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# EAST YORKSHIRE SOLAR FARM

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT  
VOLUME 4  
APPENDIX 10-3: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
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East Yorkshire Solar Farm

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# 1. Landscape Character

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report appendix sets out the relevant extracts from published landscape character assessments and associated studies across the study area, which have been used to inform the assessment of landscape effects considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual amenity.
- 1.1.2 Landscape character are considered at national, regional and local levels.
- 1.1.3 The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition (GLVIA3) (Ref. 1) (paragraphs 5.12-5.18) indicates that broad-scale character assessments, such as those produced at the national and regional level, can be used to set the scene and indicate the key characteristics that may be apparent in the study area. It suggests that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these can be mapped to show how the Scheme relates to them.

# 2. Landscape Character Assessments

## 2.1 National Level

- 2.1.1 National Character Areas (NCA) have been defined and described by Natural England. These are broad scale and provide context to more detailed studies of local landscape character.
- 2.1.2 The Study Area contains two NCA profiles:
- NE348: NCA Profile: 27 Yorkshire Wolds (2015) (Ref. 2); and
  - NE339: NCA Profile: 39 Humberhead Levels (2014) (Ref. 3)
- 2.1.3 The relevant characteristics of these NCA's are summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1. National Character Area Summary Table**

### National Character Area

### Key Characteristics

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- NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds (Natural England, 2015)**
- *“A large-scale, expansive, rolling landscape with big skies and long views from the escarpment and plateau, contrasting with the more enclosed, dry, sheltered valleys deeply incised into the Chalk, but with small areas of Lower Cretaceous, Jurassic and Triassic rocks along the western and northern fringes.*
  - *Thin, chalky soils support mainly arable farming, with a pattern of large, regular fields crossed by long, straight drove roads with wide verges dating from Parliamentary enclosures of the 18th century. The arable farmland is a*

## National Character Area

### Key Characteristics

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*priority area for important farmland bird species, while many of the grass verges have calcareous grassland interest providing valuable wildlife corridors.*

- *The high chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head, where the land meets the North Sea, are designated as Heritage Coast, for the dramatic landscape and recreation value. It is also a European Marine Site, a Special Protection Area (SPA) for breeding coastal birds, and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for chalk reef and cave interest, with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) of geological and geomorphological importance.*
- *Remnant tracts of sheep-grazed, unimproved or semi-improved calcareous grassland in steep-sided, dry valleys form distinctive landscapes, with hillsides of floristically rich grasslands, which provide specialist habitats for butterflies and moths.*
- *Woodland cover is generally limited, and often linked to steep slopes within enclosed valleys, although there are a number of estates with more significant woodland areas, including Dalton, Garrowby, Sledmere, Londesborough and Warter Priory. Shelterbelts associated with farmsteads are features on the skyline.*
- *There are many large estates and designed parklands with large country houses, estate villages, estate woodlands and medieval deer parks.*
- *Other features include wet flushes, wet meadows and spring-fed fens at the foot of the escarpments, and remnant wetlands and wet meadows adjacent to the chalk streams.*
- *It is generally a sparsely settled landscape with large, scattered farmsteads on high ground, small villages in valleys and small market towns on fringes. Building materials are predominantly brick with pantiles, but sometimes limestone and chalk.*
- *Throughout the NCA, there is extensive evidence of a long history of human occupation and landscape change represented by numerous Neolithic, bronze-age and iron-age monuments and medieval settlements.*
- *A number of chalk, sand and gravel quarries and gravel pits are found throughout the NCA, which are of biodiversity value and provide access for study and education.”*

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### NCA 39: Humberhead Levels, 2014

- *“A low-lying, predominantly flat landscape, with large, regular and geometric arable fields without hedges but divided by ditches and dykes, many of which form important habitats and key corridors for species movement.*

## National Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- *Much of the land is at or below mean high-water mark and maintained by drainage, with fertile soils giving rise to one of the most productive areas for root crops and cereals.*
- *Variations in underlying deposits create differences within the overall flat farmed landscape, including lowland raised mires and lowland heathland, many of which are of international ecological and historical importance.*
- *Sandy deposits give rise to lowland heath, which in places supports remnant birch and oak woodlands, with some conifer plantations.*
- *Heavier soils around Fishlake and Sykehouse result in a smaller scale pastoral landscape, with small, thickly hedged fields, ditches and ponds, and a network of small lanes.*
- *Important historic landscapes include the Isle of Axholme, with evidence of mediaeval open fields, the warps (land enriched by regular silting) near Goole and cables (long thin strip fields) around Thorne.*
- *Widespread evidence of drainage history, in particular the extensive drainage from the 17th century, revealed through canalised rivers, dykes, old river courses, canals, bridges and pumping stations.*
- *Views to distant horizons are often long and unbroken, with big expansive skies, and vertical elements like water towers, power stations and wind turbines are very prominent.*
- *Floodplains, washlands and traditionally grazed alluvial flood meadows (or ings) associated with the major rivers and canals that cross the Levels give rise to important wetland habitats, supporting large numbers of wetland birds and wildfowl, especially over winter.*
- *The waterlogged soils hold internationally important archaeological and palaeo-archaeological deposits.*
- *Despite settlements, motorways and main roads, there is still a sense of*
- *remoteness to be experienced on the Levels, in particular on Thorne and Hatfield Moors and along the Lower Derwent Valley.”*

## 2.2 Regional Level

2.2.1 At a regional level, the Study Area is covered by the following:

- a. The North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (2011) (Ref. 4).

2.2.2 The relevant characteristics of the regional assessment are summarised in **Table 2**.

**Table 2. Regional Character Area Summary Table**

**Regional Character Area      Key Characteristics**

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North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (2011)

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<p><b>Levels Farmland (LCT 23)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Predominantly flat, low-lying landscape which encompasses a patchwork of arable fields;</i></li> <li>• <i>Large scale, open and rectilinear field pattern;</i></li> <li>• <i>Dykes or ditches often form field boundaries, with a general absence of hedgerows;</i></li> <li>• <i>Industrial scale farm buildings, large embankments and drains, and major energy and transport infrastructure contribute human elements; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Historical features, such as windmills, recording past attempts to drain the landscape are key features.”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>River Floodplain (LCT 24)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“A series of flat, low lying, relatively narrow river corridors which flow through the different types of Vale Farmland Landscape Character Types within the Study Area;</i></li> <li>• <i>The ‘Ings’ - flood meadows maintained by traditional hay making activities;</i></li> <li>• <i>Landscape pattern comprises a mixture of flood meadows, neutral grasslands and floodplain mires;</i></li> <li>• <i>Halls and manor houses are key landscape features;</i></li> <li>• <i>River engineering features such as Levees assert a human influence over the landscape;</i></li> <li>• <i>Power stations, pylons and former collieries are present in parts of this Landscape Character Type; and</i></li> <li>• <i>The A1 (M) introduces a source of noise and visual intrusion in several places.”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Vale Farmland with Plantation Woodland and Heathland (LCT 28)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“A patchwork of low lying, predominantly arable fields, often delineated by a network of mature hedgerows and interspersed with patches of regular-shaped mixed and coniferous plantation woodlands;</i></li> <li>• <i>Large heathlands are key features on sandy soils;</i></li> <li>• <i>Distant visual containment is provided by higher Landscape Character Types to the east and west;</i></li> <li>• <i>Strong sense of openness throughout much of this Landscape Character Type;</i></li> <li>• <i>Scattered settlement pattern of towns, villages and farmsteads within the landscape around the main historic City of York (which forms part of the Urban Landscapes Primary Landscape Unit); and</i></li> <li>• <i>A network of trunk roads linking the larger settlements and towns.”</i></li> </ul>

## 2.3 Local Level

2.3.1 At a local level, the Study Area is covered by the following:

- a. The Selby Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 5); and
- b. The East Riding of Yorkshire Council Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 6).

2.3.2 The relevant characteristics of the local assessment are summarised in **Table 3**.

**Table 3. Local Character Area Summary Table**

### Local Character Area Key Characteristics

The Selby Landscape Character Assessment (2009)

#### Ouse Valley (LCA 5)

- *“Very flat, low-lying floodplains of the River Ouse, used predominantly as arable farmland.*
- *Medium to large scale patchwork of heavily drained fields, commonly defined by ditches or grassed ‘beetle banks’.*
- *High grassy and vegetated flood embankments help disguise the river as it flows through the landscape.*
- *Localised areas of wetland and marsh provide valuable biodiversity habitats.*
- *Significant number of settlements including villages, hamlets and the town of Selby, located along the course of the River Ouse.*
- *Confluences of the Wharfe and Ouse to the north of Cawood, and the Ouse and Aire at Airmyn to the south-east.*
- *Strong influence of human elements including the prominent Drax Power Station, Rusholme Wind Farm, pylons running through the landscape, and river levees.*
- *Distinct lack of woodland and tree cover creates a sense of vast openness.”*

#### Derwent Valley (LCA 6)

- *“Very flat, low-lying western floodplain of the meandering River Derwent.*
- *Narrow floodplain with local variations in width, with wetlands and meadows of high nature conservation value.*
- *Low grassy flood embankments with areas of traditionally managed meadows for pasture or to produce hay.*
- *Limited road access, with main routes crossing the river rather than following it.*
- *Rectilinear field patterns, defined by occasional hedgerow trees and the River Derwent.*

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Recreational boating and wildlife watching attract people to this tranquil area.”</i></li></ul>
<b>East Selby Farmland (LCA 10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“Very flat, arable farmland, with a strong presence of tree lines along field boundaries obscuring the skyline.</i></li><li>• <i>Relatively regular field pattern comprising medium scale fields defined primarily by mature hedgerows with frequent mature hedgerow trees which provide a strong sense of enclosure.</i></li><li>• <i>Numerous farmsteads and small villages dispersed evenly across the landscape.</i></li><li>• <i>Strong rural character, with limited built development visible due to intervening vegetation across the landscape.”</i></li></ul>
<b>Camblesforth Farmland (LCA 15)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“Flat arable farmland with a high concentration of small areas of broadleaved woodland and shelterbelts, creating a sense of enclosure.</i></li><li>• <i>Medium-large scale rectilinear field pattern, frequently lined by hedgerow trees.</i></li><li>• <i>Sparse settlement with very few isolated properties and farmsteads.</i></li><li>• <i>Strong human influence from the industrial Drax Power Station, highly visible from throughout the landscape.</i></li><li>• <i>Time depth from the juxtaposition of the power station with the historic village of Drax.”</i></li></ul>
<hr/> <p>The East Riding of Yorkshire landscape Character Assessment (2018)</p> <hr/>	
<b>River Corridors (LCT 4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Low lying flat floodplain of the river valleys on the western edge of the East Riding.</i></li><li>• <i>Combination of grassland pasture and meadow that are subject to seasonal flooding.</i></li><li>• <i>Man-made embankments formed as a result of dredging in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.</i></li><li>• <i>Riparian woodland and trees in the corridor.</i></li><li>• <i>Areas of species rich alluvial flood meadow habitat.</i></li><li>• <i>Organic arrangement of medium and large sized fields combined with more regular boundaries of enclosed fields.</i></li><li>• <i>Cultural and historic associations include churches and river crossing points.</i></li><li>• <i>Several moated sites within the corridor.</i></li><li>• <i>Wind farms are a particular feature on the Ouse south and east of Goole, north-west of little Airmyn and some examples of single turbine development scattered across the LCT.</i></li></ul>

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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- *Intimate isolated corridor landscape that is a marked contrast from surrounding intensively farmed land.*
  - *Villages, hamlets and farmsteads line the river corridor just above the floodplain.*
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### **Derwent Valley, Banby on the Marsh to Pocklington Canal Reach (LCA 4A)**

***“This narrow corridor LCA, located on the western edge of East Riding, is distinctive from the surrounding arable farmland and provides a diverse haven amongst the intensively farmed land through which it flows. The LCA includes grass fields and meadows either side of the River Derwent until it reaches south of Brighton where the corridor narrows as the arable fields extend up to the river bank in most places.***

***There are several medieval moated sites on the edge of this corridor. A late 14th century castle ruin at Wressle is located on the boundary of this LCA and indicates the historic importance of the river corridor. Three important historic***

***sites in the LCA are Wressle Castle, Ellerton Priory, and a motte and bailey castle near Aughton Church, all of which are designated scheduled monuments. Other important historic sites include Gilbertine Priory, founded in c.1203, where Ellerton Church stands.***

***The Derwent Valley lies several feet below the general level of the land and therefore is prone to regular flooding from the large volume of water carried by the River Derwent. The Lower Derwent Valley SPA including the Derwent Ings SPA contains a network of important alluvial flood meadows and mires. The water meadows owe their fertility to the regular winter flooding, which carries and deposits silt over the land. This area has been traditionally cut for hay.***

***At Brighton Meadows SSSI, River Derwent SSSI and around Derwent Ings SPA, the floodplain grassland is managed for hay and then grazed by livestock. These meadows and the dykes are very important for breeding and over wintering waders. The corncrake breeds at Derwent Ings, the only site in England where this occurs.***

***Villages on the eastern edge of this corridor include; Sutton upon Derwent, Bubwith, Brighton, Wressle and Barmby on the Marsh. Settlement in these locations has been established for many centuries and their development has been influenced by the river and the drainage of surrounding land. Vernacular residential properties are two storey red brick with pantile or grey slate roofs dating from the Georgian and Victorian period.***

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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*20th century development has resulted in the growth of the villages and impacted upon their traditional character. They are generally linear having developed on higher ground adjacent to the floodplain of the river corridor.*

*This is a relatively small scale intimate LCA surrounded by a larger scale arable landscape. The corridor is semi enclosed with views channelled along the river corridor. The grassland associated with the riverbanks is grazed. Hedges have not been managed in places giving a neglected appearance to the landscape. Overall this is a remote pleasant and attractive LCA.”*

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### **River Ouse Corridor, Barnby on the March to M62 Bridge (LCA 4B)**

*“The narrow corridor is located on the south western edge of East Riding. The corridor extends past Boothferry Bridge, a swing bridge built in 1929 to the M62 bridge. The area also includes the island formed in the river at this point which is similar in character to Asselby Island. Barnby on the Marsh, at the confluence of the River Derwent with the River Ouse, is a classic medieval planned settlement with two back lanes running parallel to the main street.*

*The River Ouse between Barnby on the Marsh and Howdendyke is a broadening river that passes through intensively farmed low lying land, much of which is drained by pumps. River banks are present on both sides of the river. Arable production extends up to these banks and the river itself cannot be seen from the surrounding landscape as the river banks that are characteristic of the landscape screen its course. Bank side vegetation is sporadic. The largest area of vegetation is at Asselby Island close to the confluence of the River Ouse with the River Aire.”*

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### **Open Farmland (LCT 5)**

- *“Low lying flat landscape below 10m AOD.*
- *Relatively featureless intensively farmed arable landscape.*
- *Large areas are in the riparian flood plain of the River Derwent.*
- *Medium scale fields with fragmented hedgerow boundaries. Boundaries lost in places though mature oak trees remain in areas.*
- *Open character with extensive views across the flat landscape.*
- *Occasional woodland blocks and fragmented tree cover contributing to extensive views that include Drax Power Station to the southwest and distant wind development mainly to the south.*
- *Howden is the largest settlement.*
- *Howden Minster is an important landmark.*

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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- *Small villages and Farmsteads are scattered throughout but overall settlement density is low. Many of these villages have Saxon origins.”*
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### **Howden to Bubwith Farmland (LCA 5A)**

*This LCA encompasses semi-structured open farmland north of the River Ouse corridor and south of the village of Bubwith. The area is characterised by large scale open fields that are intensively farmed for arable crop production, with occasional examples of equestrian land use. Field boundaries are traditionally hedgerows. However, many of these have been lost and this contributes to the open character of the landscape. A number of large scale agricultural buildings are scattered across the LCA and are evident due to open and expansive views across the landscape. Pylons and occasional single turbine/ small scale wind developments (Spaldington Airfield Windfarm) offer vertical elements to the landscape.*

*There are small areas where hedgerows are less fragmented and have been left to grow tall giving a more wooded appearance, for example west of Howden, but between these more wooded areas are large open areas of intensively farmed arable land. Howden has a Conservation Area designation.*

*There was once a 180 acre medieval deer park at Wressle associated with the castle but no evidence of this is visible in the landscape today. The castle ruin at Wressle is a scheduled monument dating from c1380s and is one of the most important structures in the East Riding, but lies within adjacent LCT 4.*

*Brighton Airfield was established during World War II and is now a private airfield museum. Commercial industrial development has also taken place on land associated with the Airfield.*

*There are still some areas of species rich hay meadow, although much has been lost, supporting characteristic species including cowslip, meadow vetchling, great burnet, black knapweed and saw-wort. A good example of this is at Barn Hill Meadows, a small SSSI just to the west of Howden, consisting of species-rich unimproved neutral grassland. The site has been managed in a traditional way for hay and has remnant ridge and furrow characteristics. Other important ecological designations within the LCA area include Brighton Meadows SSSI, Lower Derwent Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Howden Marsh Local Nature Reserve (LNR).*

*This is a medium to large scale LCA with views of Drax Power Station to the west, the edge of the Wolds in the*

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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*distance to the east and cumulative views of local and distant wind development.*

*There are some examples of recent wind development within this LCA ranging from small scale single turbine development to five very large turbines west of Spaldington.*

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### **West of Holme on Spalding Moor Farmland (LCA 5B)**

*“This LCA covers the farmed landscape between Holme on Spalding Moor and Bubwith, including the villages of Foggathorpe, Harlthorpe, Aughton and Ellerton. Fields are generally medium in size and rectilinear in shape. There are areas of more irregular fields indicating early enclosure by agreement. Hedgerows form field boundaries. Many are fragmented and some contain hedgerow trees but overall tree cover is limited. The eastern part of this area drains into the River Foulness and the western part drains into the River Derwent.*

*The area around Foggathorpe contains a recreation and tourism development including man-made lakes and log cabin accommodation. There are other similar small scale developments in this landscape.*

*Commercial development is generally linked to the agricultural industry including a poultry shed at Aughton. Pylons cross the area and are a detractor in the rural landscape.*

*There are several historic sites in the area that are of interest. Ellerton Priory was established in the 13th century. Aughton has a motte and bailey castle, both of which are designated as scheduled monuments, and a moated manorial centre associated with the Aske family. The church at Aughton is Norman. A moated site at Chapelgarth, which represents a typical medieval settlement in low lying flood plain, is also designated as a scheduled monument. Within this area, interspersed within the intensively farmed land, there are areas of species-rich hay meadow, supporting species characteristic of the area. This is a large scale pleasant agricultural landscape with few features of note.*

*Development and infrastructure are detractors where they are highly visible due to lack of trees and flat landform. There are currently no wind developments within this LCA.”*

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### **Wooded Open Farmland (LCT 6)**

- *“Low lying flat arable farmland in good condition with occasional grass fields and small woodland blocks;*
- *The land rises gradually west;*
- *One area of ancient semi natural woodland at Seaton Olde Wood west of Holme on Spalding Moor;*

## Local Character Area    **Key Characteristics**

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- *Historic links to the Roman pottery industry;*
- *Church Hill at Holme on Spalding Moor is a prominent landmark;*
- *Random irregular field size and pattern;*
- *Hedgerow field boundaries in varying condition many with hedgerow trees;*
- *Scattered villages and farmsteads;*
- *Relatively remote and tranquil place away from villages;*
- *Agricultural development is a common feature across the landscape; and*
- *Single development turbines and pylons are a visual detractor within the flat landscape.”*

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### **South Cliffe and Hotham Common (LCT 6B)**

*“This area covers farmland north of Holme on Spalding Moor and extends south around the east side of Holme on Spalding Moor and down to South Cliffe Common.*

*Evidence of prehistoric human activity has been found in the area and aerial photographs show extensive Romano-British field systems and settlements around South Cliffe and Hotham. However, the influence of these historic activities is not apparent in the landscape today.*

*Field sizes are generally medium to large and land use is a mix of arable and grassland. Turf is also produced in the area. Hedges are in varied condition, some good and others fragmented. Plantation woodland is present and includes pine as well as deciduous species. Individual trees are present along field boundaries. Field pattern suggests a greater proportion of this area was subject to parliamentary enclosure.*

*The main settlement in the area is Holme on Spalding Moor which is centred on a former triangular village green on which the old school was built. Hall Farm is an important building started in 1720. Workhouse Farm to the south of the village was originally built as a work house in c1790. The hamlets of North Cliffe and South Cliffe are located along the eastern boundary of the area with the Jurassic Hills Farmland. Elsewhere there are few scattered farmsteads.*

*The settlements of North Cave and Everingham are designated Conservation Areas. Everingham is made up of primarily 19th Century buildings and includes the Grade I listed Everingham Hall and St Mary and St Everilda Roman Catholic Church also listed Grade I.*

*The North Cliffe Estate was bought in 1861 by Samuel Fox, a Sheffield Ironmaster, and he rebuilt the small village as well as several large outlying farmsteads such as Townsend Farm, Avenue Farm, and Manor House. North Cliffe Lodge was Fox’s house, built as a shooting box.*

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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*Several heathland and grassland sites, which represent remnants of habitats which were formerly much more widespread, are present.*

*South Cliffe Common was enclosed before 1775 and in 1796 over 900 acres was given over to a rabbit warren (e.g. Bunny Hill Farm). The Common consists of a mosaic of heathland and acidic grassland, which is now much smaller in extent due to agriculture and forestation. The site is dominated by*

*typical heathland and acid grassland species. The Common is now designated as SSSI in two separate locations.*

*Further north from South Cliffe Common, is North Cliffe Wood, an example of former grass heath which has developed into woodland, due to cessation of grazing. North Cliffe Wood, a Local Wildlife Site has a number of ecological and habitat benefits and is also a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve.”*

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### **Foulness Open Farmland (LCT 7)**

- *Low lying flat landscape with open views stretching as far as the Wolds in the east.*
  - *Very few trees and woodland.*
  - *Sparse settlement consisting mainly of scattered farmsteads*
  - *Large and very large rectilinear fields surrounded by fragmented hedgerows.*
  - *Regular rectilinear drainage ditches feeding into the more sinuous River Foulness.*
  - *Important location of Iron Age settlement and iron working.*
  - *Roman and medieval archaeology is also present*
  - *Long distant views to the south with wind development evident along the skyline.*
- 

### **South of Holme on Spalding Moor Farmland (LCA 7A)**

***“This area is located north of the River Foulness and is distinctive as a result of field pattern and sparse settlement. The narrow river acts as a physical barrier. There are two road crossings over the River Foulness, one at Welham***

***Bridge on the southern boundary of this LCA and one on the A163 Major Bridge, just outside the LCA to the north between Foggathorpe and Holme on Spalding Moor. There are a few rectilinear plantations scattered across the landscape.***

***The main detractor in this area is electricity pylons, which are prominent features in the relatively open farmland. There are some long distance views of***

## Local Character Area    Key Characteristics

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***turbines, mainly to the south, due to the expansive views across the landscape.***

***The ecological designation of Eastrington Ponds Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site is located within this LCA. Hasholme Farm and Copse also have some important habitat features. Development within the area is mainly agricultural with some large scale poultry sheds and mushroom houses. There are two small scale turbine developments within the LCA.”***

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### **Eastrington Farmland (LCA 7B)**

*This area is located southwest of the River Foulness and is intensively farmed arable land around the villages of Portrington, Eastrington and Spaldington Common. Large irregular fields mixed with smaller rectilinear fields have fragmented hedgerow boundaries.*

*The landscape is open with expansive long distance views, especially towards the south. Pylons and occasional wind development can be seen on the skyline. Several of the drains and ponds in this area are noted as having ecological benefits.*

*Large scale scattered farmsteads and individual residential properties are characteristic. The village of Eastrington is located on the southern boundary of this area but otherwise there are no major settlements in the area.*

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### **Jurassic Hills Farmland (LCT 11)**

- *“Sloping landform leading up to the chalk scarp slope of the Wolds;*
  - *Undulating topography between 15m and 60m AOD;*
  - *Pockets of acidic grass and heathland provide diverse habitats and contrasting appearance among the arable landscape;*
  - *Parkland and estate farmland associated with Hotham and Houghton Hall;*
  - *Trees scattered in hedgerows and parkland throughout*
  - *Strong hedgerow boundaries reinforce the field pattern as well as contribute to wildlife corridors;*
  - *Stone and brick built nucleated villages dispersed across the sloping land are smaller scale than the surrounding open farmland; and*
  - *Views from elevated land west over the Humberhead Levels and south over the River Humber and east to the Humber Bridge.”*
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### **West Facing Open Farmland (LCA 11A)**

*“This LCA extends from south of Market Weighton southwards to North Cave encompassing Sancton, on the east edge of the LCA, nestled at the bottom of dales that extend eastwards into the Wolds. North Cliffe, South Cliffe and North Cave are located in the Humberhead Levels at the bottom of the lower slopes of*

## Local Character Area Key Characteristics

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*the LCA to the west. North Cave and Hotham have Conservation Area designations.*

*Land use within the LCA is largely agricultural throughout and interspersed by generally small, fragmented areas of woodland. Farmland is predominantly arable with lesser amounts of pasture and grazing. Remnant pockets of acid grassland and heathland are dispersed amongst the farmland.*

*Hotham is a small linear settlement with a Conservation Area designation that recognises the special architectural or historic interest of the villages, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.*

*Field pattern varies with medium sized fields in a regular pattern becoming piecemeal in the north and around Hotham. Fields are enclosed by hedgerows many of which contain trees. Occasionally trees located in the middle of fields reveal the former presence of a hedgerow.*

*Tree cover comprises infrequent small woodlands with large areas of open land in between. A larger woodland lies south of Houghton Hall at Houghton Moor with higher levels of field trees at Houghton Farm and around Hotham. Isolated farmsteads are loosely dispersed across the LCA.*

*Hotham Hall, a Yorkshire Gardens Trust property, was built c1720. It has an impressive stable block and is surrounded by a large park accommodated by the diversion of Beverley Road after 1763. The c100ha landscape park and pleasure grounds were laid out to a 1768 plan by Thomas White and is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.*

*Everthorpe Quarry has been designated a SSSI for its geological interest. It is the only site where fossilised ammonites of a particular type are found. Hotham Meadows is another example of SSSI designated landscape with ecological benefits.”*

### 3. References

- Ref. 1 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Amenity Third Edition.
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## 4. Abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>GLVIA3</b>	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition
<b>NCA</b>	National Character Area
<b>PEI Report</b>	Preliminary Environmental Information Report



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