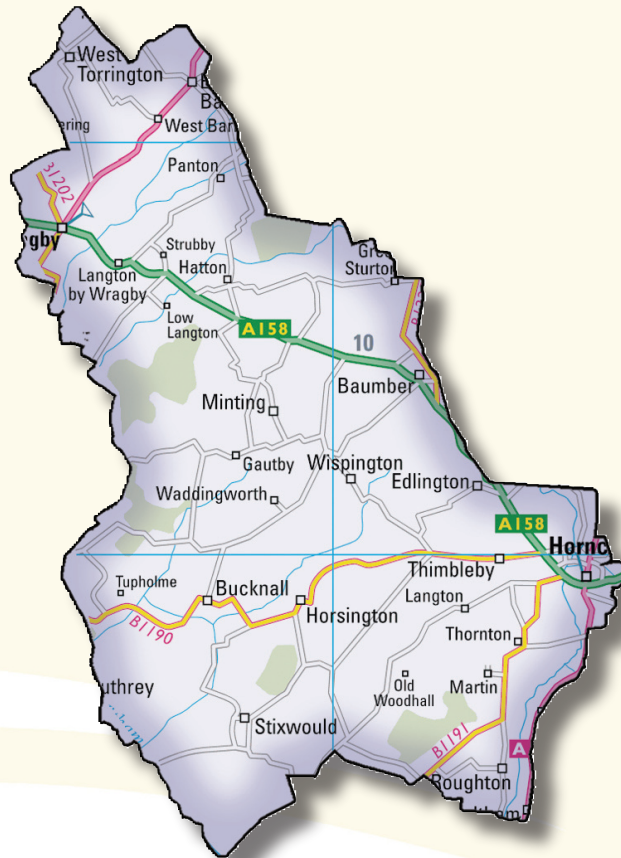
## Key Characteristics

- 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.

# E1 Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland

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## Landscape Character Description

*Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland* sits on the western edge of East Lindsey District, adjacent to West Lindsey and North Kesteven Districts. The valeside extends from the edge of the fens in the Witham Valley in the west and rises to *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* in the east. It extends down to *Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace* in the south.

The area is underlain by Jurassic clay and overlain by glacial till, with some alluvial silts, clays and glacial sands and also gravels in river and stream valleys.

This fluted and rolling valeside slopes gradually from the Wolds in the east down towards the fens in the west. The landscape has some enclosure due to the landform, frequent small woodlands, and lines of mature hedgerows with hedgerow trees. There are some more intimate pastoral semi-enclosed views particularly in the small valleys. In other areas where there are less trees the landscape is more open with far reaching views towards Lincoln Cathedral in the west.

The fabric of this agricultural landscape is based on a patchwork of fields and woodland interwoven with mature hedgerows with hedgerow trees and scattered rural settlements and farmsteads. Parts of the eastern edge of the area are designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value.

The River Bain runs through the south eastern edge of this character area and is contained by embankments along some stretches. This river is partially canalised to the south of Horncastle but is no longer used as a navigable waterway. Most streams drain towards the fens in the Witham Valley to the west. Due to the underlying clay the land is seasonally wet, with dykes and ditches occasionally forming field

## E1 Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland



boundaries in some parts. The Catchwater Drain forms a wider man-made watercourse in the south west.

The medium to large scale arable fields are predominantly used for crops of wheat with some beans, potatoes, oil seed rape and occasional biomass crops of Miscanthus. Large modern grain barns are a found throughout the area. Grazing for horses, sheep and cattle in smaller, less regular sized and shaped fields are found around villages such as Bucknall, Horsington and Minting.

Mature trees are an important element of the landscape. Woodland strips and regularly spaced lines of mature hedgerow trees are common along roadsides and around fields. There are a number of ancient semi natural and ancient replanted woodlands, the most notable of which are the scattered Lincolnshire Limewoods that include Chamber's Farm Wood, New Park Wood and Horsington Wood. These woodlands are nationally recognised as some of only a very few small-leaved lime woodlands remaining in Britain and have been collectively designated as a National Nature Reserve. Several other local nature reserves protect threatened areas of traditional meadow. These include Sotby Meadows, Hatton Meadow and Little Scrubs meadow.

Settlement is sparse and dispersed with a small number of nucleated villages and hamlets scattered throughout. Traditional architecture is typically red brick and pantile roofs with some variations such as yellow brick and white painted plaster. Horncastle is a larger historic market town with roman origins. It has an intact eighteenth and nineteenth century core and sprawling industrial and mixed use areas on its outskirts.

## E1 Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland



Other heritage features include thatched mud and stud cottages lining the main street of Thimbleby, traditional red brick and pantile farmstead which are falling into disrepair, and ruined abbeys with associated earthworks including Tupholme Abbey.

The villages, farmsteads and hamlets are linked by an irregular network of wide winding drove roads and tracks. These are often bordered by wide, flowered verges and enclosed by tall hedgerows. Neat mown verges particularly around settlements are a distinctive feature as they are across the whole of East Lindsey.

Busy A roads run across the area including the A158 linking east and west Lincolnshire, and the A153 running along the River Bain corridor towards Woodhall Spa. There is a good network of public rights of way in the southern portion of the character area but less so in the north. The National Cycle Route Number 1 passes through the western edges and the Viking Way long distance footpath runs along the River Bain embankment through Horncastle and beyond.

This is a very distinctive and very intact rural landscape.



## Landscape Forces For Change

- Introduction of biomass crops such as Miscanthus.
- Expansion on Horncastle's outskirts, including recreational and industrial developments.
- Occasional old neglected traditional red brick farm buildings.
- Fragmentation of Lincolnshire Limewoods halted due to increasing management and protection.
- Intensification of agriculture and farm amalgamation has resulted in an increase in field size and loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Some out-of-character modern housing developments in Wragby and within some villages and occasional vernacular new build.
- New roadside tree and hedgerow planting.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of hedgerows, field edges and dykes, through changed management and farming practices.





### Landscape Sensitivity

*Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland* is a very distinctive rural landscape that is in very good condition. It overlaps marginally with an Area of Great Landscape Value along its eastern boundary and is overlooked by the Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The gently undulating landform, woodland and mature tree shelter belts provide a medium level of enclosure within the landscape. These screening features may help to restrict the visibility of future changes to the small number of sensitive viewers in the area and to help maintain the character of existing views across the landscape. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

The scale and character of any new development should fit with the existing pattern of hedgerows and tree cover and dispersed small scale settlements as well as vernacular architecture. The location of new developments should take advantage of the screening provided by existing landform and tree cover and should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent loss of the rural landscape. The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland* is considered to be **moderate to high**.