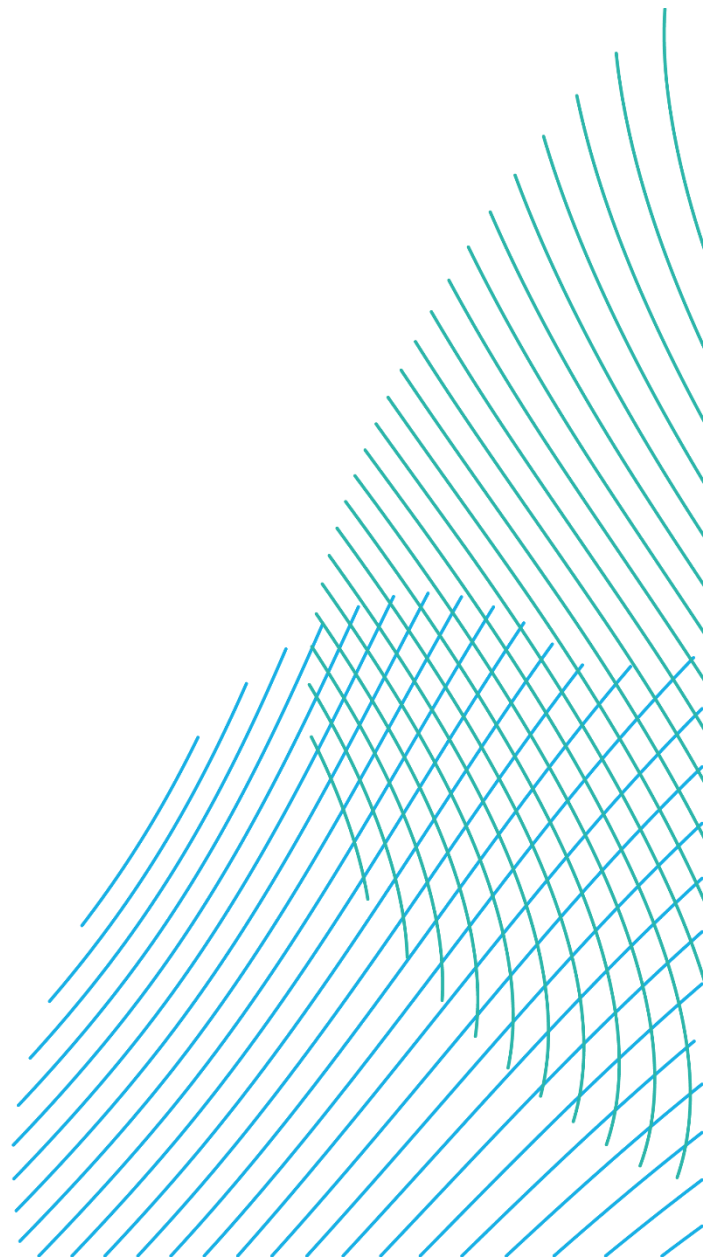


RWE

**Extracts from Published
Landscape Character
Assessments**



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Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix collates and where necessary provides commentary on relevant extracts from the following published landscape character assessments which cover the study area:
- National Character Area (NCA) Profile 40: Holderness¹;
 - East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment²
- 1.1.2 It is noted that the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (ERYLCA) contains various judgements regarding sensitivity and the capacity of the landscape to accommodate various forms of development although solar development is not discussed. The judgements relating to sensitivity and capacity are not reproduced in this Appendix 11.2 but are taken into account in the consideration of landscape sensitivity in Appendix 11.3.

National Landscape Character

- 1.1.3 The Site and full extent of the study area fall within National Character Area (NCA) Profile 40: Holderness. The following paragraphs from the summary description of the NCA are relevant to the study area:

“Holderness is a rural, low-lying, undulating plain with the broad, shallow valley of the River Hull flowing southwards through the centre towards Hull. The river eventually joins the expansive Humber Estuary where it becomes tidal, enclosed by flood banks, and drains into the North Sea.

An extensive network of rivers, ditches, becks, dykes and canals drains the River Hull. The river’s flood plain, of mainly base-rich loamy and clayey soils, is important for food production, with vegetables and root crops grown in the shallow valley and arable farming taking place on higher land in the west and the south-east, near the coast. The high-quality agricultural land comprises large field patterns bounded by drainage ditches on the River Hull flood plain, and there are hedgerows on higher ground. Rare remnants of species-rich grassland occur around Hornsea and Lambwath meres, where low-lying, seasonally flooded hay fields are maintained by traditional farming practices.

¹ National Character Area (NCA) Profile 40: Holderness (2015) Natural England. Available online <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/8569014>

² East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (2018) AECOM on behalf of East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Long views over the flat landscape and the relatively dispersed nature of settlement instil a sense of tranquillity... Small, traditional villages are dispersed throughout the area, many of which have village greens, ponds and churches, some dating back to Norman times. Beverley is the largest inland settlement in the NCA and is distinctive for its large minster and historic expanses of open access grazing land – Beverley Westwood, Figham and Swinemoor.”

1.1.4 The summary description also states:

“The NCA is bounded by the dip slope of the Yorkshire Wolds to the north and west, while eastwards, beyond the coastline of soft boulder clay cliffs, lies the North Sea. Rapid erosion of these cliffs is a conspicuous feature of this NCA, and forms part of an important coastal process of sediment transfer. Holderness is the single most important source of sediment in the southern North Sea: the sediment is carried south to the Humber, the Lincolnshire coast and the Wash, where it feeds beaches and through accretion helps intertidal habitats to adjust to rising sea levels.

Ensuring a sustainable approach to flood and coastal risk management and enabling the coast to continue to provide sediment to other areas will be important considerations for the future.”

1.1.5 The key characteristics of NCA 40: Holderness relevant to the study area are recorded as follows:

- *“A broad, gently undulating plain which is centred on the valley of the River Hull and is drained by a network of canals, ditches and canalised tributaries.*
- *Long views with arable farmland sloping upwards bounded by the dip slope of the Yorkshire Wolds to the north and west.*
- *Glacial landscape of boulder clay, gravels and alluvium over chalk with many glacial features including hummocky terrain, moraine-like ridges and kettle holes. Low, rapidly eroding coastline of soft clay cliffs.*
- *Sparse tree and woodland cover leading to a generally open landscape with long views, enclosed by the Wolds to the north and west.*
- *High-quality agricultural land used predominantly for large-scale arable cultivation and some livestock farming.*
- *Large field patterns bounded by drainage ditches on the River Hull flood plain, and hedgerows on higher ground.*

- *Highly fragmented remnants of semi-natural vegetation including carr, swamp and wet grassland and Hornsea Mere, a large, natural lake designated for its associated habitats and bird species.*
- *A network of minor winding roads and lanes, linking dispersed villages and hamlets, with village churches providing prominent landmarks in the flat landscape. Many villages have a variety of buildings grouped around ponds and village greens.*
- *The principal towns of Holderness are Driffield, Beverley and the coastal resort of Bridlington, together with the smaller coastal settlements of Hornsea and Withernsea. Part of the urban fringe of the City of Hull extends northwards into Holderness.*
- *Traditional farmsteads, houses and other buildings characterised by red brick and pantiles. Occasional buildings towards the coast constructed from Holderness cobbles and older buildings including churches often built in limestone.*
- *Beverley Minster, a large gothic building completed in 1425, and Burton Constable, an Elizabethan country house whose parkland was landscaped by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, are key heritage assets.”*

1.1.6 Under the heading of ‘Holderness Today’, the NCA 40 document describes the area as:

“A productively farmed, low-lying landscape located east of the Yorkshire Wolds. A broad, undulating plain, centred on the valley of the River Hull, this largely rural area is shaped by modest changes in topography, tree cover and land use.

Arable cultivation accounts for 82 per cent of land cover. Mainly cereals and root crops are grown on the lower slopes of the Wolds and the slightly raised land between Hull and the North Sea, while in the lower reaches of the Hull Valley root crops and vegetables are grown.

Fields are generally large and woodland cover sparse, and in the Hull Valley the large fields, bounded by ditches and dykes, contribute to an open landscape character with long and open views throughout. Where woods do occur, they provide enclosure and structure, but areas of ancient woodland are limited.”

1.1.7 The following are detailed as ‘Opportunities’ for the NCA 40: Holderness:

- *“Statement of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) 1: Conserve, manage and enhance the River Hull and associated river system with its many associated drains, dykes and streams to improve water quality and supply, sustainably*

address flood risk management, and enhance biodiversity and the historic environment through a strategic, landscape-scale approach.

- *SEO 2: Work with landowners and land managers to support sustainable food production while enhancing and strengthening the network of farmland features; create and expand habitats in the farmed environment to enhance biodiversity and improve soil and water quality; strengthen resilience of habitats to climate change; and enhance landscape character.*
- *SEO 3: Allow essential coastal processes to occur, including erosion of the soft clay cliffs, while respecting policies that reduce erosion and flood risk in relation to key coastal settlements.*
- *SEO 4: Enhance people's understanding and enjoyment of the geodiversity, historic sites, seaside character and remoteness that contribute to the varied sense of place and valuable recreational assets that the area provides.*
- *Additional Opportunity 1. Improve access to public enjoyment of the open, rural landscape, the coast and wildlife by improving green infrastructure links between urban and rural/ coastal areas and within urban settlements."*

Local Landscape Character

- 1.1.8 At a district level, the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (ERYLCA) identifies Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). In total, 23 LCTs have been identified, which are further subdivided into 82 LCAs. The LCAs within the study area are presented on **Figure 11.4 Landscape Character Areas**.
- 1.1.9 This LVIA focuses on the LCAs rather than the LCTs; however landscape descriptions, characteristics, opportunities and strategy for the wider LCT, as recorded in the ERYLCA, are referenced below with respect to each LCA.
- 1.1.10 The majority of the Site and study area is located within LCT 19: Open Farmland and specifically LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland. The northern most Land Area (Land Area A, host fields A1-A11), fields E13-E17 at the south-west of the Site, and the cable route options to the south-west of the main development area are an exception.
- 1.1.11 The proposed host fields at the north-west of the Site (Land Area A) are mostly located within LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor, or again in LCA19D, but the very north-eastern corner of Land Area A is partly within LCA 18B: Quarry Farmland (although site work has concluded that these fields are more closely associated with the characteristics of LCA 18A, than LCA 18B).
- 1.1.12 The fields within the south-west corner of the Site (E13-E17) are also located within LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor.
- 1.1.13 The cable route options at the south-west of the Site pass through LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor; 18F: Figham and Swine Moor Common; 16F: Beverley Parks Farmland and 17B: North Cottingham Farmland.
- 1.1.14 It is highly unlikely that underground cables would have any effect on LCAs 18B, 18F, 16F or 17B and therefore the extracts below focus on LCAs 19A and 18A.

LCT 19: Open Farmland

- 1.1.15 LCT 19 – Open Farmland is described in the ERYLCA as:

“...covering a large area of farmland in the River Hull catchment... Landform is low level, gently undulating and hummocky in places influenced by erosion and deposited during the last Ice Age. There is little ground variation, ranging from approximately 0m to 40m AOD... The land is intensively farmed in irregular shaped fields that are medium to large... Larger villages in the area tend to be

nucleated and the smaller villages more linear in form. The dispersed villages are linked by winding roads that fits in with irregular field pattern.”

1.1.16 The identified key characteristics of LCT 19: Open Farmland relevant to the Site and study area are:

- *“Gently undulating topography, hummocky in places.*
- *Very open landscape with few trees overall.*
- *Irregular field pattern of pre parliamentary enclosure.*
- *Dispersed villages linked by winding roads.*
- *Red brick buildings with pantile roofs sometimes painted white.*
- *Churches are often prominent features on the skyline.*
- *Irregular drainage pattern overall.*
- *Hedgerow field boundaries with few trees.*
- *Intensive farmed arable landscape.*
- *Large number of wide developments visible across the landscape both within LCT 19 and adjoining LCTs.”*

1.1.17 Under the heading of ‘Statement of Opportunities’ the ERYLCA includes the following relevant comment:

“Protect and enhance the characteristic field patterns within this LCT which make an important contribution to character and should be maintained and where possible reinforced”.

1.1.18 ‘Positive Landscape Features’ of LCT 19 are identified as follows:

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

1.1.19 An evaluation of LCT 19 notes that the character type continues to come under pressure from renewable energy development; however this is primarily in relation to wind farms; solar developments are not specifically mentioned.

1.1.20 A discussion of 'Condition and Strength of Character' for LCT 19 notes that:

"The loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees has resulted in a loss of landscape structure. Large flat arable areas are predominant in the area."

1.1.21 Under the heading of 'Strategy' for LCT 19, the ERYLCA includes the following comments:

"The strategy for this LCT is to maintain and enhance the characteristics that contribute to its distinctiveness. Field pattern makes an important contribution to character and should be maintained and where possible reinforced. Promote hedgerow replanting and gapping up and discourage the further amalgamation of fields....."

Views of landmark features and sites should be protected.....

Native and locally characteristic woodland and tree planting will help to reinforce landscape pattern and add diversity to the landscape."

LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland

1.1.22 The LCA is described in the ERYLCA as follows:

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

Agricultural intensification within the River Hull floodplain means that, as with the other parts of Holderness, woodland is scarce. The small blocks of semi natural woodland present are composed of tree species such as ash, oak, hazel, hawthorn, elm, field maple and rowan. In wetter areas alder and various willows are found....."

As with neighbouring LCA's the land use consists of open agricultural land, mainly arable, with generally large fields and little woodland. Settlements are well scattered, numerous and varied in size. Farmsteads are common and field pattern comprises large rectilinear fields bordered by hedgerows and tracks.

This is a large scale landscape with a gently undulating landform. Panoramic views to the east coast and the neighbouring Wolds, to the north west, are available from this LCA.”

LCT 18: Low Lying Drained Farmland

1.1.23 LCT 18 – Low Lying Drained Farmland is described in the ERYLCA as being:

“...located in the floodplain of the River Hull and extends north to Driffeld encompassing the low lying flat corridor landscape of Kelk Beck and Driffeld Beck... The River Hull influences the landscape of the west of Holderness and flows in a north to south direction through this LCT. It is fed by numerous tributaries and man-made drains... Water is the unifying element of this landscape and it provides important habitats... The river corridor landscape is very sparsely wooded overall. However, there are pockets of plantations particularly around the reservoirs at Top Hill. Alder and willow carr woodland is the native woodland characteristic of the wetland corridor.”

1.1.24 The identified key characteristics of LCT 18 relevant to the Site and study area are:

- *“Flat, low lying flood plain generally below 10m AOD*
- *Sparse settlement in the floodplain. Farmsteads and villages concentrated on the edge of the flood plain*
- *Few crossing points on the River Hull contributing to low density of development between North Frodingham and Tickton*
- *Pockets of fens and reed swamps indicating a former landscape.*
- *Sparse tree and woodland cover*
- *Rectilinear field systems with hedgerow and drainage ditch boundaries.*
- *A history of sand and gravel extraction*
- *River Hull and Beverley Barmston Drain are major watercourses with embankments*
- *Numerous water bodies particularly associated with gravel extraction*
- *Recreation associated with water bodies and the River Hull.*
- *Several medieval scheduled monuments.”*

1.1.25 Under the heading of 'Statement of Opportunities' the ERYLCA includes the following relevant comments:

“Protect and enhance the important wetland landscapes and water bodies including Hornsea Mere, reinforcing its ecological and landscape importance.

Protecting the small number of drains, ditches or dykes in the area that are monastic in origin, by managing them in such a way as to preserve their historic and landscape value.”

1.1.26 'Positive Landscape Features' of LCT 18 are identified as follows:

- *“Flat low lying landscape*
- *Pockets of woodland cover dispersed along the corridor*
- *Ditches form many field boundaries with hedges concentrated on the marginally higher drier ground*
- *Largely rectilinear field pattern indicating parliamentary enclosure with pockets of early enclosure linked to settlement*
- *Linear drainage ditches such as Beverley Barmston Drain.*
- *Numerous high quality water bodies including Hornsea Mere SSSI/SPA (including Low Wood AW) and part of the River Hull Headwaters SSSI.*
- *Wet grassland and marsh habitats including Pulfin Bog and Tophill Low SSSI's.*
- *Low density of development/ settlement with relatively tranquil character.*
- *Overall good scenic quality.”*

1.1.27 A discussion of 'Condition and Strength of Character' for LCT 18 notes that:

“This intensively farmed landscape is fragmented in places. However, the water courses through the LCT provide a unifying element in this generally attractive landscape that is remote in places and relatively tranquil. The influence of water courses on character diminishes with increased distances in the flat landscape. Water bodies become a more frequent element in the landscape as the landform drops towards the sea..”

1.1.28 Under the heading of 'Strategy' for LCT 18, the ERYLCA includes the following comments:

“The strategy for this LCT is to restrict new development to low density recreation and tourism schemes that respect the scale and pattern of the rural landscape. Local character should be reflected through appropriate use of materials, and sensitivity to landscape pattern. New building must respect local vernacular.

Woodland planting should be used to screen development rather than bunding which would introduce uncharacteristic landform.

Carr woodland is the characteristic woodland of this LCT. The dominant species are alder and willow. Woodland in drier areas includes ash, oak, field maple, birch and hazel. Promote the planting of hedgerows on field boundaries where they have been lost to reinforce local landscape pattern.

Promote the re-introduction of wetland habitats to increase landscape diversity and enhance landscape quality.

LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor

1.1.29 The LCA is described in the ERYLCA as:

“A large LCA...it comprises low lying arable land prone to flooding and poor drainage. As a result there are pockets of wet grassland and marsh that remain in the area.

Field pattern is generally regular and field boundaries consist of field drains and in places hedgerows. There are few trees. Settlement and built form is limited north of Beverley but the river corridor south of Beverley is influenced by urban characteristics in places.

The recreational value of the area is the result of the navigation of the river, Public Rights of Way along the river banks, nature reserves with public access and the provision of facilities such as car parking and picnic sites. The River Hull corridor is a tranquil and attractive area that attracts visitors.”