

Project Title: Scarborough Landscape Study: Volume 1 – Borough wide Landscape Character Assessment

Client: Scarborough Borough Council

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Scarborough Borough Landscape Study: Volume 1 Borough wide Landscape Character Assessment

Final report
Prepared by LUC
February 2013

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Acknowledgements:

This study was steered by a group of officers from the Forward Planning Team at Scarborough Borough Council – David Walker (Forward Planning Manager), Steve Wilson (Senior Planning Policy Officer) and Matthew Lickes (Planning Policy Officer). The study was undertaken by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in conjunction with the steering group. LUC's team comprised Kate Ahern (Principal), Andrew Tempany (Project Manager), Hannah Leach, Chris Green and Louise Tricklebank.

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1 Introduction

What is landscape? What is landscape character assessment

- 1.1 Landscape can be defined as 'an area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'¹.
- 1.2 Landscape character assessment or LCA is an accepted, recognised method for understanding what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that, and how it may change in the future. Landscape character assessment describes and classifies the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that make one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. Character is what makes each part of a landscape distinct and gives each area its particular sense of place.
- 1.3 The landscape character approach considers that all landscapes matter² or are valuable. The purpose of landscape character assessment is to help ensure that change and development does not undermine what is characteristic or valued about a particular place, and that ways of improving the character of a place can be considered in planning for change.
- 1.4 The landscape character assessment of Scarborough Borough provides a comprehensive landscape evidence base to help underpin planning and management policy and decision-making in the borough.

The landscape of Scarborough Borough

- 1.5 Scarborough Borough is located in the north east of England, within the county of North Yorkshire. Approximately 73% of the borough falls within the jurisdiction of the North York Moors National Park Authority. This study covers the areas of the borough which are outside the National Park boundary, as shown on **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.6 The landscape of Scarborough is an upland landscape rising from the North Yorkshire coast up towards the open heather moorlands and the forests of the North York Moors and the associated National Park, although characterised by the Yorkshire Wolds in the southern part. Landform distinction is created by moorland outcrops and at the coastal headlands and cliffs, as well as by gorges and river valleys such as the River Esk.

Purpose and structure of this report

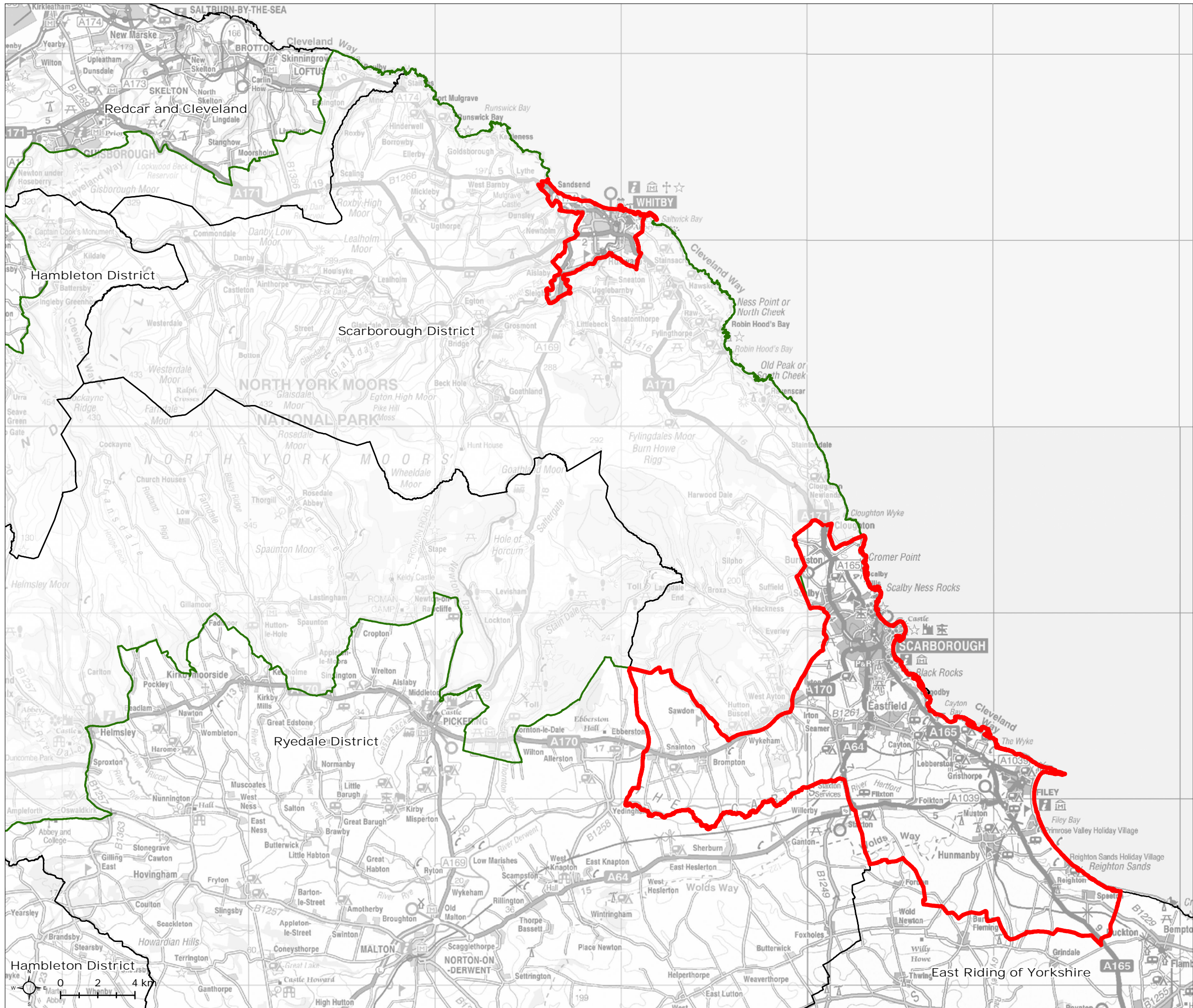
- 1.7 This report forms part of the evidence base for the Scarborough Local Plan and informs the direction of future landscape planning policy. It will also provide evidence at strategic level for development management decisions. It describes, assesses and evaluates the character of the rural landscapes³ of Scarborough, identifying broadly aspects of the landscape which would be sensitive to change, and appropriate strategies for the landscapes.
- 1.8 It is supported by a companion volume (Volume 2: Landscape Sensitivity Study) which assesses the landscape and visual sensitivity of potential growth locations to residential and mixed use development.
- 1.9 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

¹ Council of Europe, 2000, **European Landscape Convention**

² Ibid

³ Urban areas have been excluded from the study except where settlements fall outside of the defined settlement boundaries with reference to nationally available local authority data. In some instances a number of identified service villages in the borough fall outside of the defined settlement boundary.

- Section 2: Study methodology
- Section 3: Landscape character context
- Section 4: Physical and cultural influences acting on the Scarborough landscape
- Section 5: The landscape characterisation of Scarborough Borough
- Section 6: Summary and conclusions



Scarborough LCA

Figure 1.1

Location Plan

- Study Area Boundary
- North York Moors National Park
- District Boundary

Map Scale @ A3: 1:200,000



2 Study methodology

- 2.1 The process of undertaking this landscape character assessment follows the accepted approach set out in the national Landscape Character Assessment Guidance⁴. The process has involved five main stages, namely:
- Data collation – Physical and cultural data, including data on adjacent landscapes
 - Characterisation – analysis of the data, identify common patterns, to characterise the landscape in terms of landscape types and specific local character areas within these types
 - Field survey – to confirm /test the characterisation
 - Description – Describing the main or key characteristics of the local character areas
 - Evaluation – Understanding strategic sensitivities to change of the local character areas
- 2.2 This study draws from the county wide North Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment, and was undertaken at 1:25,000 scale. It takes appropriate account of adjacent landscape character assessments, both for the North York Moors National Park and the adjacent local authorities.
- 2.3 A Geographic Information System (GIS) was used throughout the study to collate, interrogate and present mapped data.

Data collation

- 2.4 This stage involved the collation and mapping of a wide range of existing information on the characteristics of Scarborough Borough, including mapped data on landform, geology, hydrology, historic landscape, biodiversity, land use, settlement and archaeology. Specifically, a hierarchy of landscape character is detailed through the National Character Areas, National Landscape Typology, the county wide landscape classification and previous Borough Landscape Study. Existing biodiversity and nature conservation interest is explored through environmental designations, both statutory and non-statutory, Natural Areas, BAP Priority Species and Ancient Woodland data. Additional information was provided by the Yorkshire and the Humber Green Infrastructure Mapping Project. Heritage assets have been provided through heritage designations (including registered parks and gardens), conservation areas and the North Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation). Other mapped data which has been compiled and used for the study includes housing sites, national cycle network, national trails, local plan data, flood data, and soils.
- 2.5 In addition the following documents and studies were used:
- Page, W (Ed) 1907-1914, 1923 *Victoria County History: Yorkshire - North Riding* (accessed online via <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/yorkshire-north-riding>)
 - Pevsner, N, 1966 (Reprinted 2002), *The Buildings of England: Yorkshire – The North Riding*
 - Potter, J, 2011, *The Yorkshire Coast and North York Moors Landscapes*
 - Seymour, J, 1974 *The Companion Guide to the Coast of North East England*
 - Wilson, V, 1948 *British Regional Geology: East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire*

⁴ Former Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, **Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland** CAX84F, and the 2011 update to this publication produced for Natural England (consultation draft at the time of writing)

- Former Countryside Agency, 1998, *Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber*
- North York Moors National Park Authority, 2012, *North York Moors National Park Management Plan*
- North York Moors National Park Authority/White Young Green, 2003, *North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment*
- North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast Management Plan, 3rd Review: *Strategy 2007-2012* (Consultation Draft)
- North Yorkshire County Council/Chris Blandford Associates, 2011, *North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project*
- Aecom, 2012, *Managing Landscape Change: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments: A Landscape Sensitivity Framework for North Yorkshire and York*
- North Yorkshire County Council, *Historic Landscape Characterisation*
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council/Carl Bro and Golder Associates, 2005, *Landscape Character Assessment of the East Riding of Yorkshire*
- Ryedale District Council/Gillespies, 1999, *The Landscapes of Northern Ryedale – An assessment of the Vale of Pickering and the fringe of the North York Moors National Park, with management guidelines for their future*
- Gillespies, 1995, *Our landscape today for tomorrow: An assessment of the landscape north and south of the Humber with management guidelines for its future*
- Scarborough Borough Council, 1994, *Fact Sheet No.7: Landscape Appraisal*
- Scarborough Borough Council and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, 2012 *The Carrs – a Landscape Partnership Bid for the Vale of Pickering*

2.6 Other documents consulted were relevant Conservation Area Appraisals for the borough.

Characterisation

2.7 The map layers identified above were overlaid on a 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey base map using a GIS to observe and identify common patterns of landscape character – development of a draft characterisation for the borough. Based on the approach promoted in the national Landscape Character Assessment Guidance, a hierarchy was adopted, defining landscape types and character areas, where:

- **Landscape types** are generic areas, sharing broadly common combinations of geological, topographic, landcover and cultural/human influences;
- **Character areas** are single, unique and geographically specific areas within the landscape types, having a particular 'sense of place' or identity within the type.

Field survey

2.8 This was undertaken to confirm and test the draft characterisation. Field survey was undertaken by qualified and experienced landscape architects, including a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI), in September and November 2012. The field survey was required to:

- Confirm draft boundaries and links with boundaries defined by adjacent landscape character assessments
- Gather additional information to feed into the description of the character areas and to identify broad landscape sensitivities/inform the broad strategy for each character area
- Gain photographic coverage of all of the character areas within the borough

- 2.9 A systematic, rigorous approach was adopted for the survey. Information was recorded both on 1:25,000 scale maps and a field survey record sheet (example shown at **Appendix 1**).

Notes on boundaries

- 2.10 The precision of boundaries drawn for landscape character types and character areas varies according to a study's scale and level of detail. This study has been mapped at 1:25,000 scale and is therefore suitable for use at that scale. In reality landscape character rarely changes abruptly and the boundary lines as drawn therefore can represent zones of transition in character, relating to changes in landform or geology, soils or cultural pattern for example. In practice boundaries of this nature have frequently been drawn to follow physical features which can be mapped, including roads and field boundaries, to provide 'best fit'.

Description

- 2.11 The findings from the field survey and the documentary and data review were used to generate short bullet point descriptions for each of the character areas, drawing out distinctions in term of physical, cultural and perceptual/experiential characteristics. These descriptions were supported as appropriate by photographs representing the character of the areas.

Evaluation

- 2.12 The evaluation of the landscape character areas follows current best practice and was developed in consultation with the project working group at Scarborough Borough Council. The purpose of the evaluation was to provide a basis for strategic landscape planning and management decisions and to help inform landscape planning policy, as well as assisting in strategic terms in development management decisions to provide an informed response to proposals affecting the landscape. The evaluation therefore covered:
- Identification of forces for change or 'threats' acting on the landscape, whether through development, land management change or other forces such as climate change
 - Identification of positive landscape features of significance/those which would be sensitive in strategic terms within each character area
 - Identification of high level visual sensitivities – key views and visual relationships
 - Development of a high level strategy to manage change in each character area, drawing from the above

3 Landscape character context

National and regional landscape character

- 3.1 This LCA sits within the framework of the National Character Areas⁵. As shown on **Figure 3.1**, relevant national character areas (NCAs) in the study area are as follows:
- **NCA 25: North Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills:** An upland plateau underlain by Jurassic rocks, and cut by a series of wide, sweeping dales. Expansive open moorlands create long, panoramic views in contrast to plantation woodlands on the Tabular Hills. Distinctive, dramatic coastal landscapes, with high cliffs, intimate coves and bays, coastal towns and fishing villages.
 - **NCA 26: Vale of Pickering:** A low lying, gently undulating vale rising gently to the foothills of the North York Moors. The vale is often defined by pastoral floodplains with little tree cover. Prehistoric settlement is a feature of the vale e.g. the site at Star Carr.
 - **NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds:** A prominent escarpment and foothills rising from the Vales of York and Pickering and falling to the Plain of Holderness. A chalk landscape, defined by dry valleys and rolling landforms, with high chalk cliffs created where the outcrop meets the sea.

County landscape character

- 3.2 The North Yorkshire Landscape Characterisation Project 2011 defines a series of landscape types within the strategic framework, these are shown on **Figure 3.1**.

Previous landscape studies in the borough

- 3.3 An earlier landscape appraisal of the borough was undertaken in 1994. The character zones defined by this study are shown on **Figure 3.2**. Account has been taken of these and the national/county landscape characterisation hierarchy, in developing the landscape classification for Scarborough borough.

Character and qualities of protected landscapes in the study area and environs

North York Moors National Park

- 3.4 This nationally designated landscape encompasses a large part of the Borough and lies adjacent to this assessment's study area to the west. A number of special qualities relevant to landscape character are identified in the National Park's Management Plan⁶, and these are:
- Great diversity of landscape; Sudden dramatic contrasts associated with this
 - Wide sweeps of open heather moorland
 - Distinctive dales, valley and inland headlands
 - Abundance of forest and woodland

⁵ Former Countryside Commission/Countryside Agency, 1998, **Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber** CCP 537

⁶ North York Moors National Park, 2012, **North York Moors National Park Management Plan, June 2012**

- Ancient trees and woodland rich in wildlife
- Special landforms from the Ice Age
- Exceptional coastal geology
- Majestic coastal cliffs and sheltered harbours
- Distinctive coastal headlands
- A special mix of upland, lowland and coastal habitats; A wide variety of wildlife dependent on these
- Settlements which reflect their agricultural, fishing or mining past
- Locally distinctive buildings and building materials
- Long imprint of human activity
- A wealth of archaeology from pre-history to the 20th century
- A rich and diverse countryside for recreation
- An extensive network of public paths and tracks
- Ruined abbeys and churches
- Strong feeling of remoteness; A place for spiritual refreshment
- Tranquillity
- Dark skies at night and clear unpolluted skies
- A place of artistic and literary inspiration

3.5 The landscape character of the North York Moors National Park⁷ is shown as an inset in **Figure 3.1**.

Heritage Coast

3.6 Much of the coastline within the borough is designated as part of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast⁸. At a national level, the primary objectives of heritage coast designation which are relevant to landscape character are to conserve, enhance and protect natural beauty, to facilitate and enhance enjoyment, and to promote sustainable economic and social development to help conserve and enhance natural beauty and heritage features.

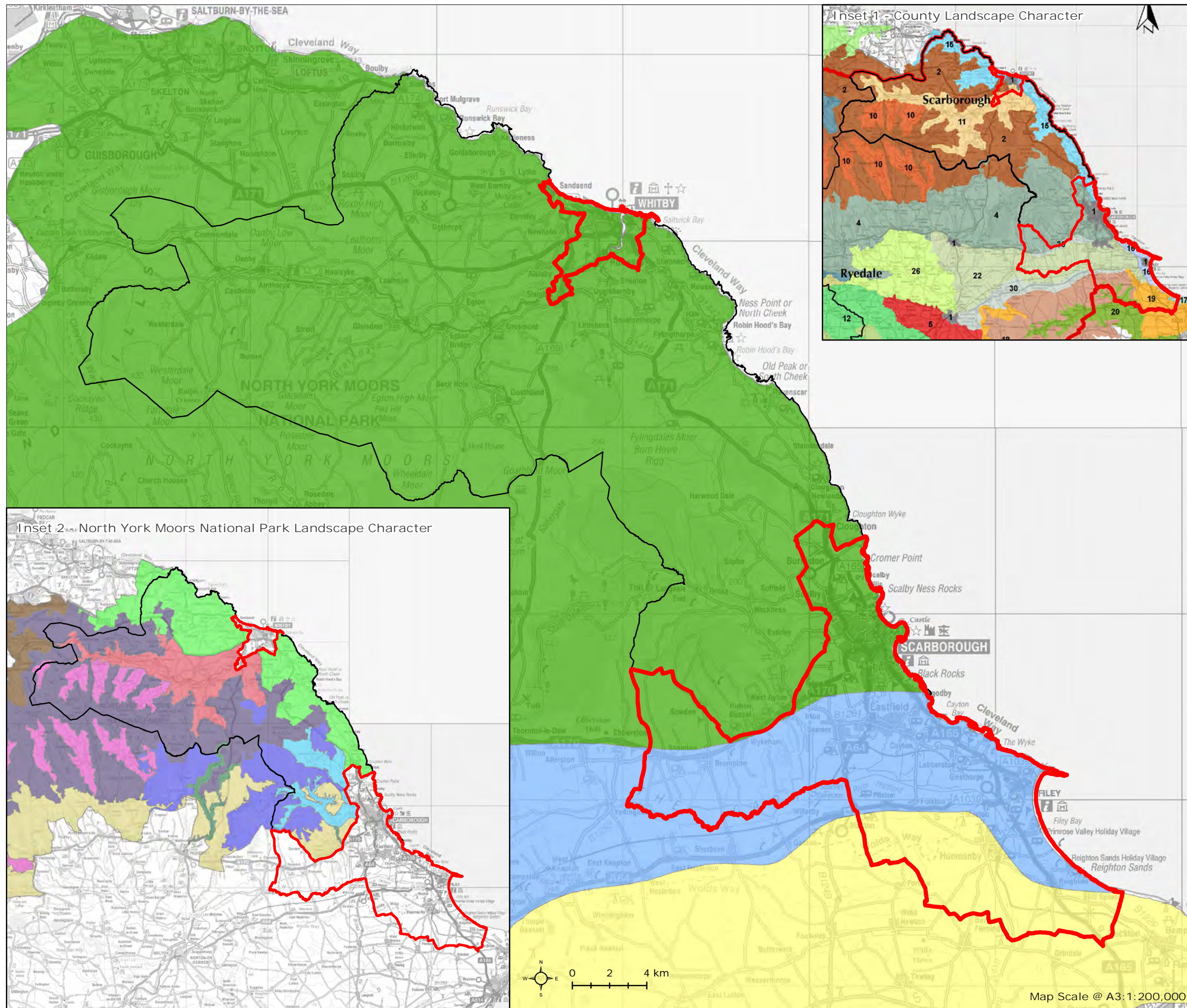
3.7 Designated landscapes relevant to the study area are shown on **Figure 3.3**.

The Borough wide assessment (this study)

3.8 This study has been developed at 1:25,000 scale and has been designed to fit within the national, regional and county landscape framework. It takes appropriate account of nationally designated landscapes (North York Moors National Park and the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast) and available landscape assessments for these, as well as the LCAs of adjacent local authorities.

⁷ White Young Green Environmental, December 2003, **North York Moors National Park Landscape Character Assessment**

⁸ North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast Management Plan Third Review and Strategy 2007-2012 – Draft for consultation



Scarborough LCA

Figure 3.1

National, County and North York Moors National Park Landscape Character

- Study Area Boundary
- Scarborough Borough
- National Character Areas
 - North Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills
 - Vale of Pickering
 - Yorkshire Wolds

Inset 1 - County Landscape Character Primary Landscape Units and Landscape Character Types

- 1 Urban Landscapes
- Sandstone Landscapes
- 2 Sandstone Moors
- Limestone Landscapes
- 4 Limestone Foothills and Valleys
- Upland Fringe and Valley Landscapes
- 10 Narrow Upland Dale
- 11 Broad Valleys
- Coastal Landscapes
- 15 Rugged Cliffs, Coastal Valleys and Bays
- 16 Soft Coastal Cliffs and Bays
- 17 Chalk Headlands
- Chalk Landscapes
- 18 Chalk Wolds
- 19 Chalk Foothills
- 20 Broad Chalk Valley
- Farmed Lowland and Valley Landscapes
- 22 Open, Carr/Vale Farmland
- 30 Sand and Gravel Vale Fringe

Inset 2 - North York Moors National Park Landscape Character

- Central Valley
- Coastal Hinterland
- Forest
- Limestone Dale
- Limestone Hills
- Moorland
- Narrow Glacial Channel
- Narrow Moorland Dale
- Upland Fringe



Scarborough LCA

Figure 3.2

Previous Borough Landscape Study (1994)

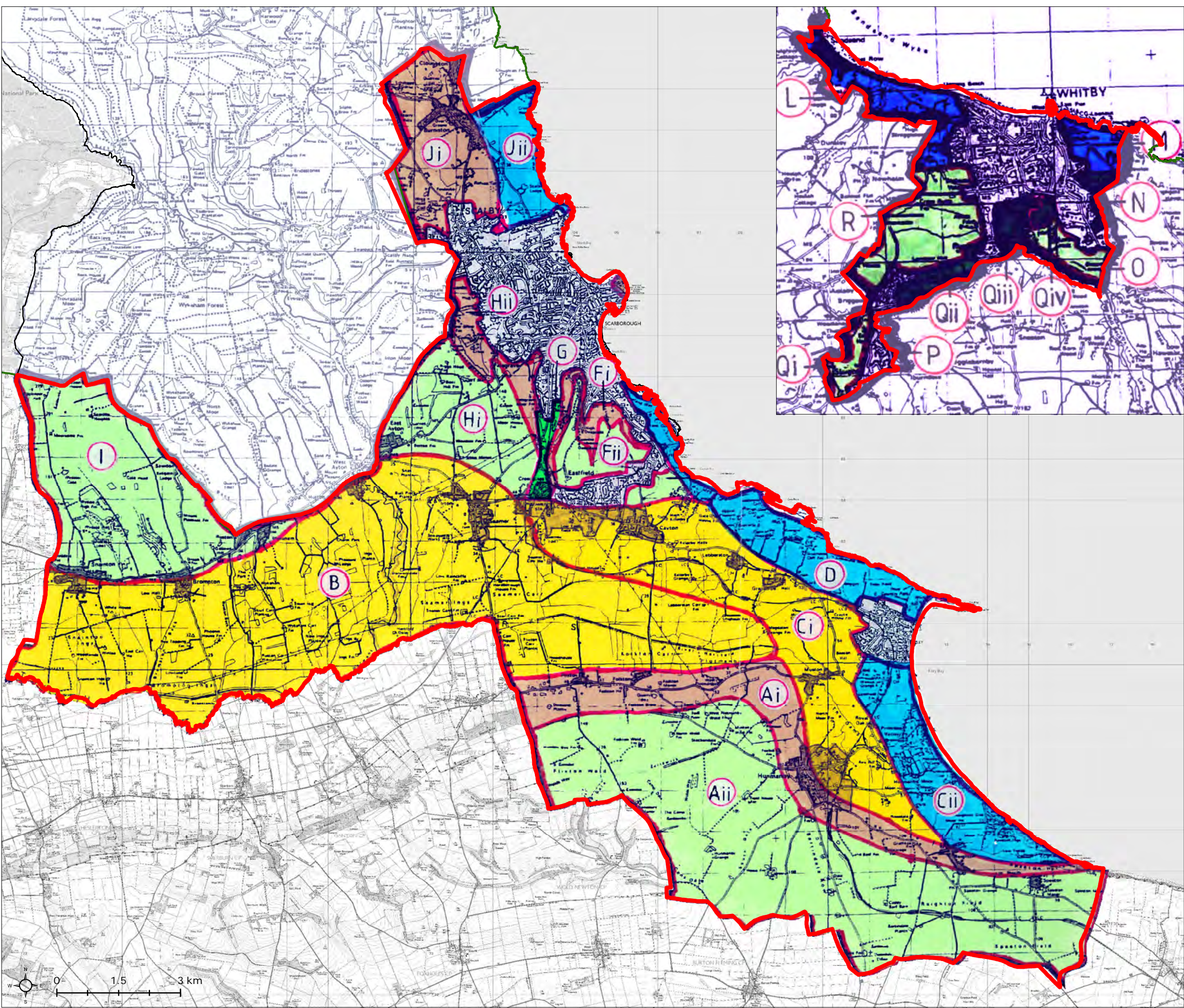
- Study Area Boundary
- District Boundary
- North York Moors National Park

Landscape Appraisal Units

- Ai - Wolds Escarpment + Footslope
- Aii - Wolds Dip Slope
- B - Vale of Pickering
- Ci - Carrs + Coastal Lowland
- D - Coastal Slope Filey to Cayton Bay
- E - Coastal Land East of Filey RD
- Fi - Oliver's MT.-Deepdale-Osgodby Scarp Slope + Footslopes
- Fii - Oliver's MT.-Deepdale Dip Slope
- G - Seamer Valley
- Hi - Moors Fringe Dip Slope
- Hii - Moors Fringe Scarp + Footslope
- I - Moors Fringe North of Snainton + Brompton
- Ji - Moors Fringe North of Scalby
- Jii - Coastal Area North of Scalby
- K - Castle Headland
- L - Sandsend-Whitby Coastal Zone
- M - Abbey Plain Coastal Zone
- N - Spital Vale
- O - Larpool-Stainsacre Beck
- P - Low Dale
- Q - Esk Valley - i. West of Sleights
ii. Between Briggswath + Ruswarp
iii. East of Ruswarp
iv. Larpool + Whitehall Woods
- R - Moors Fringe

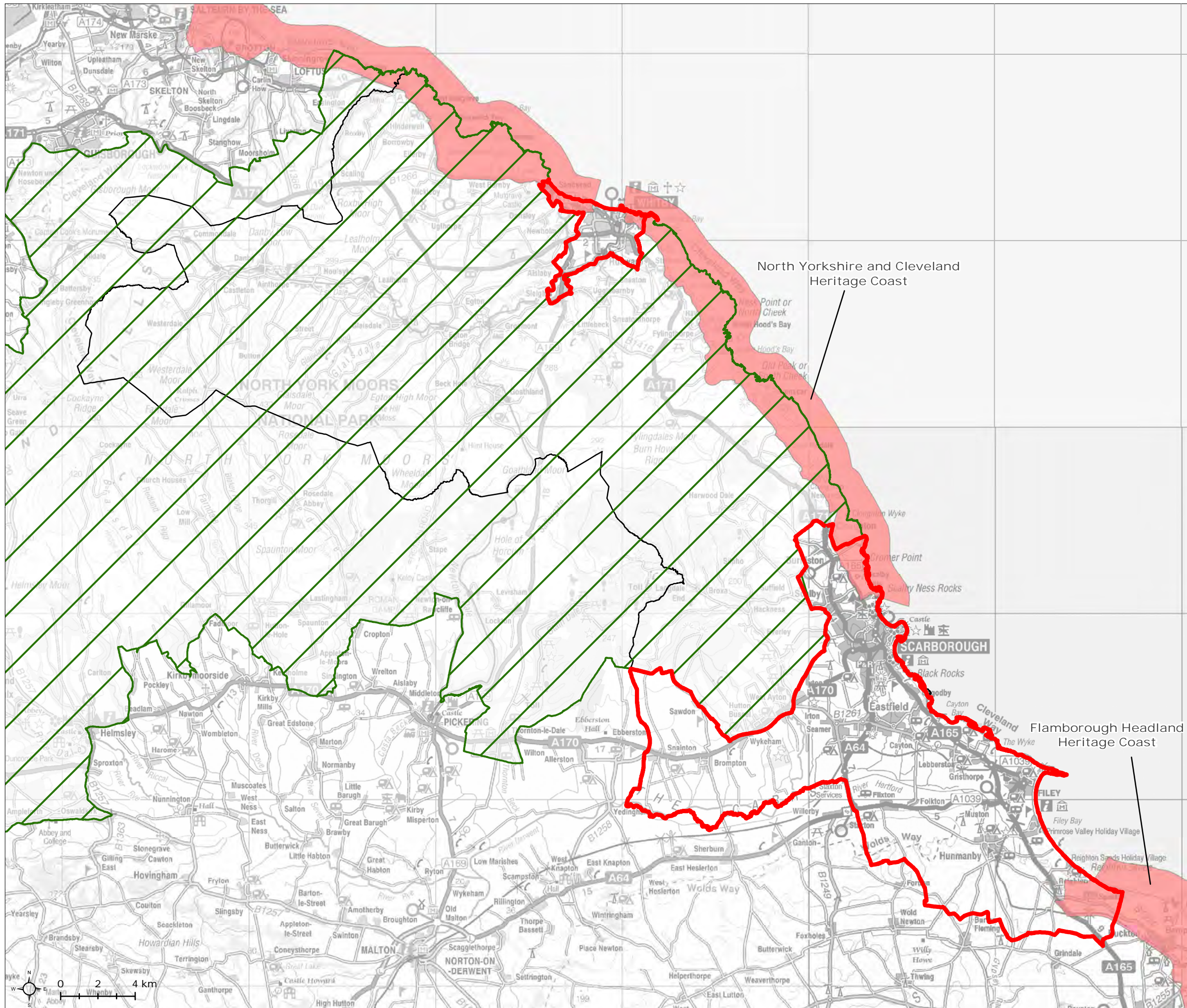
Source: Scarborough Borough Council

Map Scale @ A3: 1:90,000
Inset Scale @ A3: 1:65,000



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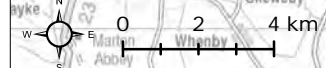
Scarborough LCA

Figure 3.3
Designated Landscapes

- Study Area Boundary
- North York Moors National Park
- Scarborough Borough
- Heritage Coasts

North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast

Flamborough Headland Heritage Coast



Map Scale @ A3: 1:200,000



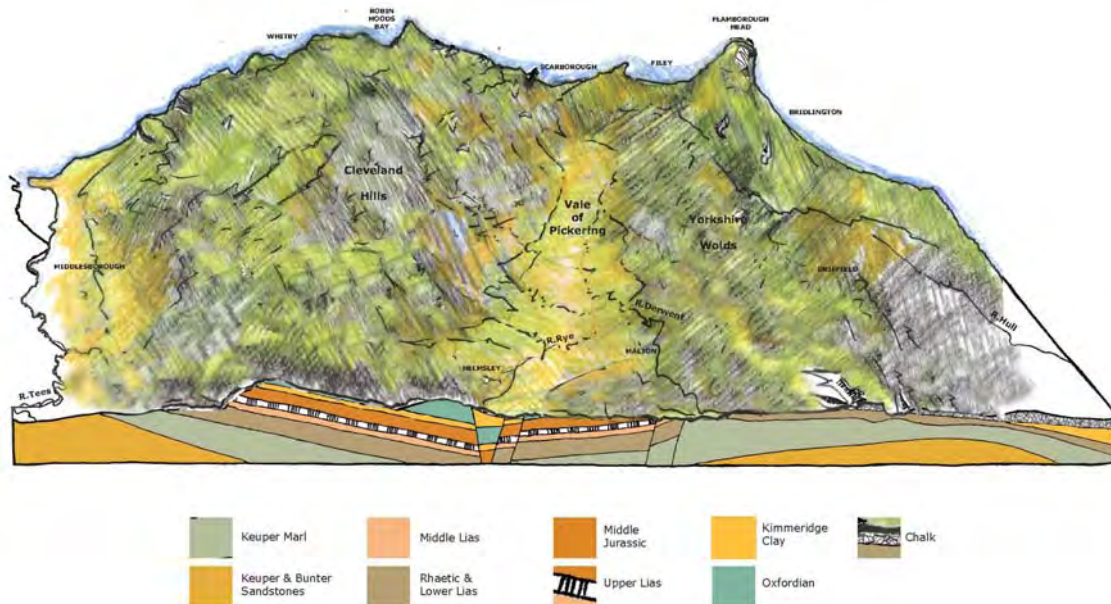
4 Physical and cultural influences acting on the Scarborough landscape

Physical

Geology and landform⁹

- 4.1 The landscape of Scarborough Borough has evolved due to the interaction of the physical structure of the landscape and the vegetation and land uses which are overlain upon it. To understand what makes the landscape of the borough distinctive, it is helpful to understand the key physical influences which have influenced the landscape over time.
- 4.2 The basic landscape structure is formed by the underlying rocks and relief patterns. Geology and the processes of weathering, erosion and deposition influence the shape and form of the landscape, its drainage characteristics and its soils. These influence patterns of vegetation and land use in turn.
- 4.3 The borough and the wider north east Yorkshire area is geologically diverse, covering the entire sequence of rock strata through a complete geological era, with the entire Jurassic series of rocks from lower lias in the north to cretaceous in the south around the town of Scarborough.
- 4.4 The lias are the oldest rocks, forming the base of the uplands and the outcrops in many of the dales and along the northern stretch of coastline. This has often contributed to the distinctive coastline character within the borough, where areas of softer rock have been eroded to form long crescent shaped bays and harder rocks exposed as distinctive coastal headlands such as that at Scarborough town which separates North Bay and South Bay. The headland is formed from an outcrop of hard sandstone, with the cliffs of the South Bay formed of estuarine sandstone and Scarborough limestone.
- 4.5 Within the upper estuarine series, the Kellaways and calcareous grits are evident in the Tabular Hills, which extend into the upland north western parts of the borough. The bedrock of the hills overlooking the Vale of Pickering on its northern side is of Corallian formation. The Vale itself is the legacy of a huge glacial lake (Lake Pickering) formed during the retreat of the ice sheet at the end of the last ice age, where a line of clay moraine (which now forms the soft cliffs of the nearby stretch of coast to the East) filled the gap between the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds. The moraine prevented the eastward flow of water as the lake drained. The legacy of this was distinctive, strongly meandering course of the River Hertford (until, much later, it was straightened to form a navigable channel during the Industrial Revolution). Lake Pickering was also superseded by a chain of post glacial lakes within its former footprint, e.g. Lake Flixton, itself later becoming fenland and later still, carr woodland.
- 4.6 South of the Vale of Pickering the chalk wolds are defined by many archetypal features of limestone landscapes, such as rolling hills and landforms, dry valleys and intermittent streams or 'gutters'. The landscape terminates at the seaward side in distinctive chalk cliffs characterised by caves and stacks. The cliffs between Ravenscar and Scalby Mills are determined by a series of geological fault lines, and the oolitic rocks of this stretch of coast have a thick covering of boulder clay. Boulder clay topped cliffs are evident at Cornelian Bay, although from Cayton Bay calcareous grits and Oxford Clay define much of the coastline as far as Filey, where the grits are capped by a layer of Boulder Clay, and forming a long reef called the Brigg, along the northern side of the bay.
- 4.7 The geological layers of the borough and environs are summarised on the illustrative cross section overleaf and the solid and drift geology of the study area is shown on **Figure 4.1 and 4.2**, respectively.

⁹ Source: www.discoveryyorkshirecoast.com and Massey, CI (1969) *The Wood End Guide*; Wilson, V (1948) *British Regional Geology: East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire*



Above: Cross section showing the geological profile of Scarborough Borough and environs (derived from the East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Geological Memoir¹⁰)

Ecology

- 4.8 The Natural Areas associated with the study area are shown on **Figure 4.3**. Natural Areas are sub divisions of the country identified as unique by Natural England, on the basis of their wildlife, landform, geology, land use and human impact. They provide a way of interpreting ecological variations based on natural features, illustrating the distinction between one area and another, and as such remain a useful reference point.
- 4.9 The study area falls within the following Natural Areas:
- 4.10 **North York Moors and Hills¹¹**: Represented by a wide range of habitats and species, which respond to the variation in geology, topography and climate throughout the Natural Area. Open moorland habitats cover a significant area, which is of considerable importance for its vegetation and for its breeding birds. The upland plateau is dissected by valleys which support a range of important habitats, including fast-running, unpolluted rivers, broadleaved woodlands and bracken. The southern part of the Natural Area supports remnant species-rich limestone grassland and calcareous fens. In addition there are some large tracts of mature conifer plantation which are an important habitat for nightjar and goshawk. Species within these habitats include moorland and woodland birds, fish, otters, freshwater crayfish and other invertebrates. Geological interest is represented by good exposures of internationally important Jurassic strata and important fossil sites.
- 4.11 **Vale of Pickering¹²**: The Natural area acts as a drainage basin for the surrounding area, and is covered by drift deposits including fluvial and lacustrine clays, outwash sands and gravels, alluvium, and morainic drift. Widespread, large scale drainage and river engineering, as well as intensive farming have impacted on the natural distribution of habitats, however rivers remain a significant habitat and dominant influence of the Vale of Pickering. The character of rivers varies throughout, from the eutrophic, canalised River Hertford, to the meandering reaches of the middle Rye, and the lowland river character of the River Derwent. Much of the floodplain

¹⁰ Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 1948: British Regional Geology – East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire

¹¹ Source: Natural England, 1997: *North York Moors and Hills Natural Area Profile*

¹² Source: Natural England, 1997: *Vale of Pickering Natural Area Profile*

grassland in the Vale of Pickering has been improved by drainage, reseeding and fertiliser or herbicide treatments, however, there are some quite extensive areas of run-down or reverted riverside pasture, and occasional species-rich neutral grassland. Other important habitats include drainage ditches, small tributary streams, fen meadows and stands of swamp, still-water bodies, outwash sands and scattered small woods such as modern plantations or, in the west, game coverts. Although rare, carr woodland is an important habitat in the Natural Area, likely to have once been the predominant natural vegetation of the Natural Area.

- 4.12 **Yorkshire Wolds**¹³: The Yorkshire Wolds represent the northernmost chalk outcrop in Britain, forming the hills which stretch from the River Humber to Flamborough Head. The landscape is characterised by undulating hills, dissected by a network of deeply incised dry valleys, forming a characteristic chalk karst landscape. The Wolds are intensively cultivated with crops, however underlying geology and landform has a large influence on the habitats which characterise the Natural Area, including chalk grassland, spring-fed flushes, chalk streams and calcareous woodland. Chalk grassland were once the predominant habitat within the Natural area, now significantly reduced, it comprises a mosaic of plant communities, such as tall, tussocky grasslands dominated by tor-grass or upright brome, and short, herb-rich turf of well-grazed sheepwalks. Springs and flushes fed by calcareous groundwater occur in some of the valleys, on the scarp slopes, and along the coastline. Although standing water is scarce, dew ponds provide a characteristic feature. The landscape is sparsely wooded, however a small number of calcareous ash woods and ancient woods are of nature conservation importance. The area is important geologically with exposures through the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods, as well as evidence from more recent glacial sediments and landforms.

Key ecological habitats and initiatives

- 4.13 The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has identified the following Living Landscapes relevant to the borough. Living Landscapes are the basis or stepping stones of a connected ecological network, often defined as a result of being rich concentrations of cultural and naturalistic features.
- NY20: Scarborough Soft Cliffs
 - NY21: Cayton and Flixton Carrs
- 4.14 In addition the following key or priority habitats (for which habitat action plans have been prepared) are identified in the Scarborough Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – Woodland (including wet woodland, oak woodland, ash woodland, sallow/birch/reed woodland), lowland wood-pasture and parkland with ancient trees, ancient/species rich hedgerows, unimproved neutral grassland, calcareous and acidic grasslands, wetland, open water, coastal wetlands, coastal cliff mosaics and rivers/streams). The biodiversity and nature conservation context of the study area is shown on **Figure 4.3** (BAP Habitats, nature conservation designations).

Cultural and human influences

- 4.15 This summarises the key cultural events and influences which have had expression upon the landscape character of the borough. Aspects of the borough's cultural heritage are shown on **Figure 4.4**.

Neolithic and Bronze and Iron Ages (c 10,000 BC to AD 43)

- 4.16 The earliest settlement in the borough is found in the archaeological remains of the hunter gatherer community at Star Carr in the Vale of Pickering, which is also the earliest known settlement in the UK, and was established in the low marshy ground at the edge of the former Lake Flixton around 10,600BC. Numerous artefacts associated with the settlement have been conserved by the peat bogs which superseded the post glacial lakes, rendering this archaeologically rich site nationally rare and significant in these terms.

¹³ Source: Natural England, 1997: *Yorkshire Wolds Natural Area Profile*

Romano British and Anglo Saxon (AD 43-1066)

- 4.17 The harbour at Scarborough town has long been strategically important as a chief area of shelter between the rivers Humber and Tees, and this is evident in the discovery of Bronze Age and early Iron Age remains nearby. A Roman settlement was located on the cliffs near the present castle. The distinctive topography and the North York Moors foothills which formed a 'defensive arc' to the west of the town were also part of the original site selection for the settlement, and have also subsequently provided checks to the town's growth.
- 4.18 Whitby grew as a fishing harbour and whaling settlement around the estuarine banks of the River Esk. With the introduction of Christianity into Northumbria by Aidan in the Dark Ages came a phase of growth in the Anglo Saxon era. This related to the wider sense of prosperity brought by the coming of the monasteries to North Yorkshire, for example the foundation of St Hilda's Abbey on its prominent cliff top site at Whitby c 657 AD.
- 4.19 Whitby was subject to a number of attempted invasions by the Danes in this era, with attendant sackings/burnings and re-constructions. Its modern name bears etymological connections with the Vikings (ending in '-by').

Medieval (1066-1540)

- 4.20 The strategic importance of Scarborough's bay and headlands was reflected in the siting of the castle in the post conquest era (12th century) on the rocky promontory overlooking the harbour.
- 4.21 Large parts of the landscape of North Yorkshire (and mostly within the adjacent National Park) are the legacy of land management associated with the foundation of monastic orders including a number of large and wealthy Cistercian abbeys. This wealth also found expression in the rebuilding of St Hilda's Abbey at Whitby in the 13th century, whose starkly beautiful, much weathered early Gothic ruins continue to form a prominent element of the skylines along the coast and off shore (the shell of the abbey church was preserved after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540 as a landmark for shipping, although the central crossing tower and 'lantern' crumbled in 1830, taking with it much of the church's west end). The site is described by Pevsner as 'one of the most moving ruins of England' and inspired Bram Stoker when writing 'Dracula' in 1897.

Post medieval (1540-1800)

- 4.22 Much of the growth of Scarborough town and its later popularity as a resort, which continues to this day, stemmed from the discovery of mineral springs near the town in 1620, with the first cistern being constructed in 1698. During the Restoration period and in the early 18th century, the town developed as fashionable spa resort, frequented by Daniel Defoe and others. Until the building of the sea wall and associated re construction of the spa in its present form in the 19th century, the complex was vulnerable to the North Sea and to the elements, having been destroyed by the sea on several occasions.
- 4.23 Within the wider landscape towards the end of the period, the first Parliamentary Enclosures of the medieval strip field agricultural systems began to have expression on the rural landscape, radically changing its character.

Early modern (1800 to present day)

- 4.24 Parliamentary Enclosures continued to shape the landscape into the early 19th century, with common grazing lands divided and enclosed under Parliamentary Acts. Many features still characterising today's landscape are the legacy of Parliamentary Enclosure, such as hedges which were planted to enclose large, regular fields; new large, brick-built farmsteads which appear scattered across the open farmland, away from traditional villages and roads; and straight, wide drove roads which were developed with wide grass verges.
- 4.25 Seaside resorts developed in the 19th century around Whitby, Scarborough and Filey, and this was heightened by the development of railways which facilitated the expansion of these coastal resorts, such as the building of the Whitby to Pickering Railway by George Hudson in 1839, and the Scarborough to Whitby Railway which opened in 1885, both of which greatly increased the popularity of these seaside resorts as a tourist destination.

- 4.26 The extraction of minerals shaped parts of the landscape, particularly around Whitby. Whitby Jet¹⁴ has been extracted since the Bronze Age, however it reached its peak as a major industry in the mid-19th century (funereal or mourning jewellery) and continues to have very strong cultural associations in this area. Alum, used in tanning and dyeing, was a major industry of the area and was extracted from open quarries during the 19th century, altering the appearance of local landform along the coast, and influencing the development of villages, such as Sandsend.
- 4.27 Large scale drainage and river engineering has been undertaken since the 18th century, although more extensive throughout the 19th century, and it is this agricultural drainage network which has dramatically shaped the landscape of the Vale of Pickering. Flooded land was drained, and the River Derwent and River Hertford were both straightened, all of which resulted in the loss of wetland and the change in landscape character. Drainage continued throughout the 19th century and into the early 20th century when further Acts were passed, including the Land Drainage Act of 1930.
- 4.28 The late 20th century has seen further changes in the agricultural landscape, with post-war agricultural intensification leading to the removal of field boundaries, loss of hedgerow trees, conversion of pasture to arable use, and loss of habitats and species. Technological advances have also introduced further drainage measures, meaning more landscape can be cultivated. Drainage of the landscape has resulted in lowering of the water table, leaching of ochre and shrinkage of peat in places.
- 4.29 The latter part of the 20th century has also seen other large scale change in the borough which has had landscape expression, notably settlement expansion and telecommunications infrastructure.

Pressures for Change

- 4.30 The landscape of the borough is dynamic and ever changing. **Table 4.1** summarises changes acting on the character areas shown in **Figure 5.1 and 5.2**.

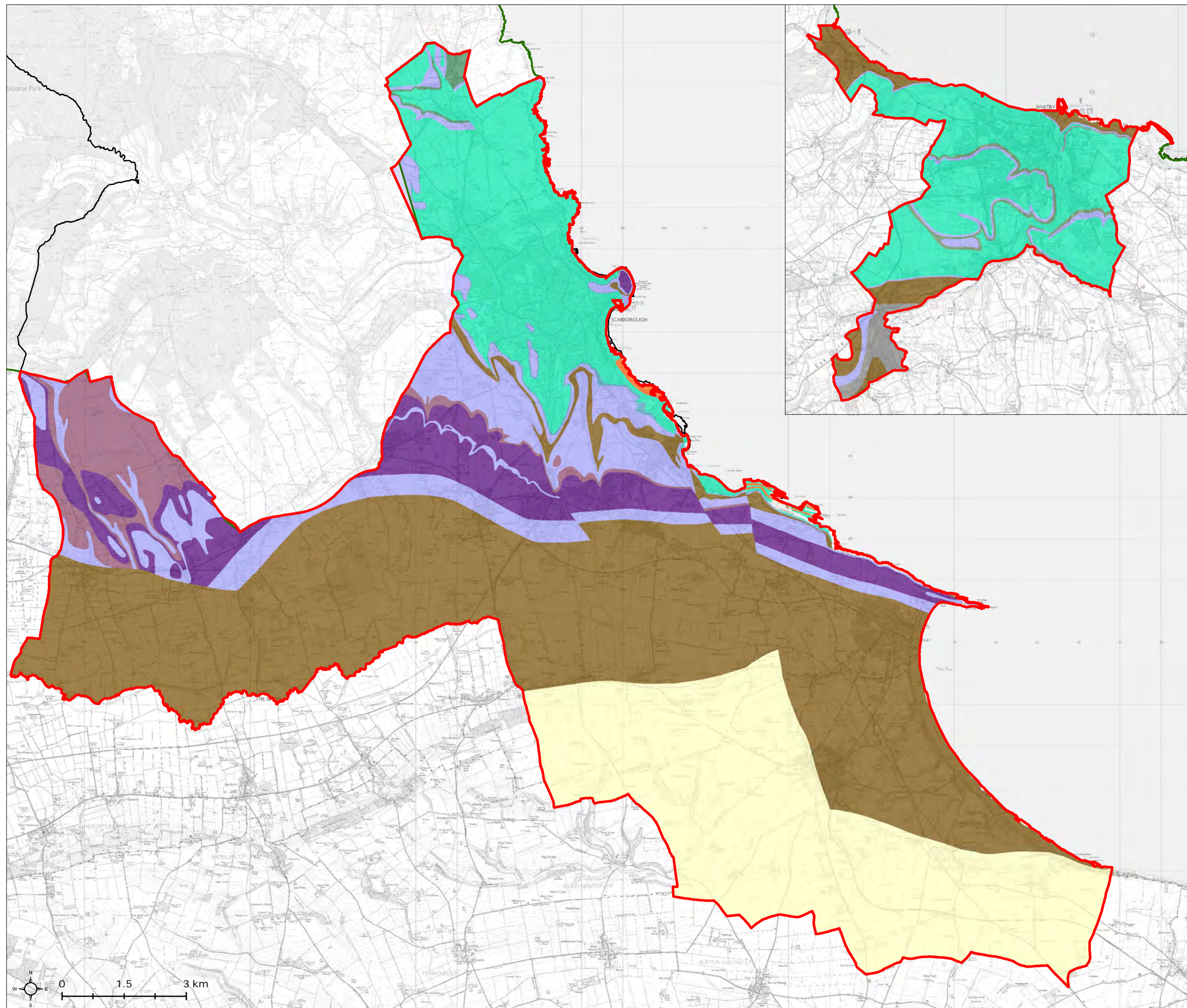
Table 4.1: Pressures for change acting on the landscape of the borough

Pressures for Change	LCAs predominantly under pressure
<p>Climate change</p> <p>Increased rainfall, periods of drought, and more frequent storm events, may result in changes in habitats, with some becoming lost or altered, thereby causing some species to migrate or become locally extinct. Changes in conditions may also affect farming, in terms of crop suitability, growing seasons, and availability of water/shade. In addition, increased intensity of storm events could cause loss and damage to trees, increased rainfall during winter could affect river flows and groundwater conditions which could intensify flooding, and increased summer droughts could lead to drying out of wetland habitats. All the changes will affect the character and appearance of the landscape. Drought could render chalk landscapes and associated habitats such as streams, grasslands and woodlands, vulnerable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All LCAs, but with specific reference to chalk landscapes south of the Vale of Pickering (e.g. chalk wolds landscape type C; dales landscapes south of the vale – landscape type B; escarpment landscapes – landscape type N)
<p>Agricultural change</p> <p>In addition to those effects highlighted above, economic pressures on farming, increased pressure for food production, modernisation/intensification, changes to land ownership and farm diversification, could result in an effect on the character and appearance of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All LCAs (and with particular reference to pig farming in the character areas in the Vale of Pickering – landscape type L)
<p>Coastal erosion</p> <p>Increased rates of sea cliff recession due to erosion or mass movement caused by rising sea levels and increased winter rainfall, will impact on coastal areas. Landslips associated with coastal slopes and cliff tops are a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G1 Whitby to Sandsend G2 Whitby Abbey G3 Long Nab to North Bay

¹⁴ Jet is an anaerobic fossil, used to create artefacts and items of jewellery.

Pressures for Change	LCAs predominantly under pressure
<p>known problem along parts of the coast.</p> <p>In some locations it will not be sustainable to continue to defend coastal areas, and others will require new defences, which will have an effect on the character and appearance of the landscape.</p> <p>Policy adopted in the Shoreline Management Plan, differs across the coastline. Specifically, at Sandsend the SMP2 recommends consideration of alternative routes for the coastal road rather than unnecessarily allowing further hard defence of the shoreline. At Whitby the policy remains to hold the line. Similarly, within North Bay and South Bay the policy again remains to hold the line. South of Scarborough, a policy of no active intervention is employed, and within Filey Bay the defence of Filey town is to be held, however further south within the Bay the SMP accepts the need to allow a natural retreat of the cliff line, with no active intervention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J1 South Bay and Cayton Bay • J2 Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs
<p>Tourism</p> <p>Continued pressure from tourism and recreation may lead to inappropriate development, increase in holiday development such as lodges, caravan sites, hotels, increased traffic, erosion along popular rights of way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1 Sandsend • D2 Whitby Abbey • D3 Scalby • D4 Leberston and Filey • D5 Hunmanby Moor to Speeton • F1 Esk • G1 Whitby to Sandsend • G2 Whitby Abbey • G3 Long Nab to North Bay • H1 Esk • I1 Whitby • J1 South Bay and Cayton Bay • J2 Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs • M1 Oliver's Mount
<p>Settlement and Development</p> <p>Continued demand for housing provision and associated growth, particularly along busy road corridors and around principal towns of Scarborough and Whitby. Increasing the size of settlements to accommodate the increased population will impact on the landscape character and local vernacular.</p> <p>Known development applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment development expansion south of Cayton • Residential development (170 homes) Larpool Lane, Whitby • Residential development (520 homes) High Mill Farm, Scalby • Residential development (1300 homes) Middle Deepdale, Scarborough • Residential development (170 homes) South Cayton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2 Whitby Abbey • D3 Scalby • D4 Leberston and Filey • D5 Hunmanby Moor to • E2 East Ayton • E3 Eastfield • F1 Esk • H1 Esk • I1 Whitby • K1 Snainton to Seamer • K2 Leberston to Gristhorpe • M1 Oliver's Mount
<p>Built communication infrastructure</p> <p>Improvements to road networks, an increase in traffic levels, as well as other built infrastructure such as telecom and mobile phone masts, overhead electricity line and telephone masts affect the character of a landscape, and reduce their sense of tranquillity.</p> <p>Flat and open landscapes, such as the Vale are vulnerable to built communication infrastructure, such as main roads, railway and overhead electricity supply. In addition, elevated open areas are vulnerable to telecom and mobile phone masts development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1 Folkton to Hunmanby • C2 Speeton • D1 Sandsend • D2 Whitby Abbey • D3 Scalby • D4 Leberston and Filey • D5 Hunmanby Moor to Speeton • E1 Sawdon • E2 East Ayton • E3 Eastfield • F1 Esk • H1 Esk • I1 Whitby • K1 Snainton to Seamer • K2 Leberston to Gristhorpe • L1 Snainton to Brompton

Pressures for Change	LCAs predominantly under pressure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 Wykeham Abbey • L3 Star and Flixton Carr • M1 Oliver's Mount
<p>Energy – wind, solar, biomass</p> <p>Increasing demand for energy development to meet national, regional and local energy targets, such as solar, biomass and wind. Introduction of these features will affect the character and appearance of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1 Folkton to Hunmanby • C2 Speeton • D1 Sandsend • D2 Whitby Abbey • D3 Scalby • D4 Leubberston and Filey • D5 Hunmanby Moor to Speeton • E1 Sawdon • E2 East Ayton • E3 Eastfield • H1 Esk • K1 Snainton to Seamer • K2 Leubberston to Gristhorpe • L1 Snainton to Brompton • L2 Wykeham Abbey • L3 Star and Flixton Carr
<p>Mineral/aggregates extraction</p> <p>There is likely to be some continued demand for resources of aggregates and other natural resources. Land at Wykeham Quarry (identified in the North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan of 1997) has an approved landscape restoration plan post operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1 Snainton to Brompton • L3 Star and Flixton Carr
<p>Current Initiatives</p> <p>A number of initiatives and strategies provide for positive change in the landscape, through the protection, conservation, management and enhancement of specific features in the region.</p> <p>Known initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cayton and Flixton Carrs Wetland Project Developing a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership bid for wetland areas within the eastern section of the Vale of Pickering, with the aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character - Increasing community participation in local heritage - Increasing access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage - Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills • Green Infrastructure and the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber: developing the evidence base The high level strategy aims to ensure that Green Infrastructure has a pro-active influence upon decisions regarding future locations for growth and development, through identifying components that should be regarded as being of strategic importance to the future growth and prosperity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1 Snainton to Brompton • L2 Wykeham Abbey • L3 Star and Flixton Carr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LCAs



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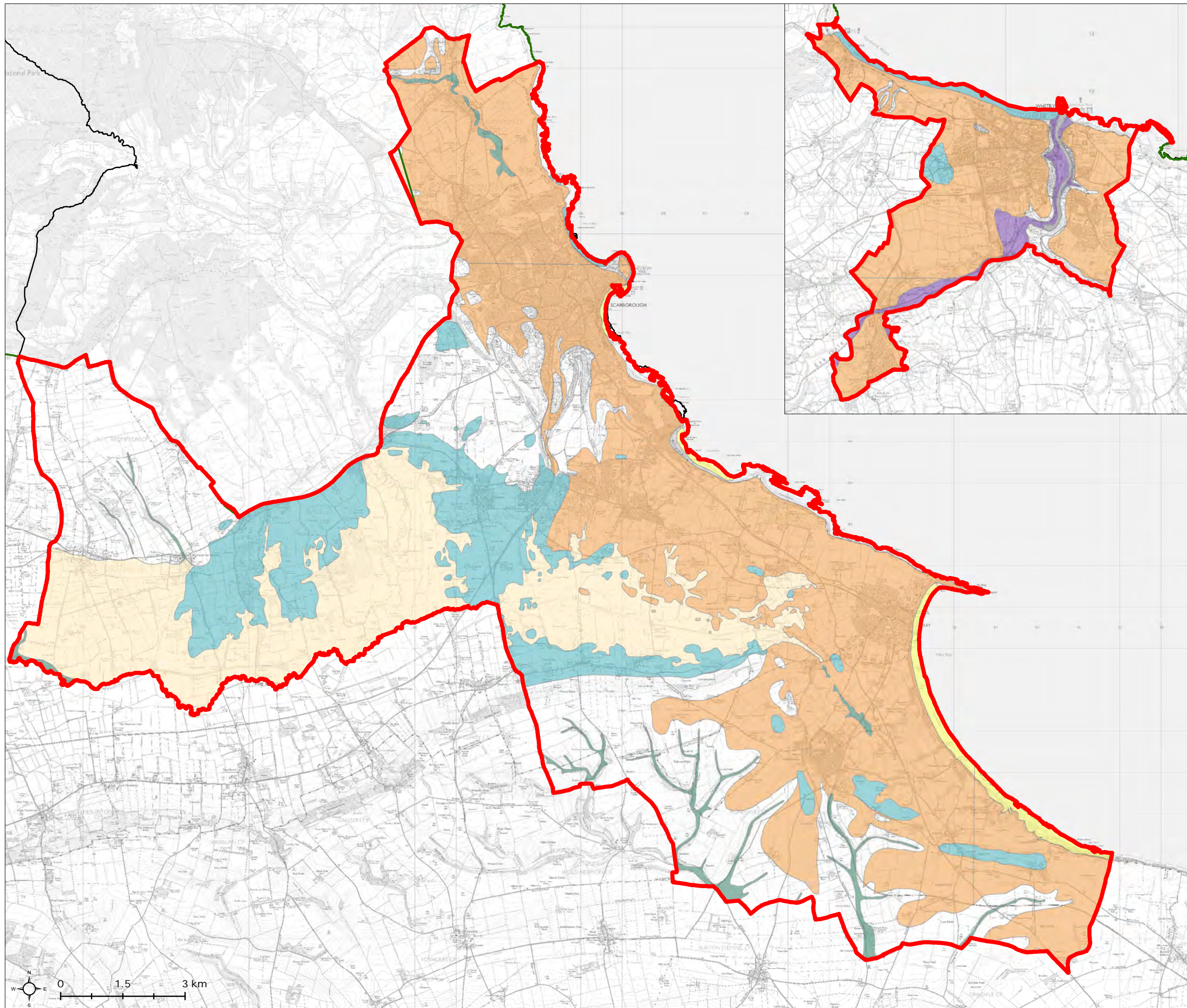
Figure 4.1

Bedrock Geology

- Study Area Boundary
- District Boundary
- North York Moors National Park
- Chalk
- Interbedded Limestone and Mudstone
- Interbedded Sandstone and (Subequal/Subordinate) Limestone
- Limestone and Calcareous Sandstone
- Mudstone
- Mudstone, Sandstone and Limestone
- Mudstone, Sandstone and Ironstone
- Ooidal Limestone
- Sandstone
- Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone

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Figure 4.2

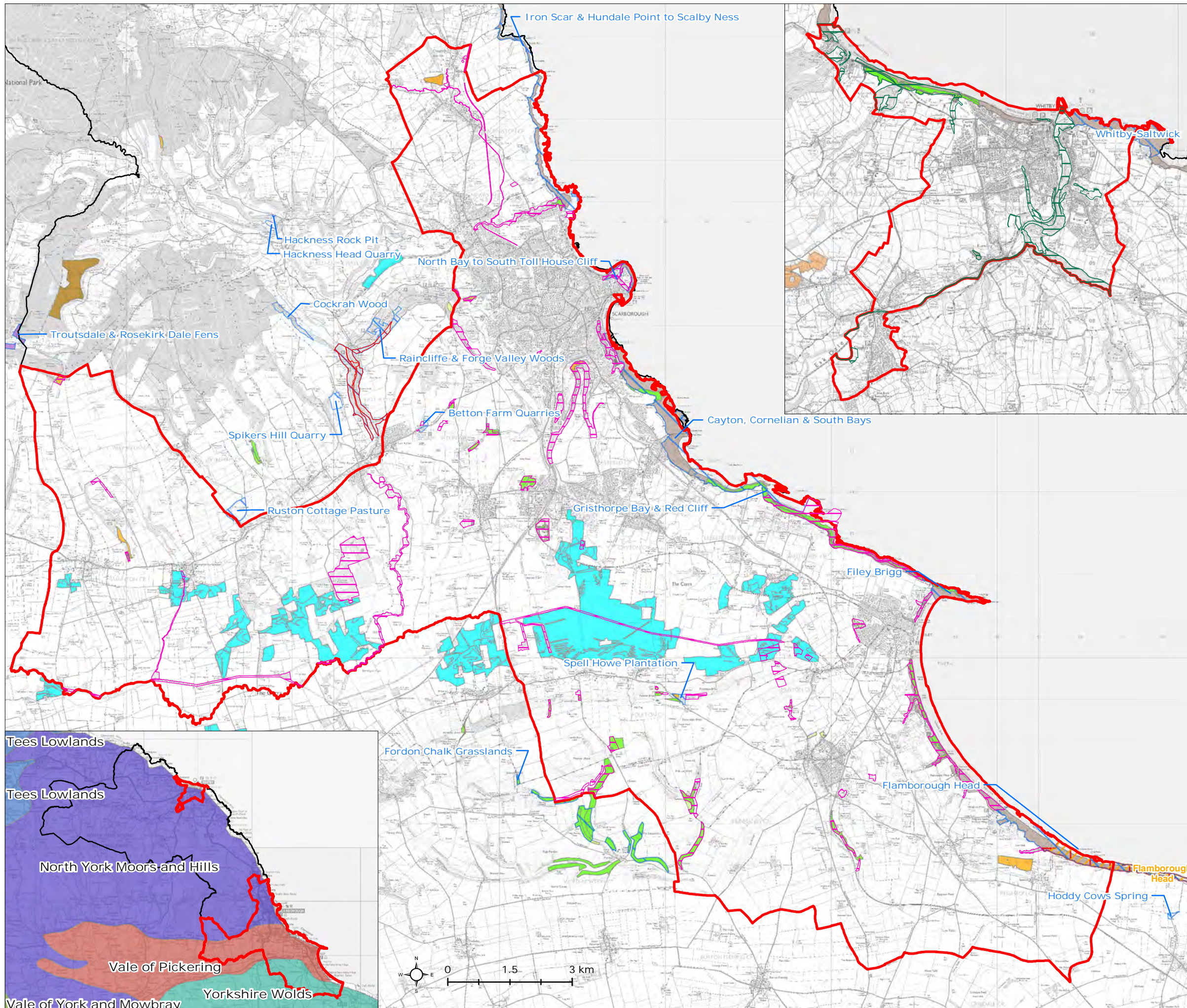
Superficial Geology

- Study Area Boundary
- North York Moors National Park
- District Boundary
- Clay, Silt and Sand
- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel
- Diamicton
- Sand
- Sand and Gravel
- Unknown/Unclassified Entry

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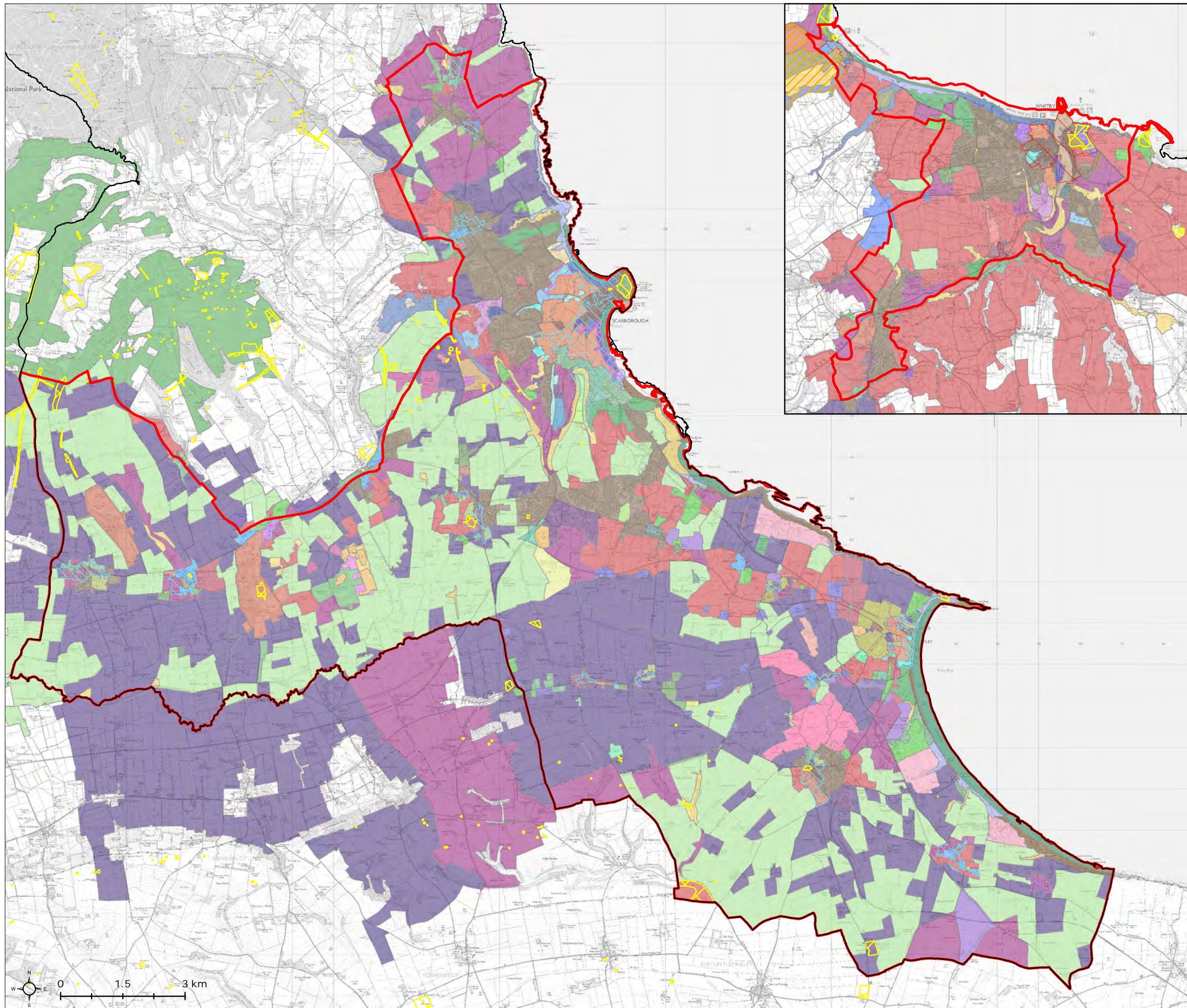
Figure 4.3

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Designations

- Study Area Boundary
 - Scarborough Borough
- Designations
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA)
 - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
 - National Nature Reserve (NNR)
 - x x Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- BAP Priority Habitats
- Blanket Bog
 - Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
 - Lowland Calcareous Grassland
 - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
 - Lowland Meadows
 - Maritime Cliff and Slope
 - Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture
 - Reedbeds
 - Saline Lagoons
 - Upland Calcareous Grassland
 - Upland Heathland

Map Scale @ A3: 1:90,000










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Figure 4.4

Historic Environment

-  Scarborough Borough
-  Study Area Boundary
-  SAM
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Conservation Areas as of 2010

Map Scale @ A3: 1:90,000

Inset Scale @ A3: 1:65,000



Historic Landscape Character Type

Allotments	Man made lake
Alum extraction	Medical active
Amusement park	Mixed commercial
Boat landing	Mixed plantation
Broad-leafed plantation	Modern improved fields
Bus station	Municipal cemetery
Business unidentified	Natural Lake
Caravan park	Nucleated hamlet
Church (general)	Nucleated village
Civil and municipal active	Nursery
Coastal cliffs	Open field
Coastal slopes	Pasture
College	Piecemeal enclosure
Communications	Planned estate
Coniferous plantation	Planned large scale parliamentary enclosure
Country estate	Playing fields
Covert	Private housing estate
Cricket ground	Public park
Crofts associated with settlement	Quarry aggregates
Detached housing	Quarry chalk
Early field system	Rail unidentified
Educational active	Railway station
Elite residence	Recreation centre
Estate village	Religious reused
Farm complex	Retail unidentified
Food processing	Reverted moorland
Gardens and pleasure grounds	Rocky foreshore
Golf course	Rubbish tip
Grange	Sands
Harbour	School
Historic town core	Semi detached housing
Holiday park	Sewerage Treatment Centre
Industrial Estate	Spa resort
Intake	Sports fields
Large scale private enclosure	Strip fields
Linear hamlet	Through terraces
Linear village	Unidentified parkland
Low rise flats	Unknown planned enclosure
Lowland intakes	asnw
Lynchets	asnw restocked

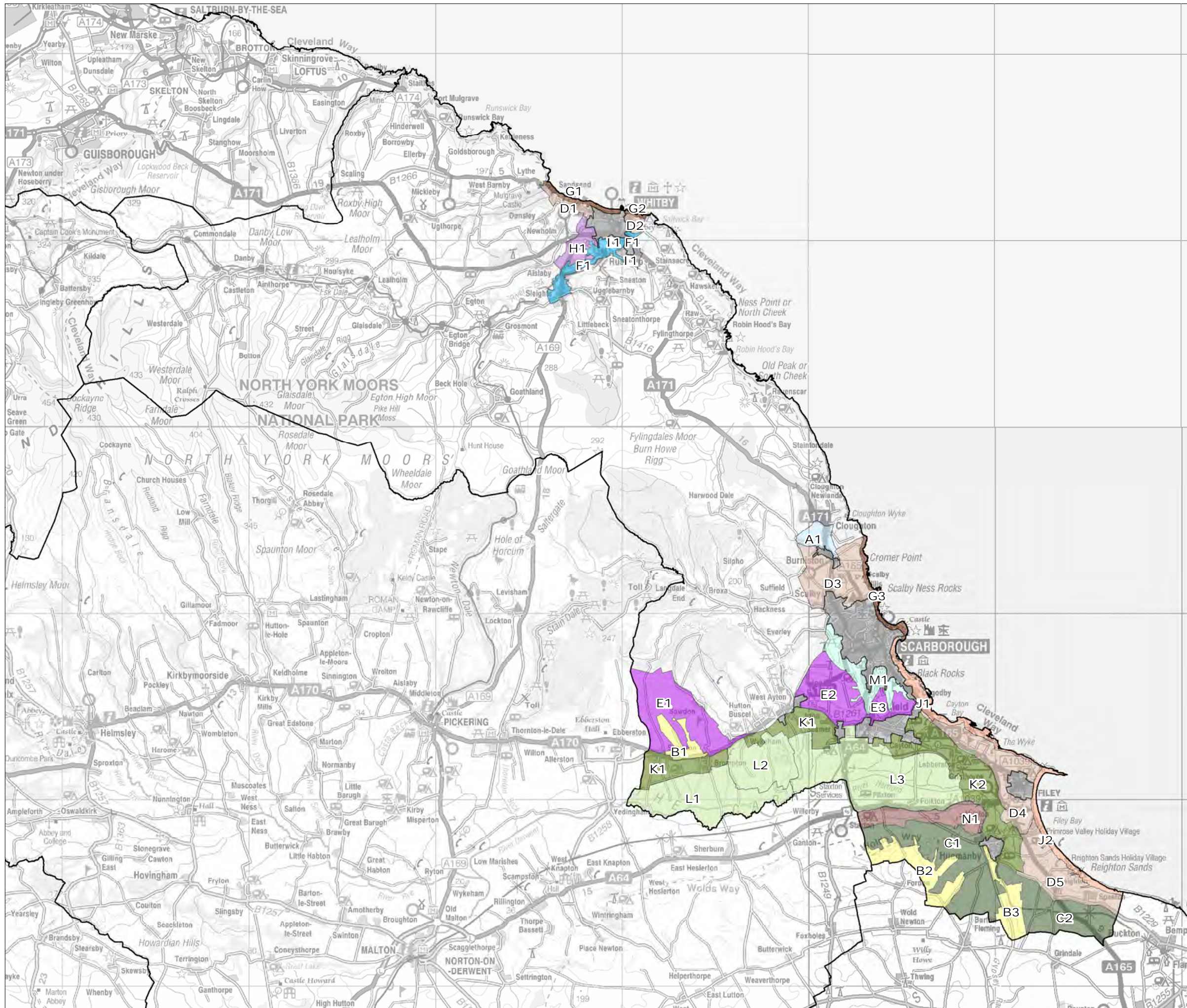
5 The landscape characterisation of Scarborough Borough

- 5.1 The landscape character of the Borough of Scarborough has been created by a combination of physical, historic, natural, social and economic processes. The diversity is recognised in the identification of **14 landscape types**, which fall within the study area, covering the landscape of the Borough which falls outside of the North York Moors National Park. Each of these landscape types has a distinct and relatively homogenous character with similar physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, land cover and historic evolution. The landscape types are further subdivided into component **landscape character areas**. The character areas are discrete geographic areas that possess the common characteristics described for the landscape type. Each character area has a distinct and recognisable local identity.
- 5.2 The landscape types and character areas which lie within the study area are set out in **Table 5.1**, and illustrated on **Figure 5.1 and 5.2**. Boundaries have been proofed as appropriate with those derived for LCAs undertaken for the National Park and the adjacent local authorities.

Table 5.1: The Scarborough Landscape Classification

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
A Becks	A1 Cloughton and Burniston
B Dales	B1 Wyedale to Brompton Dale
	B2 Lang Dale to South Dale
	B3 Bartin Dale and Hunmanby Dale
C Chalk Wolds	C1 Folkton to Hunmanby
	C2 Speeton
D Coastal Hinterland	D1 Sandsend
	D2 Whitby Abbey
	D3 Scalby
	D4 Lebberston and Filey
	D5 Hunmanby Moor to Speeton
E Tabular Foothills	E1 Sawdon
	E2 East Ayton
	E3 Eastfield
F River Valley	F1 Esk
G Coastal Cliffs	G1 Whitby to Sandsend

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
	G2 Whitby Abbey
	G3 Long Nab to North Bay
H Upper Valley Side	H1 Esk
I Settlement Fringe	I1 Whitby
J Soft Coastal Cliffs	J1 South Bay and Cayton Bay
	J2 Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs
K Vale Fringe	K1 Snainton to Seamer
	K2 Leubberston to Gristhorpe
L Vale	L1 Snainton to Brompton
	L2 Wykeham Abbey
	L3 Star and Flixton Carr
M Wooded Scarp	M1 Oliver's Mount
N Escarpment	N1 Flixton Brow to Muston



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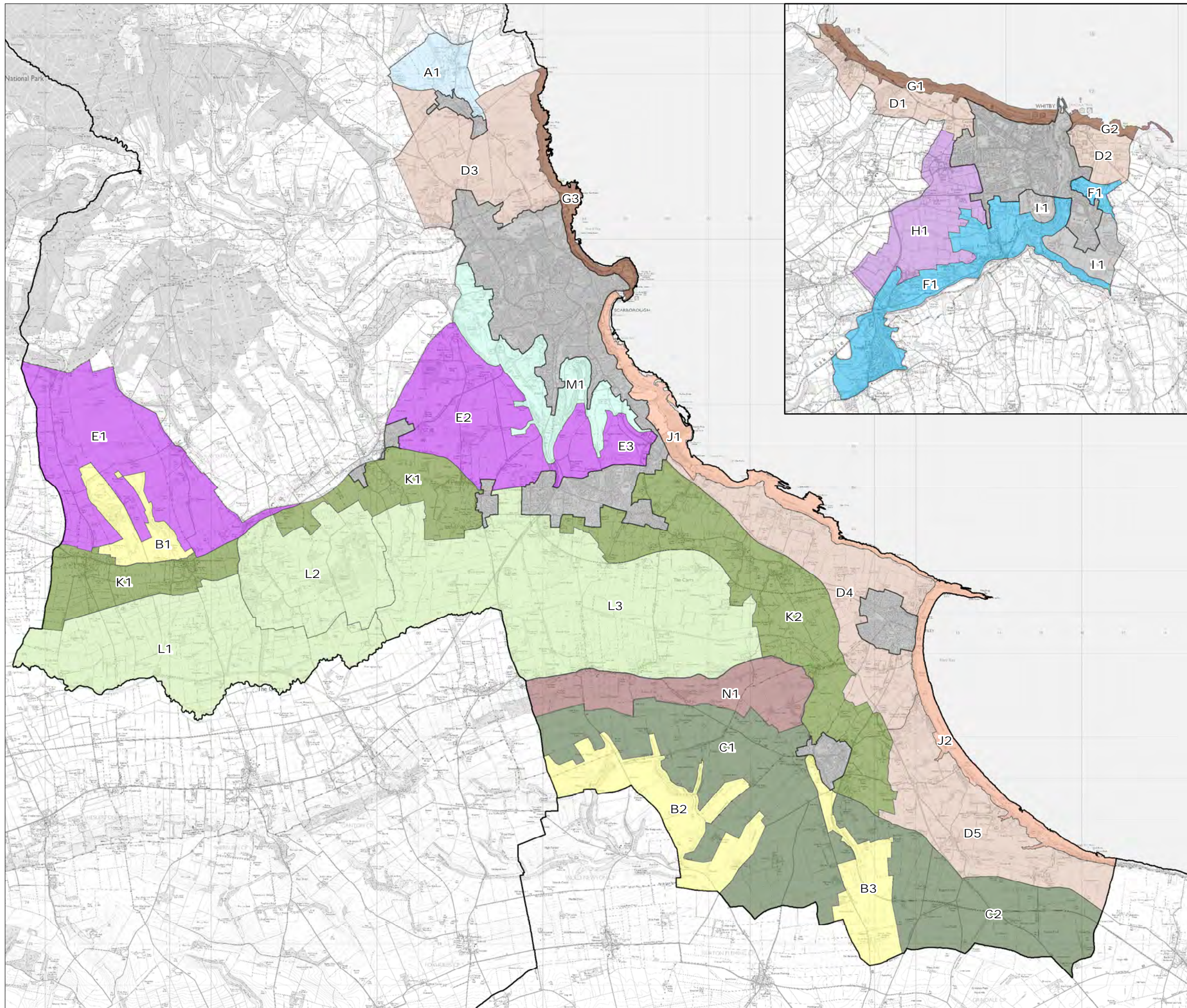
Figure 5.1

Landscape Characterisation of Scarborough Borough - Shown in Context

- District Boundary
- Urban Areas
- A - Becks
- B - Dales
- B1: Wyedale to Brompton Dale
- B2: Lang Dale to South Dale
- B3: Bartin Dale & Hunmanby Dale
- C - Chalk Wolds
- C1: Folkton to Hunmanby
- C2: Speeton
- D - Coastal Hinterland
- D1: Sandsend
- D2: Whitby Abbey
- D3: Scalby
- D4: Leberston & Filey
- D5: Hunmanby Moor to Speeton
- E - Tabular Foothills
- E1: Sawdon
- E2: East Ayton
- E3: Eastfield
- F - River Valley
- F1: Esk
- G - Coastal Cliffs
- G1: Whitby to Sandsend
- G2: Whitby Abbey
- G3: Long Nab to North Bay
- H - Upper Valley Side
- H1: Esk
- I - Settlement Fringe
- I1: Whitby
- J - Soft Coastal Cliffs
- J1: South Bay and Cayton Bay
- J2: Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs
- K - Vale Fringe
- K1: Snainton to Seamer
- K2: Leberston to Gristhorpe
- L - Vale
- L1: Snainton to Brompton
- L2: Wykeham Abbey
- L3: Star and Flixton Carrs
- M - Wooded Scarp
- M1: Oliver's Mount
- N - Escarpment
- N1: Flixton Brow to Muston

Map Scale @ A3: 1:200,000





Scarborough LCA

Figure 5.2

Landscape Characterisation of Scarborough Borough

- District Boundary
- Urban Areas
- A - Becks
- A1: Cloughton & Burniston
- B - Dales
- B1: Wyedale to Brompton Dale
- B2: Lang Dale to South Dale
- B3: Bartin Dale & Hunmanby Dale
- C - Chalk Wolds
- C1: Folkton to Hunmanby
- C2: Speeton
- D - Coastal Hinterland
- D1: Sandsend
- D2: Whitby Abbey
- D3: Scalby
- D4: Leberston & Filey
- D5: Hunmanby Moor to Speeton
- E - Tabular Foothills
- E1: Sawdon
- E2: East Ayton
- E3: Eastfield
- F - River Valley
- F1: Esk
- G - Coastal Cliffs
- G1: Whitby to Sandsend
- G2: Whitby Abbey
- G3: Long Nab to North Bay
- H - Upper Valley Side
- H1: Esk
- I - Settlement Fringe
- I1: Whitby
- J - Soft Coastal Cliffs
- J1: South Bay and Cayton Bay
- J2: Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs
- K - Vale Fringe
- K1: Snainton to Seamer
- K2: Leberston to Gristhorpe
- L - Vale
- L1: Snainton to Brompton
- L2: Wykeham Abbey
- L3: Star and Flixton Carrs
- M - Wooded Scarp
- M1: Oliver's Mount
- N - Escarpment
- N1: Flixton Brow to Muston

Map Scale @ A3: 1:90,000

Inset Scale @ A3: 1:65,000



Character Type A: Becks

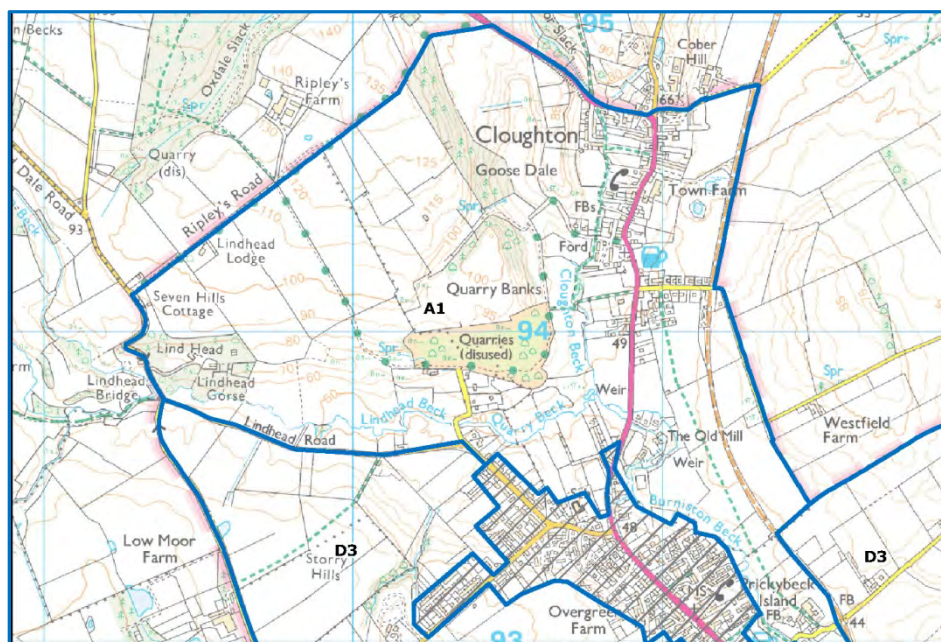
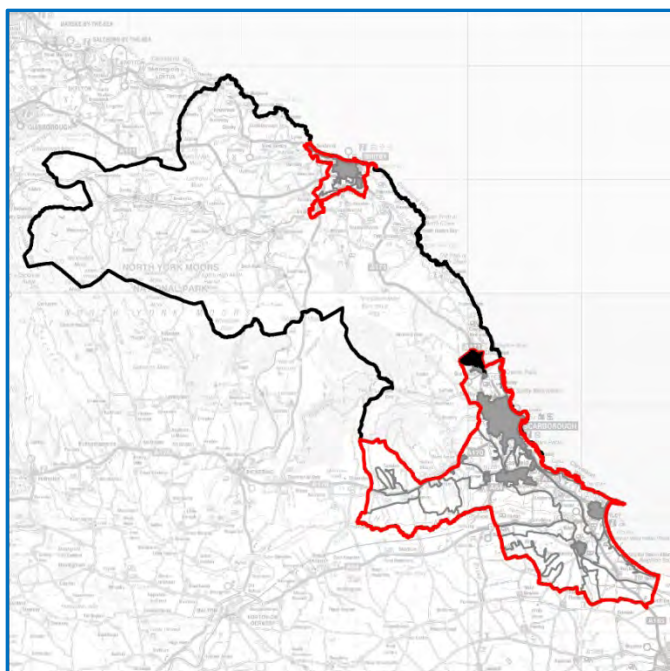
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A highly undulating, complex and hummocky terrain, which is incised by minor watercourses or becks, exposing a varied underlying geology.
- Small scale fields dominated by grazing, pasture and paddocks, and interspersed with blocks of woodland or groups of trees, and delineated by a dense network of hedgerows and trees. Some interspersed fields of arable cultivation.
- Intricate winding becks form important landscape features and habitat corridors, lined by dense riparian vegetation and trees.
- Sparse, dispersed settlement, with small occasional small historic villages, with a strong sense of identity and rural character.
- An intimate and tranquil landscape resulting from the small scale field pattern, dense hedgerows and interspersed woodland, varied complex topography, intricate network of becks, and few overt human interferences.
- A varying degree of enclosure, with views typically short range across fields to wooded edges. Occasional longer views from open, elevated perspectives.
- Localised movement and visual interruptions associated with occasional road corridors and settlement. Overall few visual and audible interruptions.

Constituent LCAs

- A1 Cloughton and Burniston

Character area A1: Cloughton & Burniston



Character area A1: Cloughton & Burniston

Location and boundaries

- 5.3 This is a small area which abuts the south eastern edge of the North York Moors National Park. The area is defined on the north, east and western boundaries by this protected landscape and characterised by the complex undulating terrain and intimate mosaic of farmland and woodland which continues outside of these boundaries. The character of the landscape is comparable to the character of the landscape within the North York Moors National Park, with a diversity of landscape, areas of dense woodland and locally distinctive buildings and building materials. The south is defined by the settlement edge of Burniston and the flatter, lower lying landscape of the adjacent hinterland.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A varied geology of underlying bedrock of sandstone, mudstone and siltstone, overlain predominantly by glacial Till, cut by several minor watercourses or becks and previously subject to quarrying activities, which has resulted in a highly undulating, complex and hummocky terrain.
- Small scale fields dominated by grazing and pasture paddocks, often irregular in shape, and interspersed with blocks of woodland or groups of trees. Fields are delineated by a dense network of hedgerows and trees. A number of large regular shaped fields in the north west are under arable cultivation.
- Intricate winding becks pass through farmland and form important landscape features and habitat corridors, often lined by dense riparian vegetation and trees.
- A disused quarry (Quarry Banks) now contains an important hillside mosaic of calcifuge vegetation, which is recognised for lowland dry acid grassland BAP Priority habitats, and forms part of Goose Dale & Quarry Banks SINCS.
- The small linear village of Cloughton follows the line of the A171, and covers a significant part of the eastern edge of the character area. The village has a strong identity, with a historic core and vernacular buildings. Elsewhere settlement density is very low, with occasional scattered properties in the south.
- The small scale field pattern with dense hedgerows and interspersed woodland, varied complex topography and intricate network of becks, together with few overt human interferences, results in an intimate and tranquil landscape.
- The settlement of Cloughton and the A171 in the east introduces localised movement and visual interruptions, however the settlement has a strong rural character and is well integrated within the surrounding landscape. Elsewhere there are few visual and audible interruptions.
- A varying degree of enclosure, with views typically short range across fields to wooded edges. There are occasional longer views out from the north west, across open fields to lower lying land in the south and to the surrounding National Park.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.4 A hummocky, undulating landscape which is underlain by sandstone, siltstone and mudstone from the Jurassic period, and overlain predominantly by Till, with some alluvium deposits in the south. The landform descends in a south easterly direction and is incised by the Lindhead Beck and

Quarry Beck in the south west, and Cloughton Beck centrally, all of which feed into Burniston Beck in the south east. A disused quarry (Quarry Banks) is located in the centre of the area, and comprises uneven ground which is today covered by a significant area of woodland. All of the features together combine to form a highly varied landform, with a variety of both steep and gentle slopes.

- 5.5 Quarry Banks now contains an important area of woodland, which is also recognised for lowland dry acid grassland BAP Priority habitats, which forms a hillside mosaic of calcifuge vegetation. This area also falls within Goose Dale & Quarry Banks SINC.
- 5.6 The landscape comprises a mosaic of farmland and woodland. The majority of the landscape is composed of small scale fields, often irregular in form and typically used for grazing and pasture. Fields are lined by dense hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and interspersed with blocks of woodland or scattered groups of trees. There are a number of intricate winding becks within the character area, which form important landscape features and habitat corridors, often lined by dense riparian vegetation and trees. Lindhead Beck is particularly wooded. These water courses pass through farmland, and add to the irregular form of field patterns. Larger, regular shaped fields under arable use in the north west, are delineated by low hedgerows with limited tree cover.



Highly undulating topography



Densely wooded landscape

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.7 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that much of the landscape is of unknown planned enclosure, consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular or regular pattern. An area of piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern is located to the south east of Quarry Bank. There are two significant areas of broad-leaved plantation, and an area of mixed plantation, the latter of which covers the disused quarry of Quarry Banks.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.8 The eastern side of the character area is more densely settled, with the small linear village of Cloughton dispersed along the A171, and the edge of Burniston spreading into the south. The majority of Cloughton falls within the character area, with the northern edge in the North York Moors National Park. Cloughton is a Conservation Area, and it has a strong sense of place and vernacular. The buildings are largely built from Jurassic sandstone, which has been locally quarried; the oldest buildings are The Blacksmith's Arms (late 17th century but much altered), the Manor House with a date stone 1733 and the dovecot at Cloughton Hall also probably 17th century. Elsewhere within the landscape, settlement density is very low, with a scattering of properties in the south. The area is largely devoid of roads, with transport corridors limited to the boundaries of the character area.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.9 The highly undulating topography, dense hedgerows with hedgerow trees, woodland clumps, and small intricate becks all contribute to an intimate scale and secluded character. Settlement stretches along the A171 in the east and introduces localised movement and visual interruptions, however the settlement of Cloughton maintains rural character and is well integrated within the

surrounding landscape. Elsewhere there is little settlement or traffic, and a strong sense of rural tranquillity prevails. The mosaic landscape of farmland and woodland, together with the variable terrain, provides changeable levels of enclosure and openness, from small open fields to densely vegetated water courses and small woodlands. There are a number of local footpaths which wind through the landscape and provide access into the surrounding National Park landscape.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.10 The degree of enclosure varies throughout the area, with views changing from long vistas across open elevated fields, particularly in the north west, to more enclosed and broken views elsewhere, which are often limited by varying topography and vegetation cover. This adds interest and intrigue to the landscape character. There is a strong visual connection with the surrounding National Park which abuts the character area on all but the southern boundary.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Intricate and complex terrain, which creates an interesting and strong identity, and an intimate and tranquil character.
- Intimate, small scale field pattern, interspersed with woodland or groups of trees, and lined by dense hedgerow boundaries.
- Important habitat features including becks, woodland, network of hedgerow and trees and hillside mosaic of calcifuge vegetation at Quarry Bank which is recognised for lowland dry acid grassland BAP Priority habitats, and forms part of Goose Dale & Quarry Banks SINC.
- The strong vernacular of the village of Cloughton and its setting within the surrounding landscape. The low density of settlement elsewhere.

Visual sensitivities

- A varying degree of enclosure.
- Views typically short range across fields to wooded edges.
- Occasional longer views out from the north west, across open fields to lower lying land in the south and to the surrounding National Park. Strong visual connection with this protected landscape.

Past change in the landscape

- Small scale quarrying and extraction of sandstone.
- Linear settlement and road development along the eastern part of the character area.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.11 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the rural and peaceful character formed by the enclosed mosaic of farmland, woodland, dales and parkland character and the incised becks. Conserve the landscape's role as part of the setting to the National Park. Maintain the intimate, intact and tranquil nature of the landscape, which contribute to a strong sense of identity.

Character Type B: Dales

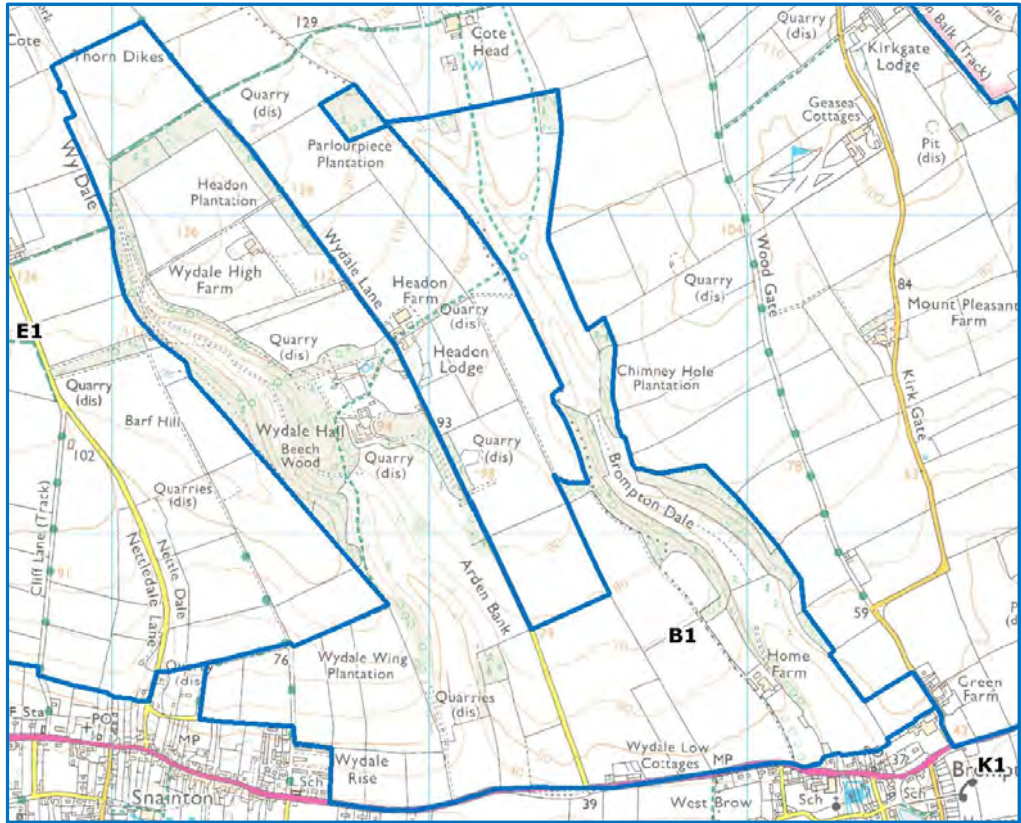
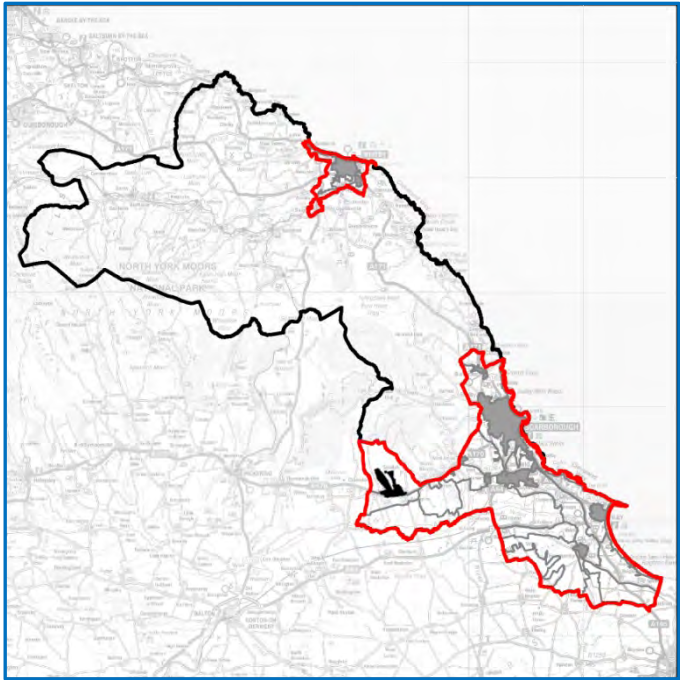
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Bedrock has been dissected by a network of dry valleys, to form a rolling and varied terrain of intimate dales.
- Land cover comprises a mosaic of farmland fields of both arable and rough grazing/pasture farmland, often interspersed with woodland which covers the upper slopes of the dales.
- In areas where chalk is evident, this gives rise to thin calcareous soils which support distinctive chalk grassland communities, which are often dominated by arable farmland.
- A sparsely settled landscape, with occasional scattered farmsteads along minor rural tracks.
- Occasional historical interest, such as scheduled (ancient) monuments, and country/manor houses set within extensive designed landscapes.
- An intricate, tranquil and deeply rural character, which results from the undulating topography, woodland cover and few built structures. A strong sense of intactness particularly along the valley form.
- A varying degree of enclosure, with views often channelled and filtered by dale landform and woodland, contrasting with longer views from open farmland and upper reaches of the valley sides.

Constituent LCAs

- B1 Wyedale to Brompton Dale
- B2 Lang Dale to South Dale
- B3 Bartin Dale and Hunmanby Dale

Character area B1: Wydale to Brompton Dale



Character area B1: Wydale to Brompton Dale

Location and boundaries

- 5.12 This area is a discrete area of dry valleys and dales bounded and encircled by limestone tabular hills to the north and overlooking the westernmost reaches of the Vale of Pickering to the south. The area does not fall within any landscape designations, although the North York Moors National Park lies less than 1km to the west.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

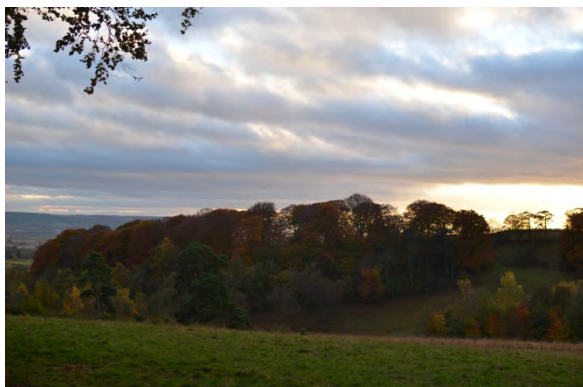
- The dry valleys of Wydale and Brompton Dale have been formed by former glacial meltwater action, which has exposed alternate layers of bedrock from the Coralline Oolite Formation, comprising interbedded sandstone and limestone, which have resulted in a highly undulating and varied terrain.
- Land cover comprises a mosaic of farmland fields of both arable and rough grazing/pasture farmland and estate parkland at Wydale Hall, interspersed with woodland which often covers the upper slopes of the dales.
- Woodland provides a valuable habitat and ecological interest, with Wydale Hall Beech Wood and Heaton Plantation both recognised as SINCs, and two areas of broadleaved plantation along the upper slopes of Brompton Dale.
- Wydale Hall, a Grade II listed 18th century country house is set within an extensive designed landscape, with formal gardens, parkland, a small pond and woodland, and covers a significant proportion of Wydale.
- A highly sparsely settled landscape, with two individual farmsteads, Whydale Hall, and one minor rural road which passes through the character area. The A170 runs along the southern boundary and settlement edges of Snainton and Brompton-by-Sawdon forms the south west and south east boundaries respectively.
- An intricate, tranquil and deeply rural character, which results from the highly undulating topography, woodland cover and few built structures. A strong sense of intactness particularly along the dales.
- The A170 and settlement edge of Snainton and Brompton-by-Sawdon to the south introduces localised audible and visual impact on the more open character which prevails in the south.
- A varying degree of enclosure, with views limited by topography and woodland and channelled along dales, contrasting with longer views out from open farmland, particularly in the south, and from upper reaches of the valley sides, across the Vale of Pickering.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.13 Topography comprises a smoothly rolling, and in places deeply incised, enclosed landscape which forms the Wydale and Brompton Dale. The underlying geology of the area forms part of the Coralline Oolite Formation, with alternate layers of sandstone and limestone. Dry valleys have been formed from former glacial meltwater action, which once drained into the Vale of Pickering, and which has carved into the Coralline Oolite Formation exposing the interbedded layers of bedrock, creating the highly undulating landform which is evident today. Along these valley bottoms superficial alluvium deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel are found. The landscape comprises a mosaic of farmland fields, with both arable and rough grazing/pasture farmland,

which is interspersed with dense blocks and linear sections of woodland, often stretching along the upper slopes of the dales. Wydale Hall and grounds lie within the character area which introduces an estate parkland character, with grazing fields enclosed by woodland and scattered with parkland trees. Woodland provides a valuable habitat and ecological interest, with Wydale Hall Beech Wood and Heaton Plantation both recognised as SINCS.



Undulating, incised beck valley with steep wooded slopes



Dense, mature woodland adds ecological and visual interest

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.14 The majority of Wydale is recognised by the historic landscape characterisation (HLC) as forming part of Wydale Hall, which is Grade II listed house dating back to the 18th century, and is set within an extensive designed landscape, with formal gardens, parkland, a small pond and woodland. It has significant legibility with little change since 1850, and it is now used as a Diocesan conference centre.
- 5.15 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that much of Brompton Dale is shaped by unknown planned enclosure consisting of medium fields in a semi-irregular pattern, with two areas of broad-leaved plantation on the upper slopes.
- 5.16 On the southern part of the character area on lower lying sloping landform, the landscape has been shaped by a mix of modern improved¹⁵ fields consisting of large fields in a regular pattern, Parliamentary Enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a regular pattern, both with a varying degree of boundary loss.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.17 Settlement is highly sparse, with only two individual farmsteads located in the character area; one at the northern end of Wydale and the other at the southern end of Brompton Dale. Wydale Hall is also located within the landscape, nestled within the valley bottom and surrounded by woodland. Wydale Hall is an 18th century country house, which today is used as a retreat and conference centre of the Church of England's Diocese of York. A narrow rural road passes along the upper slope of Wydale, and provides access to Wydale Hall and Wydale High Farm, which is lined by wide grass road side verges, hedgerows and often large mature trees creating an enclosed and intimate character. There are no other public roads that cross the landscape. The busy A170 forms the southern boundary of the character area, and the settlements of Snainton and Brompton-by-Sawdon fringe the landscape in the south western and south eastern corners, respectively. The features introduce localised impacts on the southern extent of the character area, which is more open.

¹⁵ Term taken from Scarborough HLC



Small rural tracks lined by wide grass verges and hedgerows

Perception and experience of the landscape

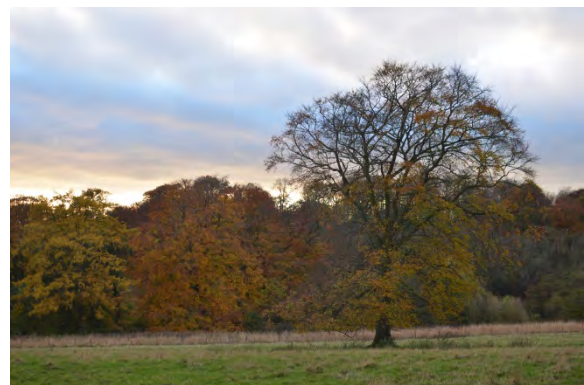
- 5.18 The highly undulating and intricate topography, with dense hedgerows with hedgerow trees and woodland all contribute to an intimate scale and secluded character. The absence of settlement or built structures maintains a deeply rural and tranquil character. The mosaic landscape of farmland and woodland, together with the variable terrain, provides changeable levels of enclosure and openness, from open fields to densely wooded dales. The landscape has a strong sense of intactness, particularly within the valleys and woodland which provides rich seasonal colour and interest. There is also a strong historic parkland character associated with Wyedale Hall, which contributes to the intact quality of the area. Despite the small size of the character area, there are several local public rights of way through the landscape.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.19 The degree of enclosure varies throughout the area, with views often contained by topography and woodland and channelled linearly by the dale landform. There are some long vistas from open fields and from elevated dale sides, with long views across the Vale of Pickering to the south. Views north are limited by rising topography. The change in views which results from the variation in topography and vegetation adds interest and intrigue to the landscape character.



Long views south from upper slopes, across the lower lying vale landscape



Dense woodland occasionally limits and filters views out of the character area

5.20

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Intricate, undulating terrain.
- Mosaic of farmland, estate parkland and woodland which creates a strong rural identity.
- Valuable habitat and ecological interest, in particular associated with woodland, some of which are recognised as SINC.
- Wydale Hall, a Grade II listed 18th century country house with extensive designed landscape, which contributes to a strong sense of place and historical time depth.
- Very limited built form, with only two individual farmsteads, Whydale Hall, and one minor rural road within the character area.
- The strong sense of intactness particularly along the dales, tranquillity, varying degree of enclosure and secluded character.

Visual sensitivities

- Contrast in views, with short, intimate views along dales and contained by topography and woodland, in contrary to longer views out from open farmland, particularly in the south, and from upper reaches of the valley sides, across the Vale of Pickering.

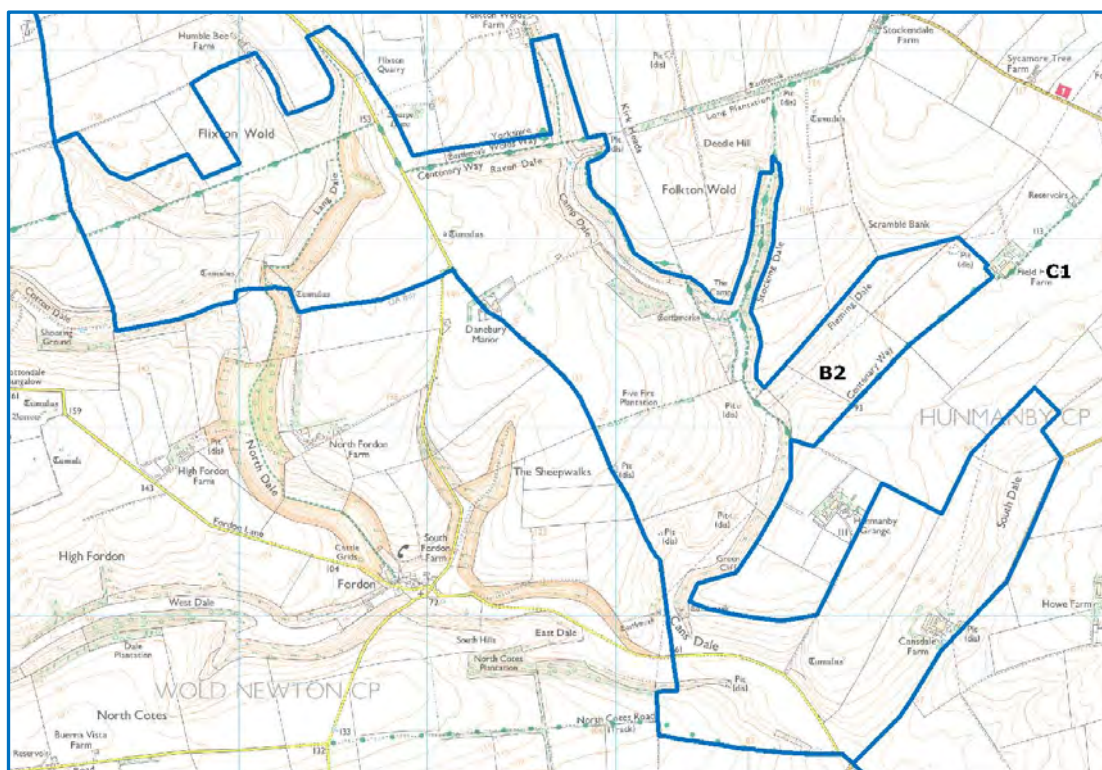
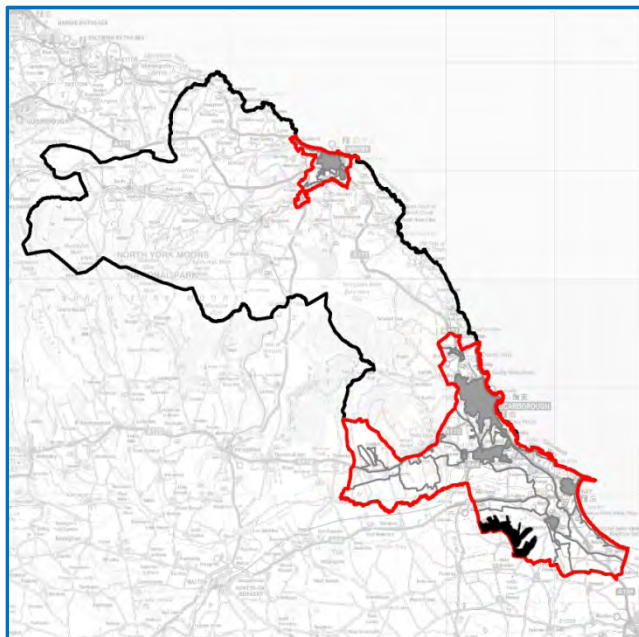
Past change in the landscape

- Some 20th century development of planned Parliamentary enclosure and modern enclosure, resulting in the loss of field boundaries.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.21 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the rural and peaceful character formed by the enclosed mosaic of farmland, woodland, becks, and rural settlement. Also, to maintain the intimate and small scale nature of the landscape, and the integration of the settlement of Cloughton, which contributes to a strong sense of identity.

Character area B2: Lang Dale to South Dale



Character area B2: Lang Dale to South Dale

Location and boundaries

- 5.22 This area covers the network of dales which lie to the south of the Folkton Wold landscape and on the southern edge of the Borough boundary. This area encompasses a number of small dales, namely Lang Dale, Raven Dale, Stocking Dale, Camp Dale, Fleming Dale, Cam Dale and South Dale.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- An elevated, rolling chalk wold landform, whereby bedrock has been dissected by a network of dry valleys, which gives rise to a varied landform of enclosed intimate dales.
- Chalk landscape gives rise to thin calcareous soils, which are dominated by arable fields. Some areas of broadleaved woodland are situated along dale sides.
- The chalk soils support distinctive chalk grassland communities, with three significant areas of lowland calcareous grassland.
- A sparsely settled landscape, with only one property and one minor road which passes through the character area.
- A largely enclosed landscape which contrasts with more open upland areas. A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, with a deeply rural character.
- A relatively large number of footpaths including the Centenary Way and Yorkshire Wolds Way long distance footpaths.
- Typically confined views along dales and influenced by the changing direction of the landform. Some long views are available from upper slopes and open rolling landform in between.
- A number of scheduled ancient monuments including Elf Howe round barrow, two round barrows west of Danebury Manor and a group of circular and rectangular enclosures, near Cansdale Whin.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.23 Topography is varied with narrow enclosed dales incising the more gently rolling Wolds landscape which continues to the north and east. The landform is smoothly rolling, even where dale sides are steeply inclined. The underlying chalk geology of the area was laid down during the Cretaceous period and has been dissected by the network of incised dry valleys, which gives rise to the undulating landform. More recent sand and gravel deposits line the chalk dale floors. The underlying bedrock results in typical thin calcareous soils, which are well drained and easily cultivated, and as a result the area is largely dominated by arable fields. In some places the landscape is intensively farmed but it also comprises dense areas of woodland, which are typically found along dale sides, such as Stocking Dale. The soils also support distinctive chalk grassland communities, with three areas of lowland calcareous grassland (BAP Priority Habitats), all of which are recognised SINCs, namely Land Dale / Nicker Pit System, Stocking Dale and Can Dale remaining on steeper dale side slopes.



Smoothly rolling dale landform

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.24 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the principal historic landscape processes acting on the landscape are predominately modern improvement¹⁶ of fields. The area consists of large scale fields in a semi-irregular pattern with some fragmented legibility and boundary loss. In the west a large area of the landscape is of unknown planned enclosure, again consisting of large fields in a semi-irregular pattern, with partial legibility. The upper reaches of the dales consist of areas of parliamentary enclosure, with medium sized fields defined by straight hedgerow boundaries with little boundary loss. Some of these areas date to the Folkton/Flixton enclosure act of 1806 and it is clear that in the early 20th century Flixton Wold has continued to be enclosed. At Stocking Dale a large area of broad-leaved plantation occupies the valley, which was probably once part of an area of moorland. A number of scheduled (ancient monuments are scattered throughout the landscape, including Elf Howe round barrow, two round barrows north west of Danebury Manor and a group of circular and rectangular enclosures, near Cansdale Whin.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.25 This is a very sparsely settled landscape with only one property situated within the area, Cansdale Farm. Cansdale Farm is located next to a small pond; across the wider area the absence of surface water is characteristic. This character area lies within the Yorkshire Wolds landscape, and typically settlement often nestled in valleys or hollows, to make use of the limited supply of water within this dry landscape. One minor road cuts through the character area.



Sparsely settled landscape

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.26 A relatively enclosed landscape, comprising a succession of narrowly incised dales. Despite occasional steep slopes the landscape is defined by a smoothly rolling texture, with the dominance of open arable fields emphasising this quality. The varied topography which changes from tightly enclosed valleys, some of which are densely wooded, contrasts with the open more

¹⁶ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

elevated upland areas, which continue into the wold landscape to the north. The sparse settlement and lack of roads or other overt built features, creates a highly tranquil and remote landscape, with a deeply rural character. The variations of topography with dales that twist through the landscape create a sense of intrigue and mystery. Although largely inaccessible by road, there are a number of footpaths which pass through the landscape, and wind through the dales, including the Centenary Way and Yorkshire Wolds Way long distance footpaths.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.27 Views are largely confined along dales and influenced by the changing direction of the landform. Some long views are available from upland elevated reaches along the tops of the dales and elevated rolling land in between. Views are also obtained from outside of the character area from elevated land to the north and east.



Views from elevated dale tops

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- The enclosed, intimate and rolling character with few interfering features.
- Occasional blocks of broadleaved woodland and distinctive chalk grassland communities, in particular the recognised SINC areas of lowland calcareous grassland.
- The lack of settlement and built form.
- The strong sense of tranquillity, remoteness, and rural character.
- The recreational use of the landscape, with a relatively large number of footpaths.
- Scheduled (ancient) monuments including Elf Howe round barrow, two round barrows north west of Danebury Manor and a group of circular and rectangular enclosures, near Cansdale Whin.

Visual sensitivities

- The contrast in visual experience of the landscape, with confined views along dales and long views from upper slopes and open rolling landform in between.

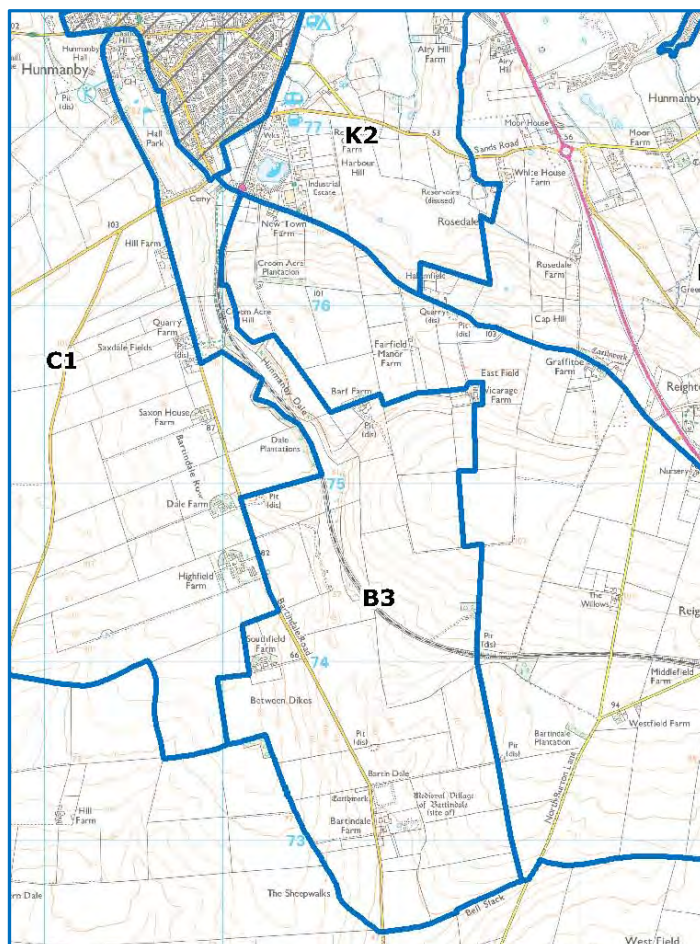
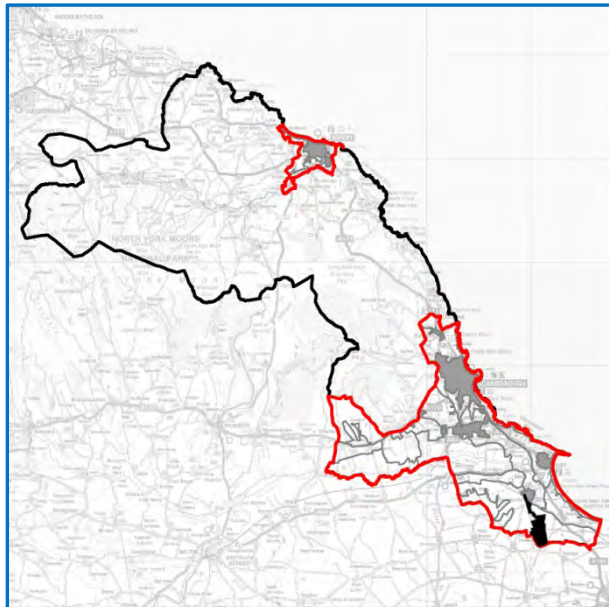
Past change in the landscape

- 20th century development of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure and modern enclosure.
- Intensification of agriculture, resulting in the loss of field boundaries.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.28 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the sense of remoteness and tranquillity and maintain the strong rural character. There is also an opportunity to manage and enhance chalk grassland and broadleaved woodland habitats within the area to enhance landscape connectivity.

Character area B3: Bartin Dale and Hunmanby Dale



Character area B3: Bartin Dale and Hunmanby Dale

Location and boundaries

- 5.29 This area covers the Hunmanby Dale and the Bartin Dale, which lie in between the elevated wolds landscape. The character area is bound by the settlement of Hunmanby to the north and by the Borough boundary to the south.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Underlying bedrock of chalk is incised by dry valleys which form the Hunmanby Dale and the Bartin Dale, and gives rise to a smoothly rolling landform.
- Chalk landscape gives rise to thin calcareous soils, which are dominated by arable fields. Some areas of small scattered woodland are situated throughout.
- The chalk soils support some distinctive chalk grassland communities, with a significant area of lowland calcareous grassland/lowland dry acid grassland along Hunmanby Dale, which is also recognised as a SINC.
- A sparsely settled landscape, with only three farmsteads and one minor road which passes through the character area. The settlement edge of Hunmanby forms the north boundary, however woodland screening runs along this boundary and results in little intervisibility with this edge.
- A simple land cover pattern, which is largely shaped by Parliamentary Enclosure and modern improvement¹⁷ of fields, which consist of both medium and large scale fields in a semi irregular pattern.
- Hunmanby Castle motte and bailey is a scheduled (ancient) monument which lies within the grounds of Hunmanby Hall, a 17th century house set within a designed landscape, extensive gardens and parkland including areas of woodland and ponds.
- A contrast of enclosure, with a more typically enclosed landscape in the north and an open, gently rolling landscape in the south. A strong sense of tranquillity and peacefulness, with a deeply rural character.
- Views vary with changes in topography confining and filtering views, particularly in the north, and open, longer views typically achieved from the south.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.30 Topography comprises a smoothly rolling, enclosed landscape which forms the Hunmanby Dale and Bartin Dale. The underlying geology of the area was laid down during the Cretaceous period and comprises a white well-bedded chalk. Dry valley systems have dissected the landscape and give rise to the smoothly rolling landform. Along the valley floor superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel are found, and a number of pockets of glacial Till overlay bedrock elsewhere. The underlying bedrock results in typical thin calcareous soils, which are well drained and easily cultivated, and as a result the area is largely dominated by arable fields. The landscape is

¹⁷ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

intensively farmed with a limited number of small scattered areas of woodland. The soils also support distinctive chalk grassland communities, with a significant stretch of lowland calcareous grassland/lowland dry acid grassland in the north along Hunmanby Dale, which is also recognised as a SINC.



Smoothly rolling chalk dale landform

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.31 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the principal historic landscape processes acting on the landscape are predominately parliamentary enclosure consisting of medium and large sized fields, and modern improvement¹⁸ of fields which consist of large scale fields, both of which are laid out in a semi-irregular pattern.
- 5.32 Hunmanby Castle motte and bailey is a scheduled (ancient) monument of the Norman castle at Hunmanby which is located on Castle Hill overlooking the village, and which lies within the grounds of Hunmanby Hall. Hunmanby Hall is a 17th century house situated, set within a designed landscape, extensive gardens and parkland including areas of woodland and ponds. It was later converted into a school for girls and subsequently extended in the early 1900s. It has been reused as a sport, leisure and holiday complex, and has partial legibility. The site of the deserted village of Bartindale is a scheduled (ancient) monument, located in the south of the character area.

Settlement pattern; built character

A very sparsely settled landscape with only three large farmsteads scattered across the dale. Hunmanby Hall and gardens is located in the north, and both the historic and modern buildings associated with this designed landscape are located within the character area. The village of Hunmanby lies within the northern edge of the character area, however woodland associated with Hunmanby Hall forms a boundary and screening along this settlement edge and there is little intervisibility between Hunmanby and the character area. One small rural road passes through the landscape in the west.



Rural lane passing along the western slope of the dale

¹⁸ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.33 A contrast in enclosure, with a more pronounced and undulating dale landscape in the north and woodland associated with Hunmanby Hall creating a more enclosed character. However, the landscape overall has an open character with smoothly rolling landform and sparse tree coverage, which continues into the surrounding wold landscape. The sparse settlement and few roads or other overt man made features, creates a tranquil and peaceful landscape, with a deeply rural character. There is little accessibility into the landscape, with only one road passing through and limited formal public rights of way.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.34 Views vary throughout the landscape, with changes in topography confining and filtering views, particularly in the north. The landscape becomes more open in the south, with a lesser degree of variation in topography allowing for long views south and over the wolds landscape. Views are also obtained from outside of the character area from elevated land to the east and west.



Views from elevated dale slopes

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- The smoothly rolling landform and simple landscape pattern, with few interfering features.
- The lack of settlement and built form, and strong sense of tranquillity and rural character.
- Some areas of small scattered woodland and woodland associated with Hunmanby Hall in the north.
- Chalk grassland communities including the significant area of lowland calcareous grassland/lowland dry acid grassland along Hunmanby Dale, which is also recognised as a SINC.
- Scheduled (ancient) monuments, namely Hunmanby Castle motte and bailey, and the site of the deserted village of Bartindale; and Hunmanby Hall, a 17th century house set within a designed landscape, extensive gardens and parkland including areas of woodland and ponds.
- A contrast of enclosure with a more typically enclosed landscape in the north and an open, gently rolling landscape in the south.

Visual sensitivities

- Varying views, with changes in topography confining and filtering views, particularly in the north, and open, longer views typically achieved from the south.

Past change in the landscape

- 20th century development of large planned Parliamentary enclosure and modern enclosure.
- Intensification of agriculture, resulting in the loss of field boundaries.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.35 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the sense of remoteness and tranquillity and maintain the strong rural character. There is also an opportunity to manage and enhance chalk grassland and woodland habitats within the area, and enhance landscape connectivity.

Character Type C: Chalk Wolds

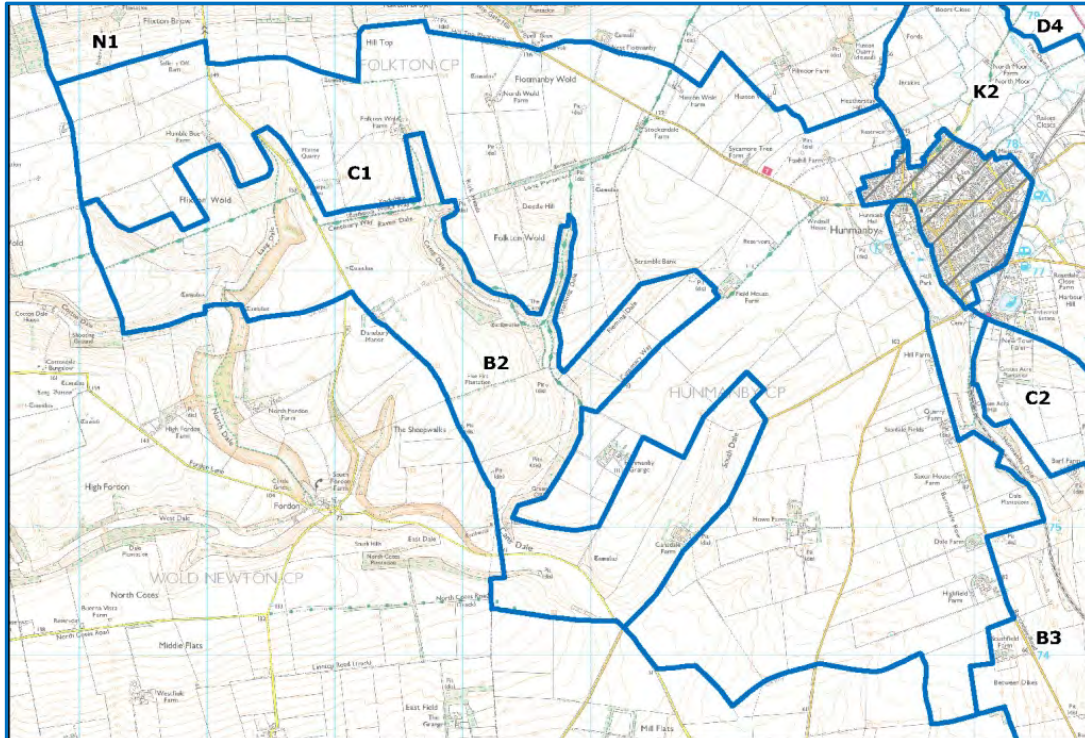
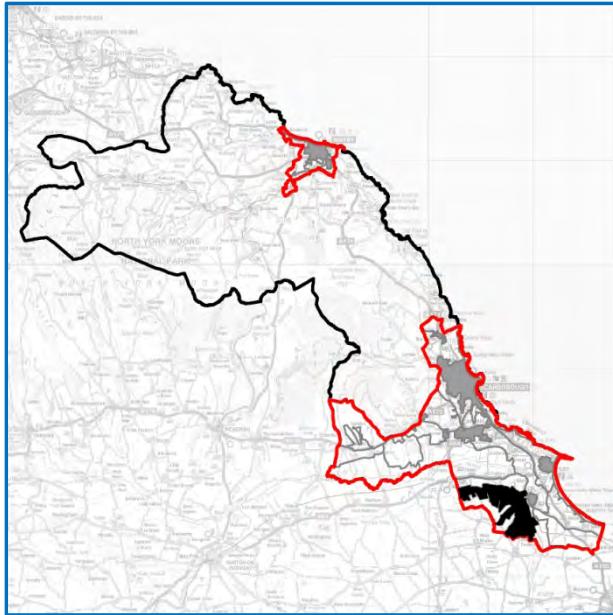
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A large scale landscape which is typified by a subtly rolling and smoothly rounded chalk landform.
- Intensively farmed landscape, consisting of medium to large scale, rectilinear Parliamentary Enclosure and more recent modern improvement of fields, predominantly under arable cultivation with maintained hedgerows boundaries.
- Limited tree cover, comprising occasional small woodland clumps and shelterbelts around individual farmsteads. Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges form important linear corridors throughout the landscape.
- A sparse, well dispersed settlement pattern, largely comprising individual farmsteads situated along minor rural lanes or at the end of long driveways, and occasionally surrounded by shelterbelts.
- Archaeological interest includes a number of historic earthworks.
- Crossed by a limited number of small, straight rural roads and lanes with little traffic.
- The smooth, subtle topography and continued farmland land cover, with limited and often screened settlement, contributes to a well-balanced and uniform landscape.
- The expansive openness of the landscape allows for long views across the rolling landscape, particularly from the northern edge of the character area (on the edge of the chalk escarpment), across the Vale of Pickering, and south and east across the chalk dales.
- A uniform and simple landscape, with an expansive character, created by the smooth, subtle topography and continued farmland land cover.
- Large scale fields, low hedgerows and sparse settlement contribute to a strong sense of openness, with long views across the rolling landscape.

Constituent LCAs

- C1 Folkton to Hunmanby
- C2 Speeton

Character area C1: Folkton to Hunmanby



Character area C1: Folkton to Hunmanby

Location and boundaries

- 5.36 This area covers the rolling upland chalk farmland on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, and lies in the south east of the Borough. The Borough boundary borders part of the character area to the south and west, and the chalk dales landscape feeds into the character area in the south west and east. The northern boundary is defined by the chalk escarpment which steeply falls away to meet the Vale of Pickering.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A large scale landscape which is typified by a gently rolling and smoothly rounded landform, which results largely from the underlying geology of chalk. Topography ranges from 50m AOD in the south to 160m AOD in the north west.
- Large arable fields predominate, and the landscape has been shaped by parliamentary field enclosures and more recent modern improvements. These past agricultural practices have created a farmland landscape dominated by straight, regular field boundaries which are delineated by hedgerows.
- A landscape dominated by agriculture, with limited tree cover, comprising occasional small woodland clumps. Shelterbelts around individual farmsteads are a prominent feature in the landscape, highlighting the exposed nature of this elevated landscape. Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges form important linear corridors throughout the landscape.
- Archaeological interest includes a number of historic earthworks, such as the round barrow on Flixton Wold; Sharpe Howes, round barrows which is a small cemetery of eight barrows; a round barrow on Flotmanby Wold; and a round barrow south of Long Plantation.
- A low density of well dispersed settlement, largely comprising individual farmsteads surrounded by shelterbelts, and often situated at the end of long driveways and scattered across the landscape.
- Crossed by a limited number of small, straight rural roads and lanes with little traffic. A dense network of public rights of way with a number of woodland trails. The Yorkshire Wolds Way and Centenary Way long distance footpaths and National Route 1 of the National Cycle Network pass through the landscape.
- The smooth, subtle topography and continued farmland land cover, with limited and often screened settlement contributes to a well-balanced and uniform landscape.
- The expansive openness of the landscape allows for long views across the rolling landscape, particularly from the northern edge of the character area (on the edge of the chalk escarpment), across the Vale of Pickering, and south and east across the chalk dales.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.37 A large-scale landscape of rounded, rolling farmland, forming a plateau above the Vale of Pickering to the north and incised dale valleys to the south and east. Defined by the presence of Cretaceous chalk, which underlies the landscape area and results in the smooth and fluid

character of the landform. Poorly sorted Till overlays the bedrock in the northeast and east. There are no significant water courses or water bodies within this landscape, due to the bedrock being permeable.

- 5.38 This is essentially an agriculturally landscape, comprising large scale arable fields. Although this landscape is not particularly species rich, it can support some valuable species, such as rare arable weeds and birds such as curlew. The landscape is very open with limited tree cover, however a number of occasional small woodland clumps are scattered across the character area, and farmsteads are often marked by surrounding trees and shelterbelts which form prominent features in the landscape. Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges form important linear corridors throughout the landscape, however in many cases these are managed and clipped back. Although there is very little habitat variability within the landscape, some areas are recognised for their habitat value. For example, parts of Flixton Quarry SINC contain the BAP priority habitat, lowland calcareous grassland, on the slopes around the edge of this active chalk quarry.



Open expansive arable farmland with a simple landscape pattern

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.39 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the northern stretch of the landscape has been shaped by extensive large scale Parliamentary Enclosure during the early 19th century which appears to relate to the Flixton Enclosure Act, dated to 1806. The south of the area is largely shaped by modern improved fields, which consists of large fields in a semi-irregular pattern. There is a more fragmented legibility in this part of the landscape, with greater boundary loss since 1850. The Parliamentary Enclosure introduced features which are visible to day, such as straight hedgerows which delineate regular medium sized fields, and new large, brick built farmsteads which are often located scattered within open farmland, at the end of long tracks away from roads. They are often sheltered by trees due to their exposed positioning.
- 5.40 Flixton Quarry is a large scale modern quarry which appears to have developed from a small 19th century chalk pit to incorporate a large area of regular chalk extraction within the enclosure landscape.
- 5.41 The landscape has a number of historical earthworks from the Bronze Age, such as the round barrow on Flixton Wold; Sharpe Howes, round barrows which is a small cemetery of eight barrows; a round barrow on Flotmanby Wold; and a round barrow south of Long Plantation.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.42 The area is predominately agricultural arable land, and the settlement reflects this land use, with associated individual farmsteads scattered across the landscape often situated at the end of long tracks, or dispersed along rural roads/lanes. Farmsteads are well separated and settlement density is low and dispersed. A mix of old red brick traditional buildings, are seen alongside a greater number of modern copies of historical building styles, and larger scale farm buildings made from brick and corrugated metal. Farmsteads are largely surrounded by shelterbelts and other vegetation. The town of Hunmanby fringes the north eastern boundary of the character area.
- 5.43 The landscape is crossed by a limited number of small straight rural roads and lanes, which are lined by grassy verges and hedgerows.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.44 This is an agricultural landscape, dominated by open arable fields which contribute to a uniform and simple character. The subtly rolling landform with sparse tree cover and low hedgerows creates a smooth and expansive character, commanding a perception of big skies. It is a large scale, repetitive landscape with regular shaped fields, low hedgerows and limited built form. The Yorkshire Wolds Way and Centenary Way long distance footpaths and National Route 1 of the National Cycle Network (a long distance cycle route) both pass through the landscape. There is a strong rural character and a sense of tranquillity.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.45 This landscape has a great sense of openness, with open arable fields and sparse tree cover, allowing for long views across the rolling landscape. The wide open landscape character and big skies creates a sense of space. There are extensive long distance views particularly from the northern edge of the character area, on the edge of the chalk escarpment, which look across the Vale of Pickering. Views through the chalk dales are achieved both south and east from this elevated landscape.



Long views across open arable farmland

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- The large scale openness, rolling landform and the uniform pattern of land use which contribute to a strong sense of identity for this agricultural landscape.
- Sparse density of settlement and built form, comprising small rural roads and scattered farmsteads with surrounding shelterbelts.
- Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges which form important linear corridors throughout the landscape.
- Archaeological features, which include a relatively large number of historic barrows.
- A rural and tranquil quality.

Visual sensitivities

- Strong sense of openness, and elevated rolling landform which offers extensive views.
- Wide open landscape character, big skies and sense of space.
- Views north across the Vale of Pickering, and south and east across the chalk dales.

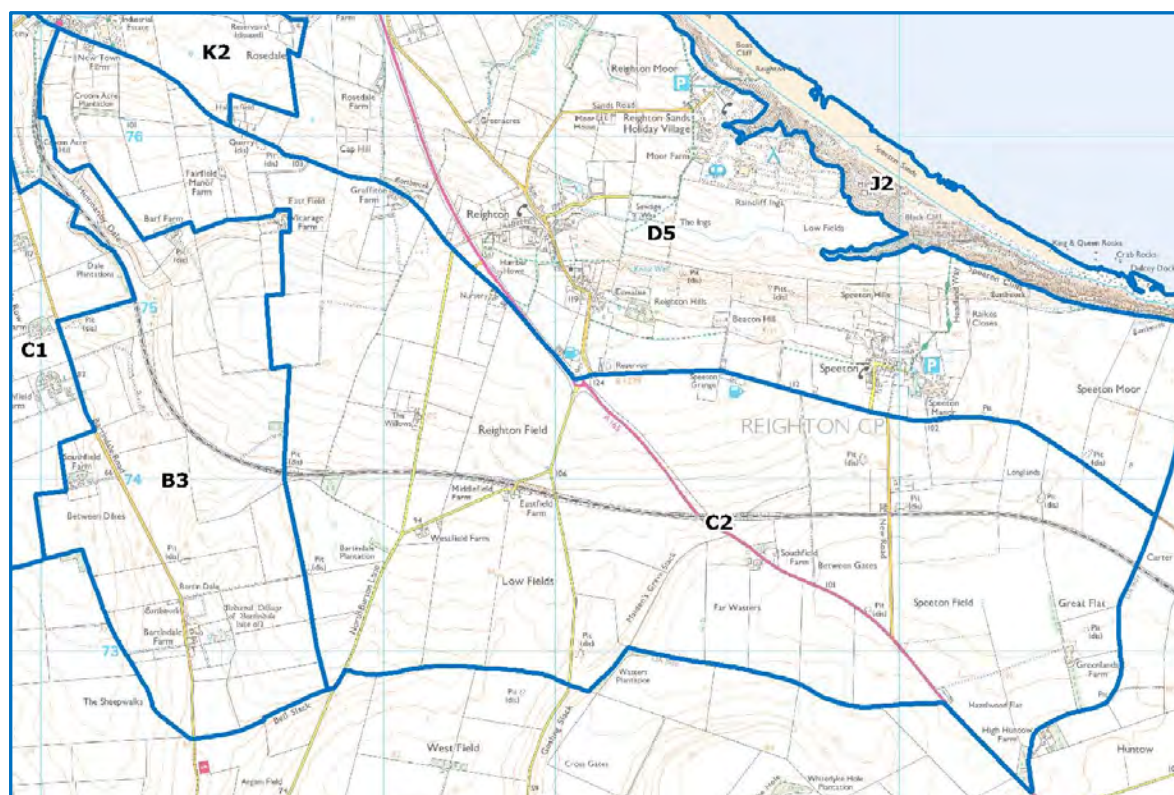
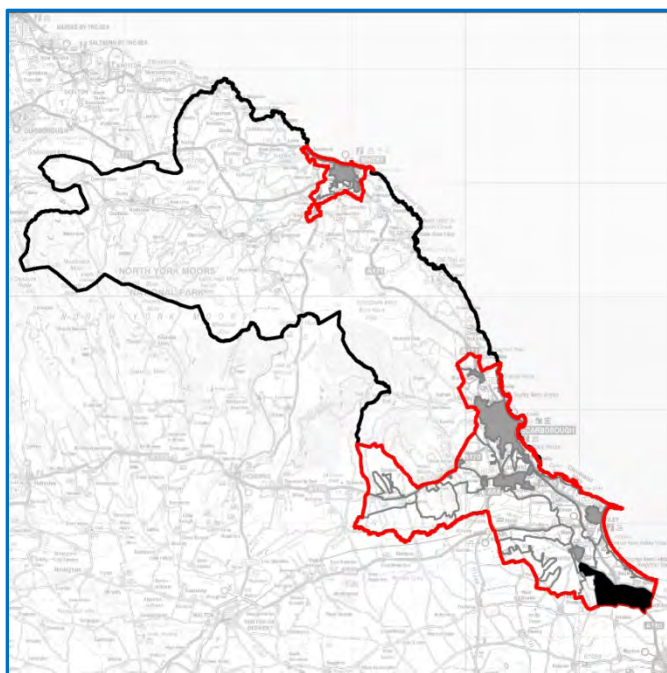
Past change in the landscape

- Development of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure and modern enclosures, and intensification of agriculture.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the large scale and sense of the openness, rolling landform and the uniform pattern of land use which contribute to a strong sense of identity for this agricultural landscape, and to maintain the low density of settlement and built form. There is also an opportunity to manage and enhance areas of woodland and linear habitat features such as hedgerows and grass verges, whilst still maintaining the strong sense of openness and important views.

Character area C2: Speeton



Character area C2: Speeton

Location and boundaries

- 5.46 This area covers the rolling chalk foothills on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, and lies in the south east of the Borough. The Borough boundary borders the character area to the south. The east and northern boundaries are defined by the hinterland landscape and the settlement edge of Hunmanby, and the west is defined by the chalk dales.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Underlying bedrock of chalk gives rise to a smoothly and subtly rolling landform, ranging approximately between 65m and 120m AOD.
- Chalk landscape gives rise to thin calcareous soils, which are dominated by arable fields.
- A landscape dominated by agriculture, with limited tree cover, comprising small woodland clumps. Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges form important linear corridors throughout the landscape.
- A sparsely settled landscape, which comprises a low density of scattered farmsteads, which are well separated and comprise a mix of old red brick traditional buildings, together with imitations of historic buildings and larger scale farm buildings made from brick and corrugated metal.
- Consisting of a mosaic of large scale Parliamentary Enclosure and modern improvement of fields, with medium to large scale fields. Some evidence of medieval enclosure in the south.
- A uniform and simple landscape, with an expansive character. The A165 introduces localised visual and audible impact, however overall a peaceful and tranquil character prevails.
- Large scale fields, low hedgerows and sparse settlement contribute to a strong sense of openness, with long views across the rolling landscape.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.47 A gently rolling landscape, with landform generally falling away to the south of the character area. The smoothly rolling landform is a reflection of the underlying chalk bedrock, which comprises chalk without flints in the south and chalk with flints in the north of the character area. Much of the north is overlain by poorly sorted, superficial till deposits.
- 5.48 This is an agricultural landscape with limited tree cover apart from occasional small woodland clumps scattered across the character area. Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges form important linear corridors throughout the landscape.



Gently undulating landform. Simple large scale landscape pattern

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.49 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the principal historic landscape processes acting on the landscape are planned, large scale Parliamentary Enclosure and modern improvement of fields. Areas of Parliamentary Enclosure consist of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern, which are defined by hedgerow boundaries and have significant legibility. Areas of modern improvement¹⁹ consist of large fields with a semi-irregular or regular pattern. In the south, an area of open fields which consists of two large field areas split by the Scarborough and Bridlington railway line, potentially dates back to the medieval era.

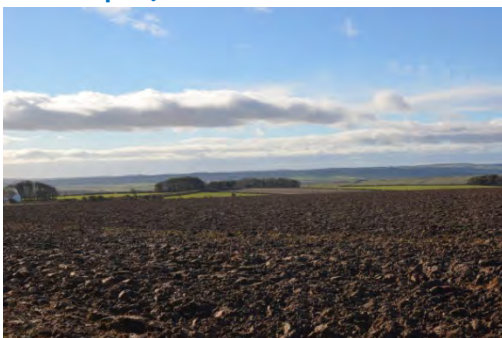
Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.50 The area is predominately agricultural arable land, and the settlement reflects this land use, with associated individual farmsteads scattered across the landscape. Farmsteads are well separated and settlement density is low and dispersed. A mix of old red brick traditional buildings, are seen alongside a greater number of modern copies of historic building styles, and larger scale modern farm buildings (brick and corrugated metal). The village of Hunmanby fringes the northern boundary of the character area.
- 5.51 The landscape is crossed by small rural roads and lanes, which are lined by grassy verges and hedgerows. The busy A165 passes through the landscape in the south, and the Scarborough and Bridlington railway line cuts through the centre of the character area through a series of small scale red brick bridges which allow the railway to pass under rural roads.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.52 This is an agricultural landscape, dominated by open arable fields which contribute to a uniform and simple character. The subtly rolling landform with sparse tree cover creates a smooth and expansive character. It is a large scale, repetitive landscape with regular shaped fields, low hedgerows and limited built form. The A165 introduces a localised visual and audible impact, however overall the character area maintains a peaceful and tranquil quality, with a strong rural character. The Yorkshire Wolds Cycle Route (National route) passes through the landscape.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)



- 5.53 This landscape has a great sense of openness, with open arable fields and sparse tree cover, allowing for long views across the rolling landscape. The landscape typically descends to the south and longer views are achieved in this direction.

Long expansive views

¹⁹ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- A uniform and simple landscape character, with few interfering features. A tranquil and rural character.
- Sparse settlement and built form.
- Small woodland clumps which provide visual and ecological interest. Hedgerows and grassy roadside verges form important linear corridors.

Visual sensitivities

- Strong sense of openness, with long views across the rolling landscape, particularly to the south.

Past change in the landscape

- Development of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure and modern enclosures and intensification of agriculture.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.54 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve the simple uniform landscape, the sense of tranquillity and rural character, and to maintain the low density of settlement and built form. There is also an opportunity to manage and enhance areas of woodland and linear habitat features such as hedgerows and grass verges.

Character Type D: Coastal Hinterland

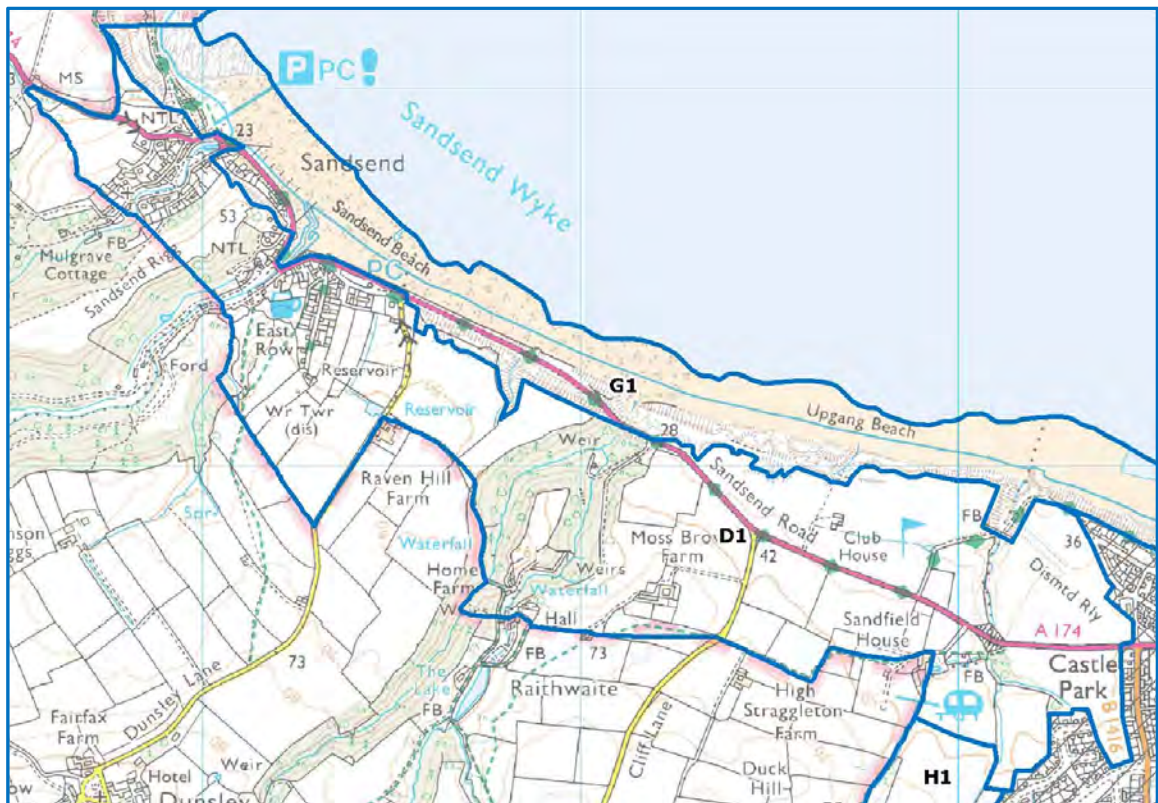
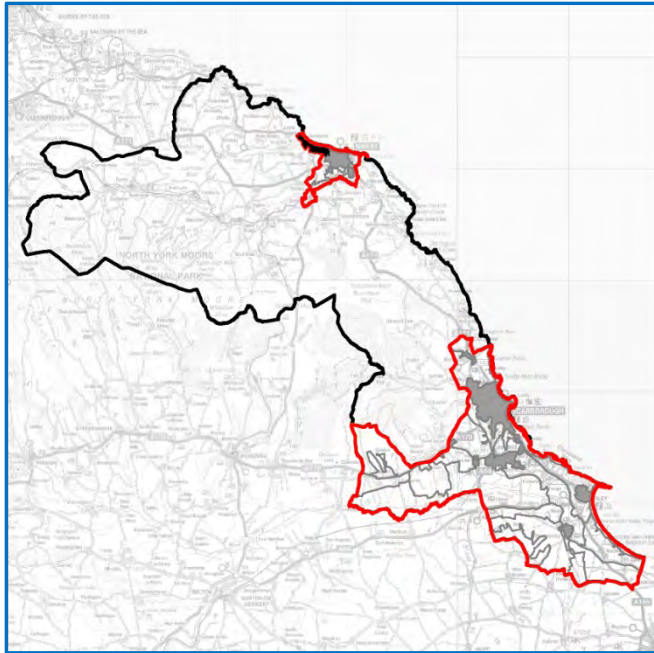
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- An elevated topography, of smoothly rolling farmed hinterland which rises gently inland, from the cliffs of the coastal edge. A varied underlying geology, often overlain and concealed by glacial till.
- Land cover largely comprises a mosaic of farmland, including arable and rough grazing/pasture, often defined by hedgerows and limited tree cover. Other coastal land uses are interspersed within this agricultural landscape, including golf courses and cliff top holiday parks/caravan parks.
- Occasional small watercourses and becks form interesting and contrasting features within the landscape, often enclosed by woodland and/or riparian vegetation, and provide valuable ecological interest, many of which are recognised as SINCs.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates the landscape has been shaped by a mix of enclosures, including planned large scale parliamentary enclosure, modern improved fields, and piecemeal enclosure, typically consisting of medium sized fields in a regular or semi-irregular pattern, with varying degrees of boundary loss.
- Other elements of historical interest include important landmarks either situated within the landscape, such as St Hilda's Abbey (Whitby Abbey) or visually connected to the landscape, such as Scarborough Castle and the obelisk at Oliver's Mount.
- A simple and uniform landscape with a fluid and rhythmic form, created by the rolling landform and repetition of farmland fields, juxtaposed with occasional intimate, secluded and enclosed beck valleys.
- A lightly settled landscape, with scattered farmsteads and occasional coastal villages. Settlement fringe influences in relation to principal towns are also a feature to the periphery of the landscape, and other notable man-made influences include busy road corridors.
- Recreational interest and experience relates primarily to the cliff top caravan parks and to the long distance footpaths which often run along the coastal edge, such as the Yorkshire Wolds Way and Cleveland Way long distance paths.
- Overall a rural landscape character prevails with a strong connection to the sea and coastal edge. Occasional localised impact results from features such as settlement edges, major roads, golf courses and caravan sites.
- A strong sense of openness and exposure allowing for long views across the rolling landscape, out across the open North Sea, inland to the North York Moors National Park and strong intervisibility with prominent historic landmarks. In contrast, enclosed beck valleys create shorter, filtered and more intimate views.

Constituent LCAs

- D1 Sandsend
- D2 Whitby Abbey
- D3 Scalby
- D4 Lebberston and Filey
- D5 Hunmanby Moor to Speeton

Character area D1: Sandsend



Character area D1: Sandsend

Location and boundaries

- 5.55 This character area lies immediately to the west of Whitby and abuts the North York Moors National Park on the south and west boundaries. The area is defined along the north extent by the top cliff line. The entire character area lies within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast which continues north west, beyond the Borough boundary. The area is characterised by the rolling hinterland to the west of Whitby.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A smoothly rolling farmed hinterland which rises in a north to south direction, inland, from the cliffs of the coastal edge.
- Underlain by sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, which is largely concealed by glacial till.
- Land cover comprises a mosaic of farmland including arable and rough grazing/pasture and amenity grassland comprising Whitby Golf Course, which are interspersed with incised, wooded beck valleys.
- A number of small becks form interesting and contrasting features within the landscape, often enclosed by woodland and/or riparian vegetation, and provide valuable ecological interest, many of which are recognised as SINCS.
- Sparsely settled landscape, with the exception of the coastal village of Sandsend and East Row in the north west. A strongly intact and historic settlement established within the wooded beck valleys and coinciding with the growth of the alum mining industry, and the subsequent growth in residential development and tourism supported by the arrival of the railway.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates the landscape has been shaped by a mix of enclosures, including piecemeal enclosure, unknown planned enclosure, and an area of medieval strip fields.
- Other important historic influences include Sandsend Alum Works in the north west which has left a number of ruined remains of buildings; the landscaped wooded estate grounds of Mulgrave Castle (Grade II* listed) registered park and gardens which lies within the character area in the north to the south west of Sandsend; and the more recent recreational influence in the east with the development of Whitby Golf Course in 1892, and Sandfield House Caravan Park.
- A landscape of contrast, with smoothly rolling open farmland and golf course contributing to a uniform and simple character, juxtaposed with more intimate, secluded and enclosed beck valleys.
- A sense of openness and exposure allowing for long views across the rolling landscape, particularly northwards across the open North Sea and inland to the North York Moors National Park. In contrast, enclosed beck valleys and settlement create shorter, filtered and more intimate views.
- Urban influences due to the close proximity to settlement of Whitby, with localised impacts resulting from features such as settlement edges, the busy A174, a caravan site and golf course. However, overall a rural landscape character prevails with a strong connection to the sea and coastal edge, and to the North York Moors National Park, inland.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.56 A smoothly rolling landscape which gently rises from the coastal edge in the north inland to the south, and continues beyond the character area boundary into the North York Moors National Park. It is underlain in the east by layers of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, and to the west by mudstone. The underlying bedrock is largely concealed by superficial glacial till deposits. A number of wooded becks form intricate features, which cut through the landscape and feed into the North Sea, namely, Sandsend Beck, East Row Beck, Dunsley Beck, Newholme Beck and Uppang Beck. These provide valuable ecological corridors and many are recognised as SINC's.



Smoothly rolling hinterland, with open farmland and large swathes of amenity grassland forming the golf course



View of the wooded beck which feeds into the North Sea

- 5.57 Along the northern edge of the character area the landscape comprises a mosaic of both calcareous and neutral grassland, and open and scattered scrub which include a number of BAP Priority Habitats, such as, maritime cliff and slope, lowland calcareous grassland and lowland meadows. Elsewhere the landscape comprises large fields of arable and grazing farmland, and in the east a large proportion of the landscape consists of amenity grassland which forms the Whitby Golf Course.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.58 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that various processes have shaped the landscape, with areas of piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern; an area of unknown planned enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a regular pattern; and an area of medieval strip fields consisting of small fields in a semi-irregular pattern.
- 5.59 In the north west of the area the landscape has been partly shaped by Sandsend Alum Works, an area used for the large scale extraction of alum shale. It is now disused, however, there are a number of ruined remains of buildings where the processing of the alum occurred. There were several quarries which were concentrated along the coastal slopes.
- 5.60 Part of the landscaped wooded estate grounds of Mulgrave Castle (Grade II* listed) registered park and gardens lie within the character area in the north to the south west of Sandsend. The gardens were laid out in the late 18th and early 19th century, and occupy the steep wooded valley slopes of Sandsend Beck and East Row Beck, which surround the settlement. The castle itself lies outside of the character area, on a ridge further south west. Castle Rigg Wood which forms part of Mulgrave Castle grounds and lies within the character area is a significant area of ancient woodland. A number of other areas of ancient woodland include Mulgrave Woods and Raithwaite Plantation (both ancient restocked woodland), and an area to the south east, between Dunsley Beck and Newholm Beck.
- 5.61 The east of the character area, closest to Whitby, has been shaped more recently by recreational land use. Whitby Golf Course is an active golf course and was designed in 1892, and it characterises a large proportion of this part of the character area. To the south, Sandfield House

Caravan Park covers part of the landscape being transitional with the adjacent character area to the south.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.62 With the exception of the settlement of Sandsend and East Row in the north west, the character area elsewhere is sparsely settled. The small coastal village of Sandsend comprises two historical settlements, Sandsend and East Row, which are linked by development at the foot of Sandsend Rigg and designated as a Conservation Area. The majority of the settlement lies within the character area, with a small stretch along the seafront located with the adjacent character area (LCA H1). The settlements were built around two inlets, namely Sandsend Beck and East Row Beck, which feed into the North Sea, and the village is well established within this wooded valley. Development extends into the valleys, protected and secluded from the coastal front. The village is largely a product of its industrial past, and developed as result of the alum mining which prospered in the area from the early 17th century to the early 19th century, and ended around 1870. In addition, Roman Cement works were established in both Sandsend and East Row. From 1883 to 1958 the village was served by the Whitby, Redcar and Middlesbrough Union Railway, which was an important part of the village - transporting goods, and bringing tourists. Sandsend developed as a residential and popular holiday destination during the 20th century and hotels, villas and boarding-houses were built. The majority of the existing development within the Conservation Area originated pre – 1849 and during the period 1892 – 1911; corresponding to the alum and the subsequent residential and tourist development. The settlement has an intact, historic and intimate character. The village has a loose, open small scale character, with a few small, narrow tracks which run into the valley alongside the meandering becks. Dwellings each have private outside space, many used as vegetable gardens and there are a number of interspersed grassed areas that are used for grazing. Buildings are situated on both sides of the valley mostly orientated to face inwards.
- 5.63 Access to the village is achieved via a single road, the A174, which passes through parts of the character area. The suburbs of Whitby fringe the character area to the east, and form a strong visual boundary.



Village of Sandsend following the beck and within the wooded surroundings



Settlement edge of Whitby

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.64 A large proportion of the landscape is dominated by open farmland and in the east a large golf course, which contribute to a uniform and simple character. The smoothly rolling topography with sparse tree cover creates a fluid and rhythmic form, and there is an exposed and windswept quality which is accentuated by the elevated aspect and coastal interface. The scale of the landscape is comfortable, with medium sized fields lined by hedgerows, and sparse dispersal of settlement. In contrast, the wooded becks which cut through the landscape introduces intimate, enclosed features which contrast with the typically open and simplistic character overall. In addition, in the north east, the Sandsend Beck and the East Row Beck are both largely influenced by the villages of Sandsend and East Row which are enclosed by dense woodland associated with Mulgrave Castle. Here, the landscape is particularly enclosed.
- 5.65 The A174 cuts through part of the landscape and a number of smaller roads associated with settlement introduce localised visual and audible impacts. However, despite this, the character

area maintains a peaceful and rural landscape character with a strong connection to the sea and coastal edge. This elevated, yet close proximity creates a somewhat remote and windswept character in places.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.66 This landscape has a strong sense of openness, with open arable fields and sparse tree cover, allowing for long views across the rolling landscape. The landscape rises inland and therefore greater panoramic views are achieved from elevated land across the character area and along the coastline and out to the North Sea. There is a strong visual connection between this hinterland landscape and the open sea, with long views afforded out across the North Sea. In contrast, along wooded enclosed becks, views are largely contained and filtered by topography and vegetation.
- 5.67 The North York Moors National Park lies adjacent to the character area in the south and west and there is a visual relationship between these landscapes. However, woodland and elevated land occasionally creates a barrier to this.



Long views along the coast and to the North York Moors National Park

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Contrast of openness and enclosure, with expansive rolling open farmland and golf course, juxtaposed with intimate, heavily wooded beck valleys.
- Simple, fluid and rhythmic landscape pattern and form.
- Exposure and windswept quality which results from the elevated coastal influence and interface.
- Calm and rural character, despite urban influences such as settlement fringe, A174, caravan site and golf courses.
- Low dispersal of settlement overall and the strong, historic and intact character of the coastal village of Sandsend and East Row.
- Small becks, which introduce an enclosed wooded wetland character and provide an important network of habitats and green corridors.
- History and time depth, including the mix of enclosures (piecemeal enclosure, unknown planned enclosure, and an area of medieval strip fields); influence of Sandsend Alum Works and associated ruined remains; and the landscaped wooded estate grounds of Mulgrave Castle (Grade II* listed) registered park and gardens.

Visual sensitivities

- Extensive open views across the rolling landscape, particularly south to east from elevated landform.

- Long views across the North Sea and a strong visual connection between the hinterland landscape and the coastal and open sea landscape.
- Intervisibility with the North York Moors National Park along the coast and inland.
- Views along the North Yorkshire & Cleveland Heritage Coast, which forms part of the character area and continues north west.

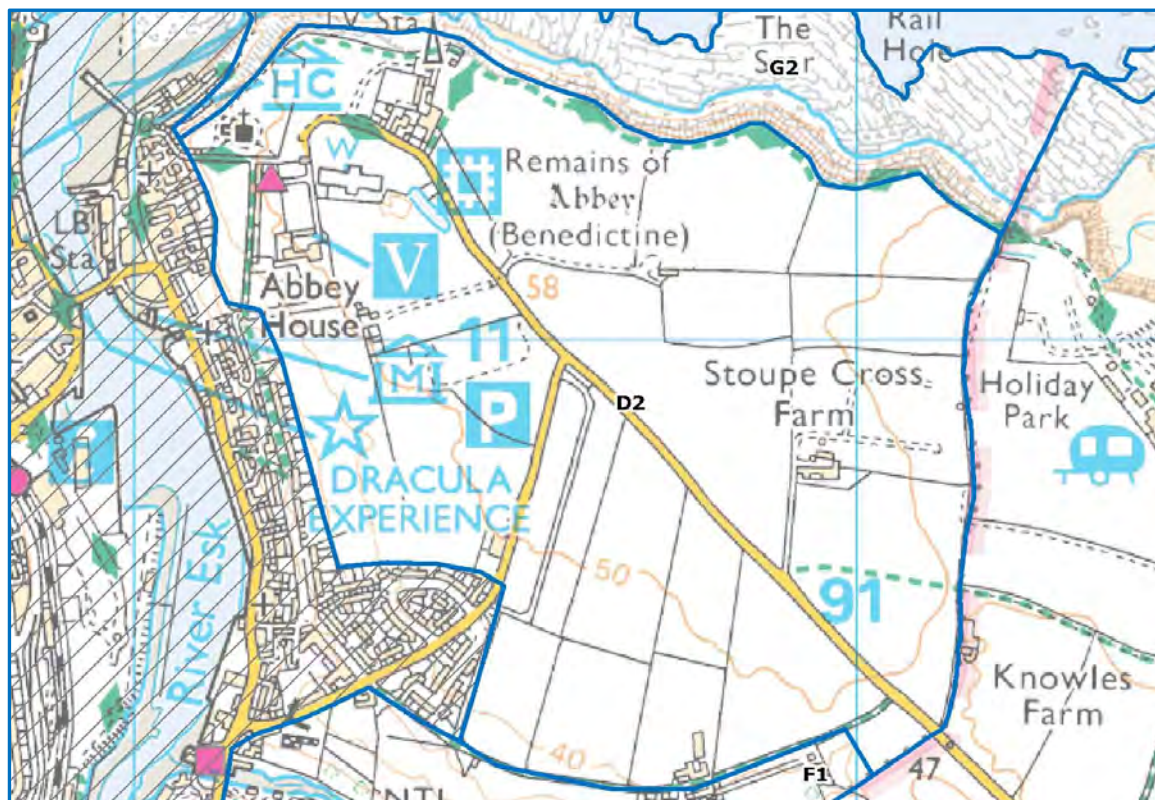
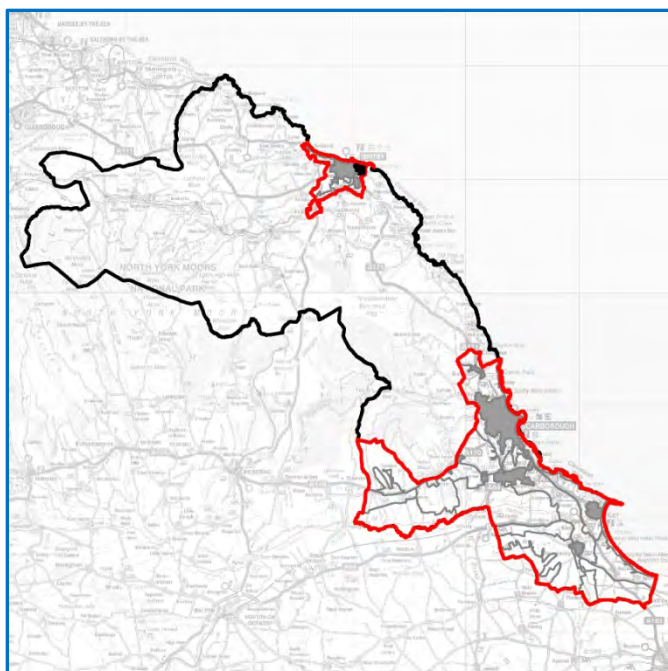
Pats change in the landscape

- Development of planned enclosure and intensification of agriculture – boundary loss.
- Road development.
- Recreational development including the golf course and caravan site.
- Industrial activity associated with the Alum mining industry.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.68 The overall landscape strategy is to conserve and enhance the open, simple and rhythmic landscape pattern and land use, the calm rural character of the landscape, the intact historic character of the coastal village of Sandsend /East Row and the strong connection with the sea and the National Park. To preserve open views and the low dispersal of settlement elsewhere and conserve the intimate character and green corridor network of the becks which provide a contrast in character and interesting feature in the landscape.

Character area D2: Whitby Abbey



Character area D2: Whitby Abbey

Location and boundaries

- 5.69 This area is formed by the coastal hinterland between the National Park boundary to the east and the settled valley side of the Esk, which includes the famous '199 steps' down to Whitby Harbour. The northern half falls within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast Designation and is also the site of the ruined medieval landmark of Whitby Abbey (scheduled monument). The northern boundary is formed by the cliff tops, with the west and southern boundaries formed by the changing topography and settlement edge of Whitby. The boundary to the east is dictated by the North York Moors National Park, however the coastal hinterland character continues beyond this boundary.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Underlying geology of the area is sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of the Cloughton Formation, overlain with drift deposits of glacial till.
- An elevated cliff top topography, ranging from 40m AOD at the Esk Valley crest to approximately 60m AOD at Whitby Abbey.
- Primary landcover is pasture and rough grazing, interspersed with a number of fields under arable cultivation, divided by low dry stone walls. Farmland is the historic land use, having been associated with the abbey since its foundation in the early 12th century.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies primary historic landscape types in the area as 'religious re used' – the ruins of the extensive Benedictine monastic complex of St Hilda's Abbey (Whitby Abbey), an area with significant historic legibility including fishpond. Other historic landscape types represented are piecemeal enclosure (medium scale irregular field patterns) and planned enclosure, both of which have significant legibility, plus allotments.
- Principal aspects of historic character in the area are the gaunt, starkly beautiful and much weathered early gothic sandstone ruins of the abbey church, which are a scheduled monument. They were preserved after the Reformation of 1540 as a coastal landmark for sailors, a function which persisted until the fall of the central lantern tower in the 19th century. The abbey was one of the key locations in Bram Stoker's Dracula in 1897.
- The area contains no settlement, although it is fringed by vernacular cliff top buildings within Whitby, associated with the west facing slopes of the adjacent Esk Valley and the 199 steps. The late 16th /17th century stone built Abbey House/Cholmley Mansion adjoining the ruins now houses a museum and gallery.
- None of the area is designated in respect of nature conservation interest although the cliff tops form part of a Scarborough Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat – the Coastal Cliff Mosaics.
- Aspects of the recreational experience of the area relate to low key tourism infrastructure – the abbey ruins are in the guardianship of English Heritage. The Cleveland Way long distance path forms the boundary between the character area and the adjacent coastal cliffs.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.70 A relatively simple bedrock geology of Cloughton Formation sandstones, siltstones and mudstones is overlain with glacial till drift deposits. Landform variation is subtle, sloping from 40m AOD at the Esk Valley Crest up to a high point of 60m AOD on which the abbey ruins are sited.
- 5.71 Landcover is predominantly pasture and rough grazing, interspersed with a number of fields under arable cultivation, divided by low dry stone walls.



Fields of pasture and rough grazing

- 5.72 Whilst none of the area is locally designated for biodiversity interest, the cliff tops which form the interface with the adjacent coastal character area form part of the Coastal Cliffs Mosaic BAP Priority Habitat.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.73 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies primary historic landscape types in the area as 'religious re used' – the ruins of the extensive Benedictine monastic complex of St Hilda's Abbey (Whitby Abbey), an area with significant historic legibility including a fishpond/lake. Whilst the ruins of the present complex are 12th century, they occupy the footprint of a much earlier monastic foundation which was sacked and plundered by the Vikings in 867. Other historic landscape types represented in the area are piecemeal enclosure (medium scale irregular field patterns) and planned enclosure both of which have significant legibility, and with relatively low boundary loss, plus allotments near the Cholmley Mansion site.
- 5.74 St Hilda's Abbey (Scheduled Monument) is the dominant historic and visual focus of the area. The ruins which survive to this day are predominantly those of the 12th century abbey church, which was built in a delicate Early English gothic style, and which are now much weathered. The shell of the church and its central lantern tower were retained as a land mark for sailors after the abbey's dissolution in 1540. However the tower collapsed in the 1830s, taking with it the remainder of the nave which had largely collapsed in the previous century. As such the surviving fabric is a gaunt and much mutilated, albeit highly dramatic, relic. The ruins provided Bram Stoker with a key part of his inspiration when writing 'Dracula' in 1897 and featured as one of the principal locations in the English sequences in the novel.



View of the abbey prior to the fall of the tower East end of the abbey

- 5.75 Other aspects of the cultural pattern are the stone built Jacobean Cholmley Mansion on the site of the former Abbot's house. This was extensively remodelled and extended in the 19th century and now houses a museum.



Jacobean Cholmley Mansion

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.76 An essentially unsettled landscape, with primary elements of settlement pattern formed by a network of rural lanes, the Cholmley Mansion and the edge of the vernacular town of Whitby on the upper slopes of the Esk Valley. This includes the approach to the distinctive '199 steps' cut into the hillside and leading to Whitby Harbour.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.77 This is a raw, elemental, exposed and windswept, open landscape of simple texture and colour palette. It has a dramatic quality, accentuated by the elevation and coastal cliff aspect and its interface with the North Sea, and the dark, broken remains of the abbey, reflected in its lake. Pevsner describes the abbey as 'without doubt one of the most moving ruins in England on its bare, windswept hill'.
- 5.78 The quality and feel of the landscape is much dependent on the weather and the mists of clouds which wrap this stretch of coast, giving it an often enigmatic and mysterious quality. The landscape is also highly changeable in terms of colour and light for these reasons.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.79 The abbey ruins are a visually prominent landmark for miles around and from out to sea. From this elevated vantage point are extensive views along the coast and to the North Sea. There is also a degree of intervisibility, albeit filtered, with Whitby Town, harbour and the Esk.



Long view along the coast and out to sea



View across Whitby and towards the Esk Valley

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.80 Key positive landscape character features are judged to be:
- The iconic abbey ruins, which form a highly distinctive landmark and point of orientation
 - The undeveloped, open and exposed, 'wild' character
 - The intact sense of historic character and time depth, from the abbey and Cholmley Mansion to the network of dry stone wall field enclosures (grazing pasture)

Visual sensitivities

- 5.81 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- Uninterrupted coastal views
 - Views to the abbey ruins from other character areas and from the coast
 - Views to the harbour, old town and the Esk

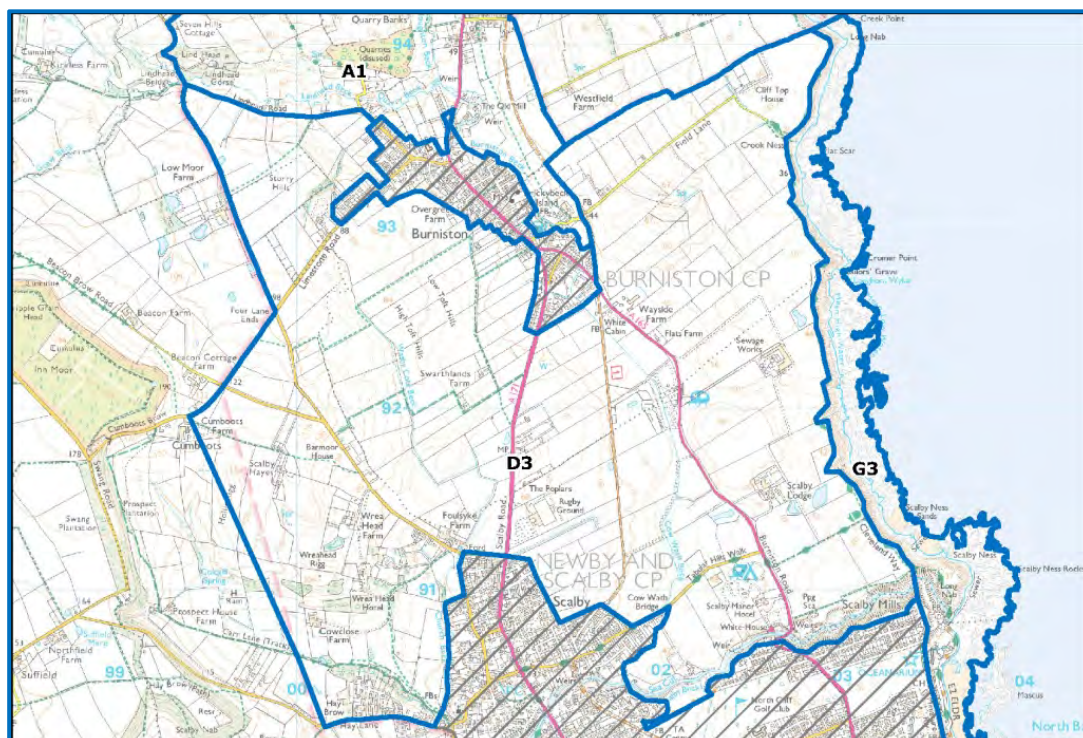
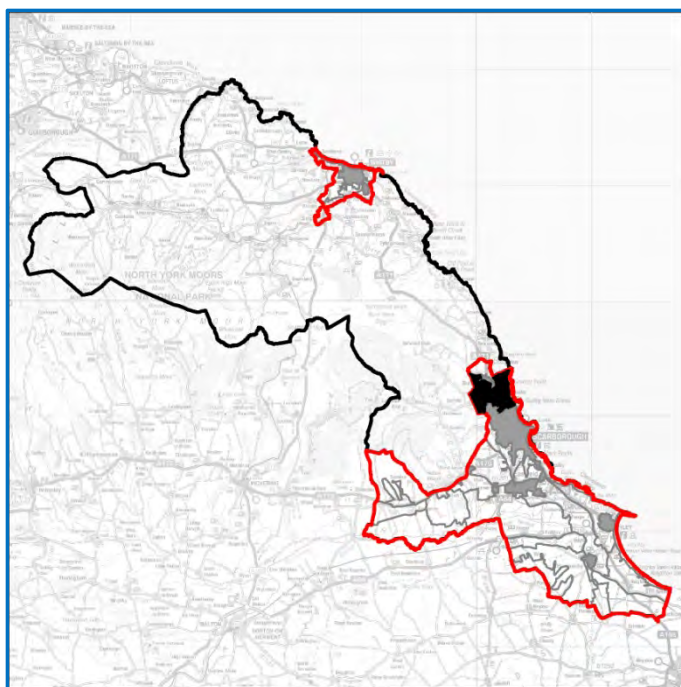
Past change in the landscape

- Degradation of and damage to the abbey ruins which occurred into the 19th century
- Development of low key tourist infrastructure associated with the abbey and Cholmley Mansion

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.82 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance its wild open character and the setting this clearly provides to the abbey ruins and to the National Park. In addition to conservation of the ruins, this should extend to conservation of their function as a landmark, with preservation of unobstructed views to them. The open, expansive views out to sea are important and should be conserved.

Character area D3: Scalby



Character area D3: Scalby

Location and boundaries

- 5.83 Scalby Coastal Hinterland lies immediately to the north of Scarborough and abuts the North York Moors National Park on several of its boundaries in the north, west and south west. The landscape character continues beyond these boundaries. The east of the area is defined by the cliff tops, and lies within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast which continues northwards beyond the Borough boundary. The area is defined by the rolling hinterland to the north of Scarborough. Settlement edges of Burniston and Scarborough define much of the boundaries to the north and south, respectively.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A smoothly rolling farmed hinterland which rises in an east to west direction, inland, from the coastal edge, up towards the moorlands and wooded scarps of the North York Moors National Park to the west.
- Underlain by mudstones, siltstones and sandstones which form part of the Scalby Formation, which is largely concealed by glacial till.
- An agricultural landscape, dominated by medium scale fields of open arable farmland, defined by low hedgerows and limited tree cover.
- A number of small watercourses or becks form interesting and contrasting features within the landscape, often enclosed by woodland and/or riparian vegetation, such as the Scalby Beck.
- Low density of dispersed settlement consisting of individual farmsteads scattered across the hinterland. The south and north of the character area is fringed by the suburbs of Scalby and the village of Burniston, respectively.
- A simple and uniform landscape with a fluid and rhythmic form, created by the rolling landform and repetition of arable fields. Occasional localised impact results from features such as settlement edges, major roads, caravan sites and a sewage works, which introduce a discordant character in places.
- A peaceful and rural landscape character with a strong connection to the sea and coastal edge, and visually influenced by the wooded scarps of the National Park to the west.
- A sense of openness allowing for long views across the rolling landscape, particularly eastwards from elevated land in the National Park to the west, and out across the open sea. Strong intervisibility with prominent historic landmarks further south, such as Scarborough Castle and the war memorial at Oliver's Mount.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates the landscape has been shaped by a mix of enclosures, including planned large scale parliamentary enclosure, unknown planned enclosure, modern improved fields and piecemeal enclosure, typically consisting of medium sized fields in a regular or semi-irregular pattern, with varying degrees of boundary loss.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.84 A smoothly rolling farmland landscape which gradually rises from the coastal edge in the east inland to the west. It is underlain predominantly by laminated mudstones and siltstones with planar bedded and cross-stratified sandstones, which forms part of the Scalby Formation, with some areas of sandstone in the north and west. The underlying bedrock is however largely concealed by superficial glacial till, with some alluvium deposits located centrally along the Cow Wath Beck. A number of becks form intricate features, which cut through the landscape. The most significant of these is the Scalby Beck, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), which runs through the south of the character area and is fed by the Sea Cut which transports diverted flood relief waters from the River Derwent, further south, to the Scalby Beck which feeds into the North Sea. As part of the flood relief system a number of weirs have been built along the Scalby Beck and which have been lowered in recent years to encourage upstream migration of fish.



Rolling landform with regular pattern of arable fields

- 5.85 This is an agriculturally dominant landscape with limited tree cover. There are a number of small mixed woodland pockets in the south west of the character area. An area of broad-leaved plantation is located along the banks of the Scalby Beck. Hedgerows, with occasional scattered trees, and grassy verges form important linear corridors throughout the hinterland.
- 5.86 Scalby Lodge Farm Pond is located in the south east, this is a non-SINC but an important wildlife site and a popular place for bird watching, including species such as Hoopoe, Bar-tailed Godwit, Long-tailed Duck and Barred Warbler.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.87 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that a large portion of the landscape in the south east has been shaped by planned large scale parliamentary enclosure, consisting of medium sized fields in a regular pattern. It has significant legibility albeit with approximately 50% boundary loss since 1850. In the north of the character area unknown planned enclosure has influenced the landscape, which also consists of medium sized fields in a regular pattern. It has significant legibility with approximately 35% boundary loss since 1850. These enclosures are surrounded by a number of smaller areas consisting of modern improved fields which comprise large fields in a semi-irregular pattern, which have a fragmentary legibility with a greater degree of boundary loss since 1850. In the south west the landscape has been shaped by piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.88 The area is predominately agricultural arable land, and the settlement reflects this land use, with associated individual farmsteads scattered across the hinterland. Settlement is low and

dispersed and is often a mix of traditional historical stone buildings together with modern extensions.

- 5.89 A few large historical buildings are now converted into hotels in the south of the character area, such as the Victorian Manor House, Scalby Manor Hotel; and the Wrea Head Hall Hotel, a Gothic mansion set within landscaped gardens.
- 5.90 The suburbs of Scalby fringe the character area to the south, and the village of Burniston lies to the north. This forms a strong urban edge with the character areas. Two major roads, the A165 and A171, cut through the landscape centrally and a number of smaller and quieter rural roads pass through farmland either side. Two caravan sites and a sewage works are also located within this landscape, in the east and south east.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.91 This is an agricultural landscape, dominated by open arable fields which contribute to a uniform and simple character. The smoothly rolling topography with sparse tree cover creates a fluid and rhythmic form. The scale of the landscape is comfortable, with medium sized fields lined by hedgerows, and the sparse dispersal of settlement sits comfortably within its surroundings. A number of becks cut through the landscape which introduces intimate, enclosed features which contrast with the typically open and simplistic character which prevails elsewhere.
- 5.92 Some features appear out of place within the landscape and occasionally create a discordant and localised impact, such as settlement edges in the north and south, major roads and features such as caravan sites and a sewage works. However, despite this, the character area maintains a peaceful and rural landscape character with a strong connection to the sea and coastal edge, plus to the moorlands and wooded scarps of the North York Moors National Park to the west. This elevated, yet close proximity creates a somewhat remote character in places, particularly along the eastern edge.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.93 This landscape has a great sense of openness, with open arable fields and sparse tree cover, allowing for long views across the rolling landscape. The landscape rises inland and therefore greater panoramic views are achieved from the west looking eastwards from elevated land. There is a strong visual connection between this hinterland landscape and the open sea, with long views afforded out across the North Sea. Part of the character area falls within the North Yorkshire & Cleveland Heritage Coast which continues northwards outside of the Borough boundary and views along this coastline also continue. The area also has intervisibility with prominent historic landmarks further south, with important views to Scarborough Castle and to the tall obelisk on Oliver's Mount. The elevated wooded fringe of the North York Moors National Park borders the character area in the north and west and provides a visual boundary to the character area in these directions. Woodland provides localised enclosure along small becks, such as the Scalby Beck in the south, and provides a visual contrast to the open farmland which predominates.



Views to key landmarks – Scarborough Castle



Long views across hinterland and out to sea

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Sense of openness.
- Simple, fluid and rhythmic landscape pattern and form.
- Calm and rural character, despite occasional interrupting features such as settlement fringe, roads, caravan parks and a sewage works.
- Low dispersal of settlement.
- Small becks, which introduce contrasting enclosed wooded wetland character and provide an important network of habitats and green corridors.

Visual sensitivities

- Extensive open views across the rolling landscape, particularly west to east from elevated landform.
- Long views across the North Sea and a strong visual connection between the hinterland landscape and the coastal and open sea landscape.
- Views to and from prominent landmarks, such as Scarborough Castle and the obelisk at Oliver's Mount.
- Views to the wooded edge of The North York Moors National Park which partly contains views out of the character area in the north and west.
- Views along the North Yorkshire & Cleveland Heritage Coast, which forms part of the character area and continues northwards.

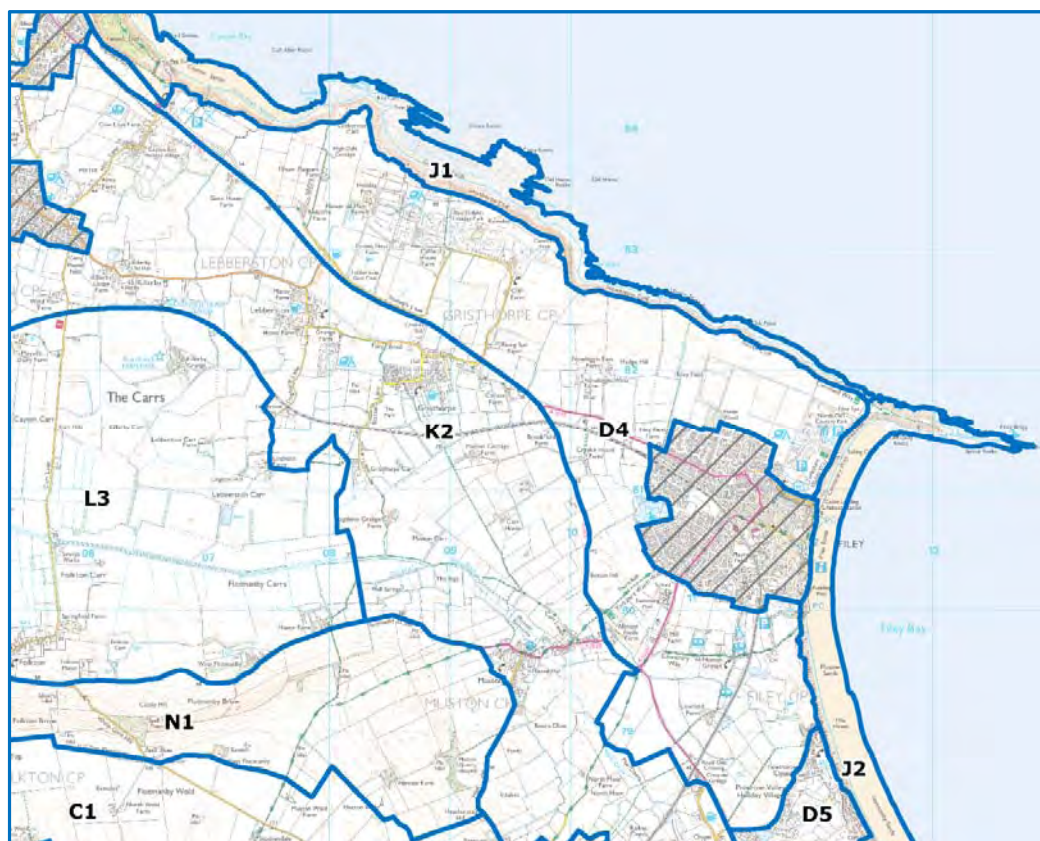
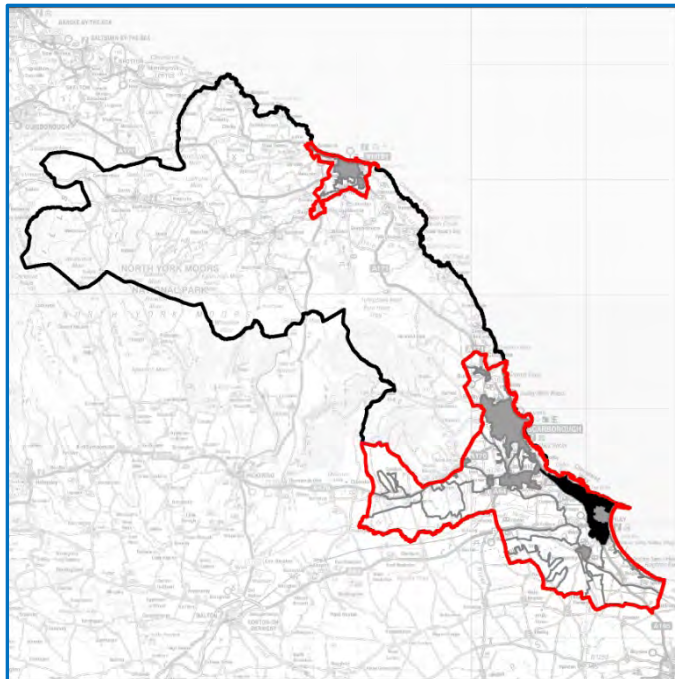
Past change in the landscape

- Weir and Mill development along the Scalby Beck.
- Development of planned enclosure and intensification of agriculture – boundary loss.
- Road development.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.94 The overall landscape strategy is to conserve and enhance the open, simple and rhythmic landscape pattern and land use, the calm rural character and strong connection with the sea. To preserve open views to the National Park (protecting the setting of the protected landscape) and to the coast and the low dispersal of settlement and conserve the intimate character and green corridor network of the becks. There is also an opportunity to manage and restore the network of field boundaries within the area.

Character area D4: Leberston and Filey



Character area D4: Leberston and Filey

Location and boundaries

- 5.95 An area of coastally influenced rolling farmland, which forms the hinterland to the coastal cliffs and South Bay between Scarborough and Filey. The area lies beyond the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast. The coastal boundary is formed by the cliff tops and the settlement edge of Filey. The inland boundary is formed by the vale fringe and predominantly coincides with the A165.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A rolling landscape on a bedrock geology of Upper Calcareous Grits and oolitic limestones of the Corallian Group, overlain by glacial till deposits. Topography ranges from 50-80m AOD, with the highest point on the ridge which forms the top of the cliff face.
- Landcover is defined essentially by farmland, which is predominantly arable, interspersed with mixed field boundary hedgerows.
- Other land uses are clifftop holiday parks/caravan parks which includes North Cliff Country Park (a wooded caravan park), north of Filey, at Filey Brigg.
- With the exception of recreational development and scattered farmsteads, this is a lightly settled landscape, although there are other notable man-made influences such as the A1039 which connects Scarborough and Filey. Settlement fringe influences in relation to these two principal towns are also a feature to the periphery of the area.
- There is the potential for extensive views including of the coastline and out to sea, although these are dictated to some degree by the rolling landform.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates primary historic processes acting on the landscape to be areas of large scale Parliamentary Enclosure with rectilinear field boundary patterns, albeit with notable boundary loss. Post 1950 caravan parks also feature. The most significant historic landscape type is an area of fragmented strip field systems west of Filey.
- Primary designations in this area are a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) on the western edge of Filey (Filey Dams, adjacent to the Yorkshire Wolds Way). A small part of the Filey Conservation Area extends into the character area.
- Recreational interest and experience relates primarily to the cliff top caravan parks and also to the Yorkshire Wolds Way long distance path, part of which traverses the character area. Also the Cleveland Way long distance path, which follows the cliff tops and marks the boundary with the adjacent coastal character area.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.96 The bedrock geology of this area is formed from Upper Calcareous Grits and oolitic limestones of the Corallian Group. It is mainly concealed by glacial drift, namely the thick till deposits, and displays a distinctive and rolling landform, which results in a rhythmic, repetitive and consistent pattern across this area. Topography and elevation has a relatively good degree of variation due to this undulation, ranging from 50-80m AOD. The highest point is found at the cliff face which marks the seaward boundary of the character area.

- 5.97 Landcover is predominantly arable fields contained within field boundary hedgerows in a rectilinear pattern. This pattern, plus the ploughed fields and arable cropping, allied to the landform, adds to the sense of rhythm and repetition in the landscape.
- 5.98 There is relatively little designated nature conservation interest, other than the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) at Filey Dams, a site with Great Crested Newt and bird interest.



Smoothly rolling topography with a strong fluidity of form

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.99 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) shows the most significant historic landscape type in this area to be fragmented relics of medieval/pre enclosure strip field systems occupying a large swathe of farmland to the west of Filey, plus an associated extensive farmed complex including the remains of a moated settlement. Other principal historic landscape types include large scale areas of Parliamentary Enclosure albeit with a significant degree of field boundary loss, and areas of piecemeal enclosure, plus 20th century golf courses and holiday parks, which include North Cliff Country Park (caravan park).
- 5.100 There are no designated heritage assets in this area, with the exception of a small part of the Filey Conservation Area in the east.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.101 Primary aspects of the settlement pattern are the cliff top holiday parks and caravan parks, and attendant infrastructure, plus the A165 and a small part of the railway line between Scarborough and Filey. The modern settlement edge at Scarborough/Osgodby and Filey also have a localised perceptual impact on landscape character in this area.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.102 A rhythmic, repetitive pattern is created by the interplay of rolling landforms and field boundaries. The openness, elevation and coastal proximity and the views to jagged, eroded coastal cliffs, particularly from the Cleveland Way, create a sense of wildness and an 'elemental', windswept quality. This is enhanced by the transient, ever changing character of the coast – the constantly moving North Sea, the changing tides and the variety of light and colour introduced by the weather. The visible presence of development such as holiday parks and resorts adds to this sense of coastal influence and perception.
- 5.103 A further sense of movement and activity is introduced by the movement of the wind and breezes through the fields of arable crops. This is a seasonally colourful landscape, due to arable cropping structural vegetation and changing light, reflection, movement and activity associated with the coastline.
- 5.104 The holiday parks and the A165 corridor impact on and influence the sense of tranquillity of this landscape.



Rolling hinterland interspersed by some modern development, such as buildings and road corridors

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

5.105 In some cases, views across this area and intervisibility with adjacent areas are extensive, albeit filtered and framed by the degree of landform variation. From the most elevated points on the Cleveland Way, there is extensive intervisibility with the adjacent coastal character area, and views out to sea.



Visual connection with the coastline and open sea

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.106 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:
- The rolling landforms which create a rhythmic pattern and considerable visual interest
 - The simplicity of the landscape, and the mostly unified landscape character
 - The area’s sense of openness and coastal influence

Visual sensitivities

- 5.107 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- The visual relationships with the coastline

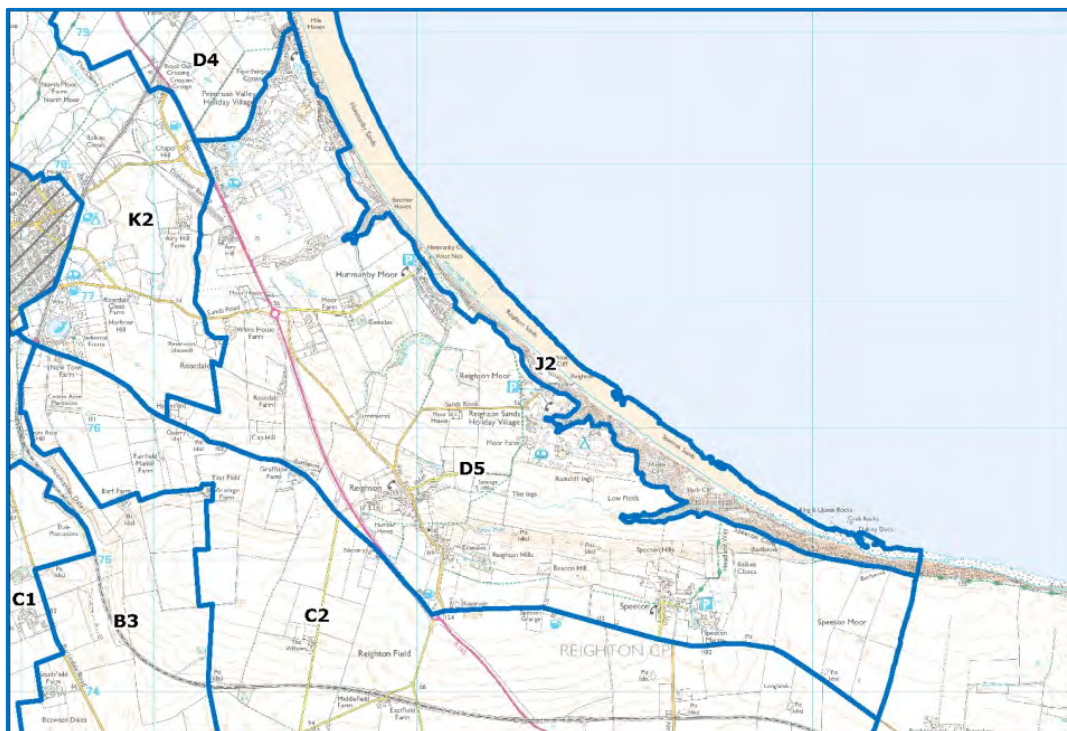
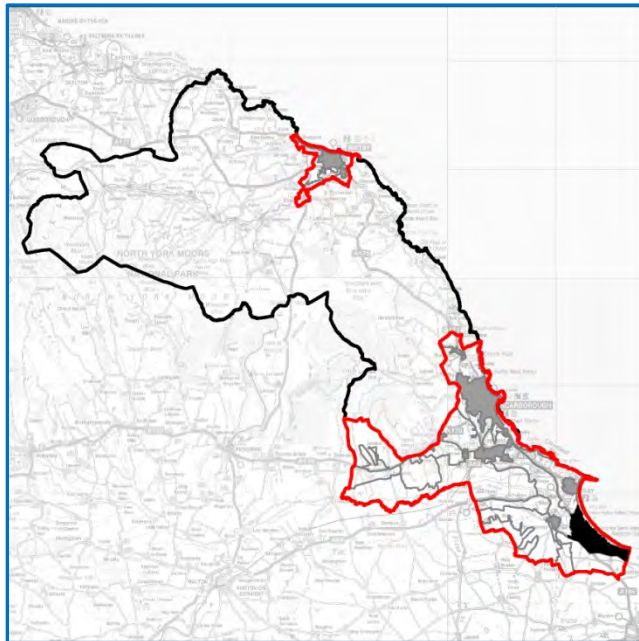
Past change in the landscape

- Development of holiday parks and associated recreational infrastructure
- Agricultural intensification and attendant boundary loss

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.108 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve the sense of openness and important visual relationships with the coast, as well as to check future growth which could impact on these e.g. holiday parks. The policy pursued in the Shoreline Management Plan (no active intervention, with coastal defences to be held at Filey town) should be monitored as part of the strategy.

Character area D5: Hunmanby Moor to Speeton



Character area D5: Hunmanby Moor to Speeton

Location and boundaries

- 5.109 An area of coastally influenced rolling farmland, which forms the hinterland to the coastal cliffs at the southern end of Filey Bay, stretching from the Primrose Valley Holiday Village in the north to Speeton in the south. The south of the area lies within the Flamborough Headland Heritage Coast. The coastal boundary is defined by the cliff tops, with the inland boundary defined by the intersection with the vale fringe and the wolds landscapes, and influenced by the visual and physical coastal connection.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A distinctive rolling and hummocky landscape on bedrock geology of chalk and mudstones, overlain predominantly by glacial till deposits. Topography ranges from 30-140m AOD.
- Landcover is defined essentially by farmland, which is predominantly arable, interspersed with hedgerow field boundaries.
- Other land uses are clifftop holiday parks/caravan parks which includes Primrose Valley Holiday Village and Reighton Sands Holiday Village, and a number of small villages, namely Flat Cliff, Hunmanby Moor, Reighton and Speeton.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates primary historic processes acting on the landscape to be areas of large scale Parliamentary Enclosure and modern field improvements, albeit with notable boundary loss. There is also some evidence of areas of piecemeal enclosure, and 20th century holiday and caravan parks are an important feature.
- Primary designations in this area are a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) on Speeton Hills and Reighton Conservation Area.
- Hedgerow field boundaries and grassy road side verges provide important linear corridors and connectivity within this agriculturally dominant landscape.
- Recreational interest and experience relates primarily to the cliff top caravan and holiday parks and also to the Headland Way long distance path, part of which traverses the south of the character area.
- A uniform and simple character, with a fluid and rhythmic form created by the rolling topography and simplicity of arable land cover.
- There are extensive views including of the coastline and out to sea, although these are dictated to some degree by the rolling landform.
- The openness, elevation and coastal proximity and the views to coastal cliffs and open sea, create a sense of wildness and a windswept quality.
- Localised audible and visual impact is created by a number of human influences, including a number of areas of settlement, holiday parks and the A165 and B1229 corridors.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.110 The bedrock geology of this area is formed from chalk which underlies the south, and mudstones which predominates elsewhere. It is mainly the glacial till deposits, which give rise to the distinctive rolling and hummocky landform, creating a rhythmic and varied landscape pattern in this area. Two pockets of glaciofluvial deposits overlay bedrock on the edge of the character area in the south west. Topography and elevation varies throughout the character area, ranging from approximately 30-140m AOD. The highest point is found at Beacon Hill in the south.

- 5.111 Landcover is predominantly arable contained by straight field boundary hedgerows. This pattern of open ploughed fields and arable cropping, together with smoothly rolling landform, adds to the fluidity and repetition in the landscape.



5.112 There is relatively little designated nature conservation interest, other than the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) on Speeton Hills. Hedgerow field boundaries and grassy road side verges provide important linear corridors and connectivity within this agriculturally dominant landscape.

Open arable farmland and rolling landform

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.113 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the landscape has been largely shaped by Parliamentary Enclosure, consisting of medium and large scale fields typically in a semi-irregular pattern, and by modern improved fields²⁰ consisting of large fields in a semi-irregular pattern, albeit with some varying levels of boundary loss across the landscape since 1850. In addition, there is also evidence of areas of piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in an irregular or semi irregular pattern close to the settlement of Reighton. The landscape has also been shaped by recreation and leisure activities, with an area in the north being the former site of a Butlins holiday camp, commandeered for use as an RAF training base in WWII before being resumed as a holiday camp until 1984. To the north of this area is an extensive caravan park, and further south along the cliff edge is a holiday park, both reflecting the changing pattern of leisure in the late 20th century.
- 5.114 There are no designated heritage assets in this area, with the exception of Reighton Conservation Area in the south west.

Settlement pattern; built character



Reighton Sands Holiday Village

5.115 There are a number of small settlements and villages scattered across the character area, either along the cliff edge, such as Flat Cliff and Hunmanby Moor, or further inland near the transport links, such as Reighton and Speeton. In addition to these villages are two cliff top holiday parks and attendant infrastructure, namely Primrose Valley Holiday Village and Reighton Sands Holiday Village. Elsewhere, there are a few scattered properties and farmsteads.

- 5.116 The busy A165 and the B1229 pass along east and south of the character area, with a number of smaller rural roads radiating from these transport corridors, typically heading to the cliff tops.

²⁰ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.117 This is an agricultural landscape, dominated by open arable fields which contribute to a uniform and simple character. The smoothly rolling topography with sparse tree cover creates a fluid and rhythmic form. The openness, elevation and coastal proximity and the views to coastal cliffs and open sea, create a sense of wildness and a windswept quality. This is enhanced by the transient, ever changing character of the coast – the constantly moving North Sea, the changing tides and the variety of light and colour introduced by the weather. The visible presence of development such as holiday parks and resorts adds to this sense of coastal influence and perception.
- 5.118 The landscape is interrupted by a number of human influences, which occasionally create a discordant character. Settlement, holiday parks and the A165 and B1229 corridors have an audible and visual localised impact on the landscape.
- 5.119 There are a number of local footpaths throughout the character area, which provide access to the coastline. The Headland Way long distance footpath passes through the south of the character area.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)



5.120 Views across this area and intervisibility with adjacent areas are extensive, albeit filtered and framed by the degree of landform variation. From the most elevated points on the Cleveland Way, there is extensive intervisibility with the adjacent coastal character area, and views out to sea.

Long view out to sea and along the coastline

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.121 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:
- The rolling landforms which create a rhythmic pattern and considerable visual interest
 - The simplicity of the landscape, and the mostly unified landscape character
 - The area's sense of openness and coastal influence

Visual sensitivities

- 5.122 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- The visual relationships with the coastline
 - Long extensive views, particularly out to sea

Past change in the landscape

- Development of holiday parks and associated recreational infrastructure
- Agricultural intensification and attendant boundary loss

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.123 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve the sense of openness and important visual relationships with the coast, as well as to check future growth which could impact on these e.g. holiday parks.

Character Type E: Tabular Foothills

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

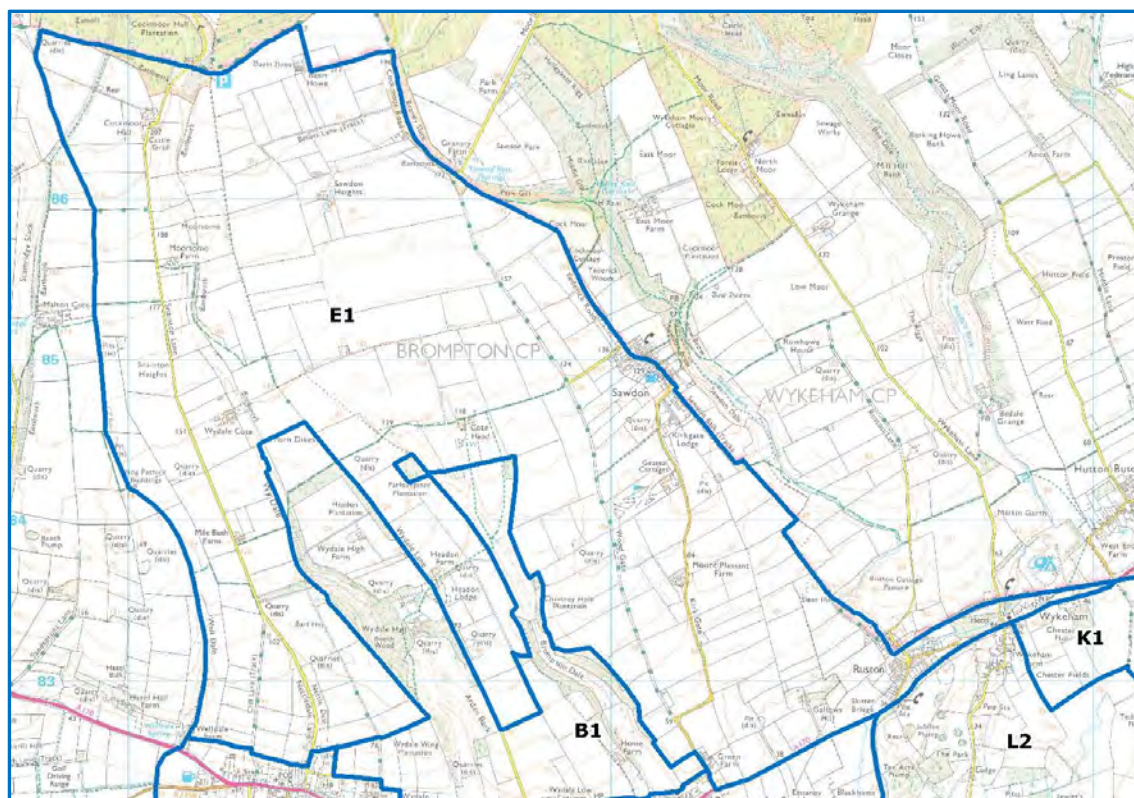
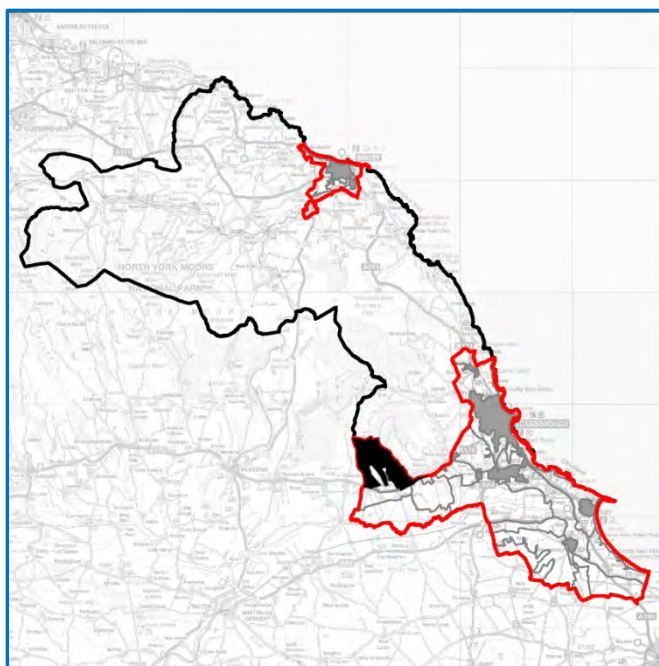
- A smoothly contoured landscape, which is underlain by Corallian limestones and sandstones, gradually rising from lower lying landscape to prominent escarpments or continuing northwards into the North York Moors National Park. The slopes are steeper at lower elevations, becoming shallower and forming an open plateau top further the north.
- An agricultural landscape supporting a mix of arable cultivation with some pasture/rough grazing farmland. The landscape has little habitat variability, however fields are fringed with dense, outgrown hedgerows and interspersed with occasional blocks of coniferous woodland and small woodland clumps, which form important features and invaluable linear wildlife corridors.
- A largely open, elevated landscape allowing for extensive long distance views across the lower lying vale landscape and occasionally towards the National Park. Intervisibility is confined by rising landform and the wooded scarps in places and sometimes views are broken by variations in landform and occasional woodland.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies principal historic landscape processes acting on the landscape to be a mix of planned large scale Parliamentary Enclosure and modern improved fields²¹, with medium to large sized fields arranged in a regular to semi regular pattern.
- Historic elements include prehistoric linear boundaries and associated features, and a number of historical earthworks, which are recognised as sites of scheduled (ancient) monuments, and are often located on the higher slopes to the north.
- A largely unsettled landscape, with scattered farmsteads and small clusters of residential dwellings. Albeit, there is a visual influence from adjacent villages on the edge of the landscape, particularly to the south.
- A simple, open and uniform character, however localised impacts on tranquillity and experiential landscape character are created by scattered development, pylon lines, and urban edges of settlements.

Constituent LCAs

- E1 Sawdon
- E2 East Ayton
- E3 Eastfield

²¹ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Character area E1: Sawdon



Character area E1: Sawdon

Location and boundaries

- 5.124 This landscape forms the foothills which rise from the low lying Vale of Pickering to the prominent and wooded escarpment of the North York Moors National Park. The northern and eastern boundaries abut this designated landscape and the western limits are formed by the Borough boundary, however the landscape character continues beyond these boundaries. To the south, the character area is defined by the dale landscape which dissects the foothills.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A smoothly contoured landscape, which is underlain by Corallian limestones and sandstones, gradually rising from lower lying landscape to the south, northwards, to the edge of the North York Moors National Park. The slopes are steeper at lower elevations, becoming shallower and forming an open plateau top in the north.
- An agricultural landscape comprising arable cultivation with some pasture farmland. The landscape has little habitat variability, with occasional small woodland clumps and groups of trees forming important features, and hedgerows with scattered trees and grassy verges provide invaluable linear wildlife corridors.
- The historic field pattern is shaped by a mix of planned large scale Parliamentary Enclosure and modern improved fields²², with medium to large sized fields arranged in a regular to semi regular pattern.
- Historic elements include prehistoric linear boundaries and associated features, and a round barrow, located in the north west of the character area.
- Settlement density is low and dispersed, with the traditional small scale villages of Sawdon and Ruston located on the edge of the character area, comprising a mix of houses composed of limestone, sandstone and brick, with pantile or slate roof tiles. Farmsteads are scattered along small rural roads, with a mix of traditional, vernacular buildings together with a number of modern outbuildings, and partially screened by trees.
- A uniform, balanced and rhythmic character, with strong rural quality and sense of tranquillity. Occasional woodland clumps, groups of mature trees and dense hedgerows introduce intimate, enclosed features which contrast with the typically open and simplistic character which prevails elsewhere.
- A strong sense of openness. The more elevated parts of the landscape in the north allow for expansive views south across the landscape and to the Vale of Pickering, with views north restricted by the densely wooded edge of the North York Moors National Park. There is a strong connection with the National Park. Views in the south are often broken by variations in landform and occasional woodland clumps.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.125 A smoothly rolling landscape which rises at a shallow angle from the low lying Vale of Pickering to the prominent wooded edge of the North York Moors National Park. The landscape is underlain by variations of different layers of Corallian limestone and calcareous sandstone. The south of the

²² Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

landscape is incised by deep dales, which form the adjoining landscape character area (LCA B1). The tabular hills are more undulating in the south closer to the dale valleys, gradually levelling out and becoming shallower in the north, forming a smoothly contoured plateau landscape. The landform exhibits regular undulating variation, forming a wave-like topography in an east to west direction. There are a number of small disused quarries scattered throughout the landscape, and in the adjacent dales.



Rolling landform with arable fields and occasional wooded edges

This is an agriculturally dominant landscape with limited tree cover and habitat variability. The area supports arable cultivation, with some pasture farming for sheep located closer to settlement. Occasional small pockets of trees and woodland are scattered throughout, and small groups or individual mature trees are found along field boundaries and roads. Hedgerows and grassy verges form important linear corridors throughout the landscape. Cockmoor Hall is an area of Lowland dry acid grassland, located in the north of the character area, and recognised as a SINCC. It is an historic rabbit warren located on a ridge, on the edge of the North York Moors and 35% of this site is a BAP priority habitat.



Small pockets of mature woodland

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.126 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the landscape has been shaped by a mix of planned large scale Parliamentary Enclosure, consisting of medium sized fields in both regular and semi irregular patterns, and by modern improvement²³ of fields which comprise large fields in a semi-irregular pattern. The landscape has experienced a degree of boundary loss. There are a large number of fields delineated by dry stone walls which create an interesting visual and cultural feature in the landscape.
- 5.127 There are a number of sites of scheduled (ancient) monuments, which are confined to the north western part of the character area. These include a prehistoric linear boundary and associated features, such as a medieval monastic grange, which lies to the north, east and south east of Moorsome Farm. In addition, Scamridge Dikes which are prehistoric linear boundaries and

²³ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

associated features are located in the far north west, and Basin Howe, a round barrow immediately north of Wellspring Farm is located on the northern boundary.



Pattern of dry stone walls

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.128 The area comprises a low density of dispersed settlement which is scattered along small rural roads/lanes. The small village of Sawdon is located on the eastern edge of the character area, and Ruston is located on the south eastern edge, both of which are small scale and linear in form. Building typically comprised traditional materials, with a mix of styles composed of limestone, sandstone and sometimes brick, with pantile or slate roof tiles. Elsewhere, a number of farmsteads are located throughout the landscape, often with a mix of traditional buildings (made from sandstone, limestone and brick, and pantile or slate roof tiles), together with a larger number of modern outbuildings. Farmsteads are often partially screened by trees.
- 5.129 The A170 passes along the south eastern boundary and introduces a rare modern, overt built feature within the landscape.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.130 This is an open, agricultural landscape, with regular shaped medium to large scale fields which contribute to a uniform and balanced character. The smoothly rolling topography with sparse tree cover creates a fluid and rhythmic form. The sparse dispersal of settlement sits comfortably within its surroundings, and use of traditional vernacular materials adds to the quality of the landscape. Occasional modern farm buildings reduce this intactness. Occasional woodland clumps, groups of mature trees and dense hedgerows introduce intimate, enclosed features which contrast with the typically open and simplistic character which prevails elsewhere. The character area demonstrates a peaceful and deeply rural landscape character with a strong visual connection to the National Park.



Strong rural and intimate character

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.131 The landscape has a sense of openness, which is a result of the sloping landform, large scale arable farmland and limited tree cover. The more elevated parts of the landscape in the north allow for expansive views south across the landscape and to the Vale of Pickering. Views to the north are restricted by the densely wooded edge of the North York Moors National Park. The more undulating slopes to the south allow for occasional long views, however views are sometimes broken by variations in landform and occasional woodland clumps. The adjacent wooded dales restrict views east and west across the character area.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Occasional small woodland clumps and groups of trees, hedgerows with scattered trees and grassy verges.
- Strongly defined, regular field pattern.
- Historic features in the north west of the area, which include prehistoric linear boundaries and associated features, and a round barrow.
- Low density and dispersal of settlement, with many vernacular and traditional buildings.
- A uniform, balanced and rhythmic landscape character, with strong rural quality and sense of tranquillity.
- The quality and intactness of the landscape.

Visual sensitivities

- A strong sense of openness.
- Expansive views south particularly south from higher elevations, with views across the landscape and to the Vale of Pickering.
- Strong visual connection with the North York Moors National Park, which forms a dense wooded edge to the north.

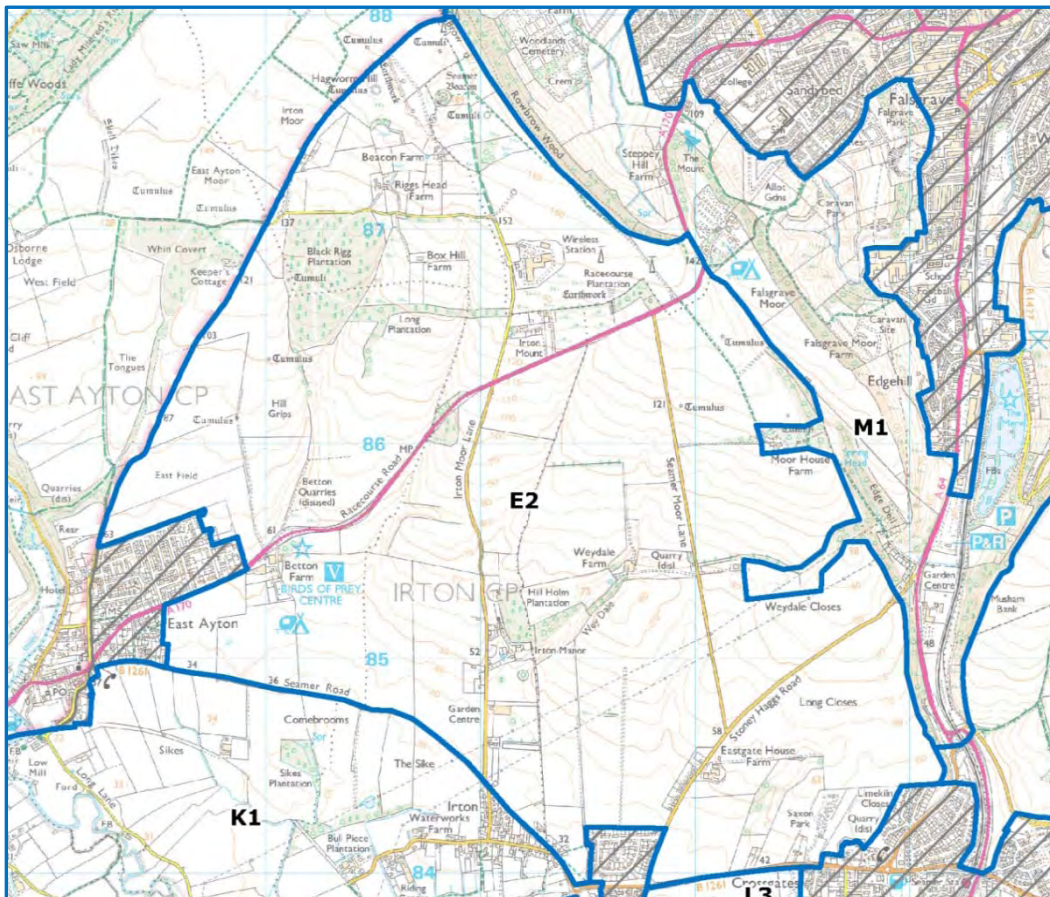
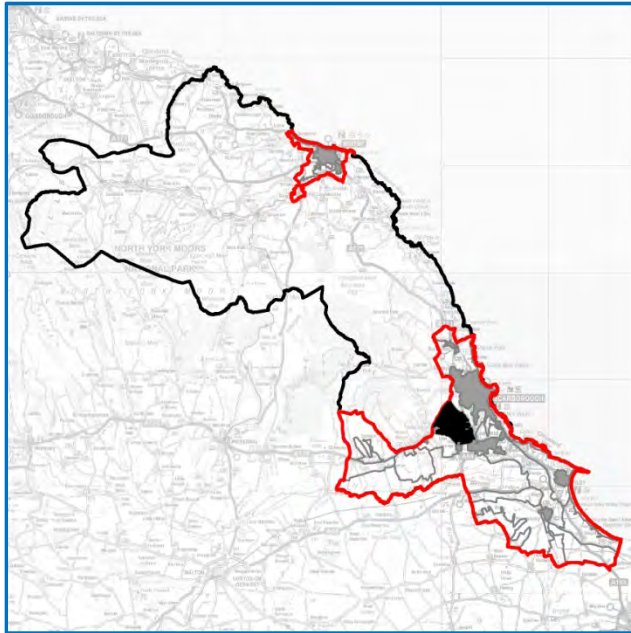
Pats change in the landscape

- Development of planned enclosure and intensification of agriculture – boundary loss and loss of habitats.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

The overall landscape strategy is to conserve and enhance the balanced and rhythmic landscape pattern, and the tranquil and rural character. To conserve open views, the setting to the National Park and the low dispersal of settlement and built structures, whilst restoring and enhancing tree cover, woodland cover and habitat diversification where appropriate.

Character area E2: East Ayton



Character area E2: East Ayton

Location and boundaries

- 5.132 This landscape forms the foothills which rise in a north easterly direction from the low lying Vale of Pickering to the prominent wooded escarpment which lies to the south west of Scarborough, and forms the north east and eastern boundaries. The western boundary abuts the North York Moors National Park, however in reality the foothills landscape character continues beyond this boundary.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Intermediate topography ranges from 35m AOD at the southern edge along the B126 to 175m AOD at the approach to the scarp top in the north. The area has smoothly rolling landform, which shapes the foothills topography.
- Bedrock geology is formed by layers of limestone and sandstone, and overlain in places with sand and gravel deposits.
- Land cover is farmland, predominantly large fields of arable use, with some rough grassland fields for pasture and grazing in the north. Fields are fringed by dense, outgrown hedgerows and interspersed with occasional blocks of coniferous woodland.
- There are a number of areas of lowland calcareous grassland (Priority BAP Habitats) which are also recognised as SINCs, and Black Rigg plantation forms a large area of coniferous woodland, also designated as a SINC. Betton Farm Quarries SSSI is recognised for its geological importance and is home to valuable Coral Rag sections in the Scarborough area.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) identifies that the principle historic landscape processes acting on the landscape to be semi irregular enclosure shaped by modern improved fields, plus a few smaller areas of Parliamentary Enclosure consisting of medium sized regular fields.
- There are a significant number of bowl barrows which are recognised as sites of scheduled (ancient) monuments, which are typically limited to the northern part of the character area.
- There is a low density of dispersed settlement, which is composed of scattered stone built farmsteads and a small cluster of modern residential properties in the south. The Arts and Crafts style Irton Manor is a prominent buildings, located on the hillside within extensive private gardens and parkland.
- A large scale, open landscape, with a simple land use dominated by farmland. In places, a discordant character, with localised impacts on tranquillity and experiential landscape character created by scattered development, including pylon lines, a wireless station, the A170. The urban edges of a number of settlements, East Ayton, Irton, Seamer and Crossgates, fringe the character area in the south.
- Densely vegetated field boundaries and rural roads, and occasional woodland blocks help to create a greater legibility within the landscape, and introduce intimate, enclosed features which contrast with the typically open and simplistic character which prevails elsewhere.
- Expansive views south across the landscape and to the Vale of Pickering. There is a strong visual connection with the edge of the North York Moors National Park, which

borders the character area to the west. Intervisibility to the north, west and east is largely confined by rising landform and the wooded scarps which fringe parts the area.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.133 A smoothly rolling landscape gradually in a north easterly direction, from the low lying Vale of Pickering to the prominent scarp on the south westerly edge of Scarborough. The landscape is underlain by limestone in the south, and sandstone in the north, with interbedded layers of these more centrally. Pockets of sand and gravel overlay bedrock in the north and south.
- 5.134 This is an agricultural landscape, which is dominated by large arable fields, and interspersed with occasional fields for pasture and grazing, typically in the north of the character area. Field boundaries are often delineated by dense, outgrown hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees and grassy verges along roads. These provide valuable linear corridors within the landscape. Farmland is interspersed with occasional blocks of woodland which typically comprises coniferous plantation, with the most significant block located in the north west, at Black Rigg Plantation, recognised as a SINC. There are a number of areas of lowland calcareous grassland (Priority BAP Habitats) which are also recognised as SINC, and include those sites at Racecourse Road Plantation, Weydale, Irton which lies to the south east and north east of Hill Holm Plantation and Crossgates Quarry (disused).
- 5.135 Betton Farm Quarries SSSI is recognised for its geological importance and is home to valuable Coral Rag sections in the Scarborough area. It is located in the south west of the character area and is an example of coral patch reefs in the Yorkshire Corallian outcrop, with a rich associated molluscan fossil fauna, notably gastropods which occur both in and around the reefs.



Gently rolling farmland



Densely vegetated road sides

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.136 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the landscape has been largely shaped by modern improved fields which comprise large fields in a semi-irregular pattern, and often show a large degree of boundary loss since 1850. There are a few smaller areas of parliamentary enclosure consisting of medium sized fields which are often arranged in a regular pattern, however in the north west field are typically irregular in form.
- 5.137 Black Rigg and Long Plantations comprise coniferous plantation which has a regular fenced boundary, planted on an area of former moorland. To the east of this plantation, there is an area which has been reverted to moorland with rough grassland ground cover. The area was previously moorland before being used as a racecourse.
- 5.138 Irton Manor is located in the south and is a large country house located on the hillside and its extensive private grounds of gardens and parkland. It was built by a wealthy accountant in 1910, in an Arts and Crafts style.
- 5.139 There are a significant number of historical earthworks which are recognised as sites of scheduled ancient monuments, and are typically limited to the northern part of the character area. These

include barrows at Hagworm Hill; Seamer Beacon and the ruins of Baron Albert's Tower; near Beacon Farm; near Betton Farm; and near Moor House Farm; and a section of linear earthwork on Seamer Moor Hill.

Settlement pattern; built character

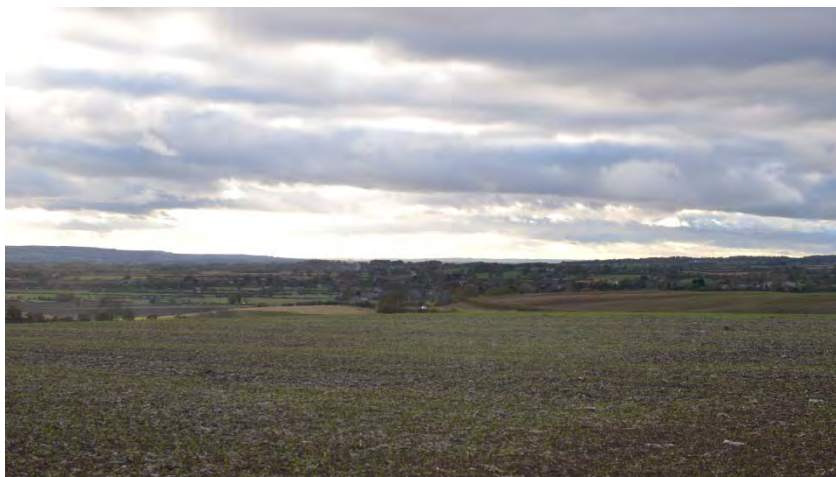
- 5.140 There is a low density of dispersed settlement, which is composed of scattered stone built farmsteads and a small cluster of modern residential properties in the south. The Arts and Crafts Irton Manor is also situated in the south. A number of modern features and buildings are scattered throughout the landscape, such as pylon lines in the south, and the Composite Signals Organisation Station (a satellite ground station or wireless station) located in the north of the character area on Racecourse Hill. It is operated by the British signals intelligence service (GCHQ) on the site of the former World War II airfield, which was originally used as a Naval Wireless Telegraphy shore receiving station. These introduce prominent tall features into the landscape which are highly visible across the character area and in the landscape beyond. The urban edges of a number of settlements, namely East Ayton, Irton, Seamer and Crossgates, fringe the character area in the south.
- 5.141 The busy A170 passes through the landscape and introduces a busy central corridor within the character area. A number of smaller, rural roads, lined by dense overgrown hedgerows and trees pass through the landscape elsewhere.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.142 This is a large scale, open landscape, with a simple land use dominated by farmland. Occasional scattered human features, such as caravan sites, the wireless station and pylon lines create a discordant landscape and localised impacts, reducing the intactness of the landscape. Densely vegetated field boundaries and rural roads, and occasional woodland blocks help to create a greater legibility within the landscape, and introduce intimate, enclosed features which contrast with the typically open and simplistic character which prevails elsewhere.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.143 The landscape has a great sense of openness, which is a result of the gently sloping landform, large scale arable farmland and limited tree cover. This allows for expansive views south across the landscape and to the Vale of Pickering. There is a strong visual connection with the edge of the North York Moors National Park, which borders the character area to the west. Views to the north, west and east out of the character area are largely terminated by wooded horizons.



Long views across the lower lying vale landscape and towards the scarp

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Occasional woodland clumps and groups of trees, dense hedgerows with scattered trees and grassy verges, which form important ecological features and landscape structure.
- Historic features in the north of the area, which include a number of earthworks recognised as scheduled (ancient) monuments.
- Low density and dispersal of settlement.
- The scarp top woodlands which border the area.

Visual sensitivities

- A strong sense of openness.
- Expansive views, particularly south, with views across the landscape and to the Vale of Pickering.
- Visual relationship with the North York Moors National Park and scarp tops which forms a wooded edge.

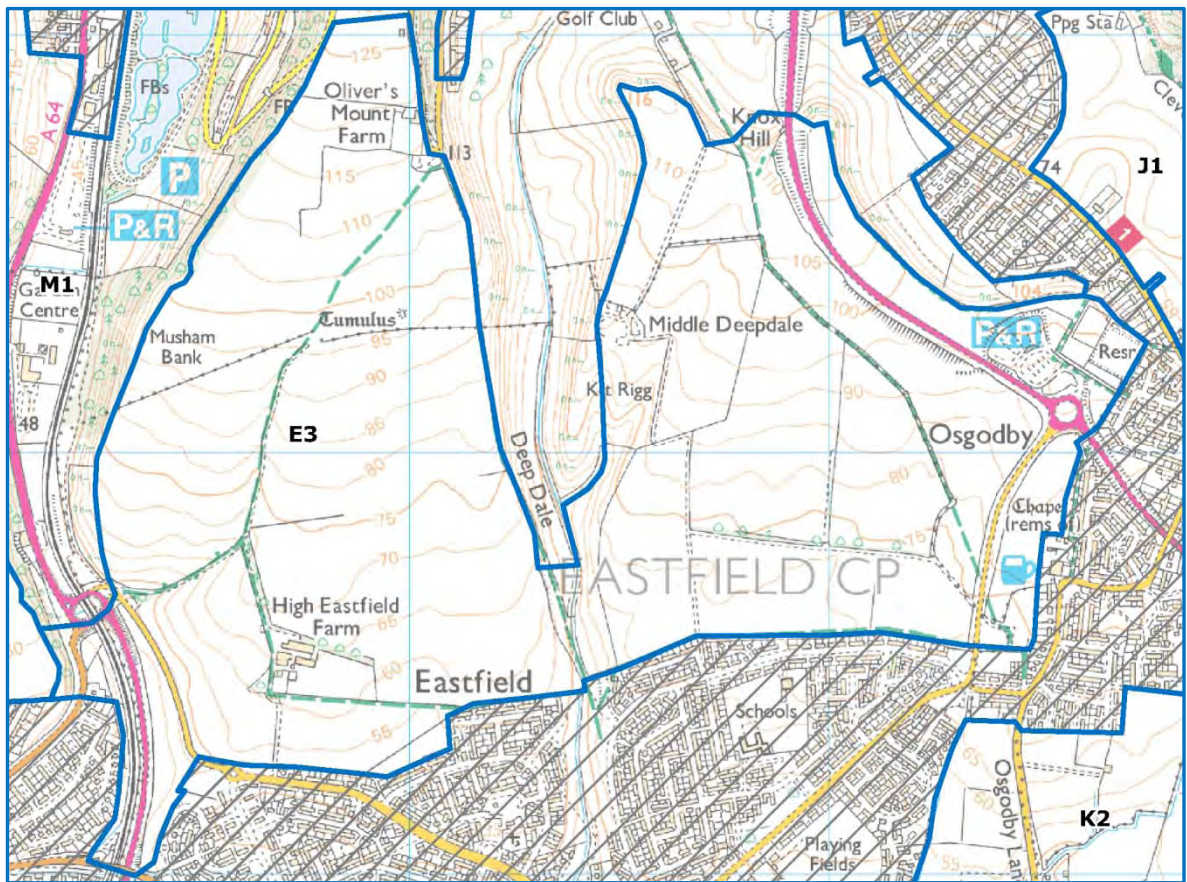
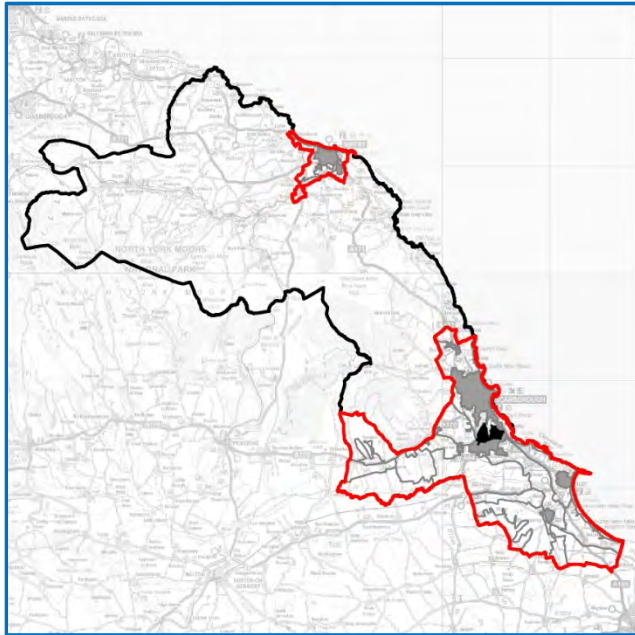
Past change in the landscape

- Agricultural intensification and modern field improvements, and resultant field boundary loss.
- Settlement edge expansion at East Ayton, Irton, Seamer and Crossgates which has fringed the character area to the south.
- Coniferous plantation and loss of moorland.
- Development of the A170 through the centre of the character area.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

The overall landscape strategy is to enhance and restore the landscape, seeking opportunities to create improved landscape connectivity (created by trees, hedgerow boundaries and woodland), whilst seeking to respect the expansive, open character of the landscape, protecting the setting of the adjoining National Park. The farmland fringes to the plantations may provide an opportunity for heathland/moorland re-creation, subject to available land management grant schemes.

Character area E3: Eastfield



Character area E3: Eastfield

Location and boundaries

- 5.144 This area is formed by a small section of limestone tabular foothills extending eastwards from the A64 south of Scarborough, and encircled by the scarp slopes (character area M1), which fringe the town. The area forms the gap between Scarborough and Cayton to the south. It is not covered by any landscape designations.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Topography ranges from 55m AOD at the northern edge of Cayton to 125m AOD to the approach to Oliver's Mount and the scarp top in the north. The area has a rolling foothills topography as well as a pronounced slope.
- Bedrock geology is formed by rocks of the Corallian Group - sandstones and Lower Calcareous Grits, overlain with glacial till deposits.
- Landcover is farmland, predominantly arable with some rough grassland margins, fringed by the mixed woodlands of the scarp slopes rising to Oliver's Mount and obelisk in the adjacent character area.
- An essentially empty farmed landscape, albeit visually influenced to the south by the modern northern settlement edge of Cayton and Eastfield.
- Intervisibility is confined by rising landform and the wooded scarps which fringe the area, and which essentially foil the edges of Scarborough town from view.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies principal historic landscape processes acting on the landscape to be irregular enclosure with up to 90% boundary loss since c.1850, plus modern improved fields. Also some more intact areas of piecemeal enclosure with greater legibility – only around 40% boundary loss since c.1850.
- Principal designations in this area are a round barrow earthwork (Scheduled Monument) to the south of Oliver's Mount Farm. Deep Dale, within the adjacent character area, but adjoining this area is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- Localised impacts on tranquillity and experiential landscape character are created by the A165 corridor and park and ride site in the eastern part of the character area. The A64 lies immediately to the west of the area.
- In terms of recreation and access, the area is crossed by a network of bridleways.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.145 An undulating landform is composed of thick drift deposits of glacial till which overlay a bedrock of Corallian Group rocks - sandstones and Lower Calcareous Grits, plus isolated areas of oolitic limestone. Topography is distinctive and varies considerably across the character area from 55m AOD at the Cayton/Eastfield settlement edge to a high point of 125m AOD at the scarp top/ edge near Oliver's Mount.
- 5.146 Landcover is predominantly arable cultivation, set within a relatively large scale irregular rectilinear field boundary network, the legacy of mid-20th century agricultural intensification and boundary loss. As such the only landscape structure within the area is formed by patchy,

discontinuous hedgerows, although the area is fringed by the mixed woodlands on the scarps around Oliver's Mount. The rough grassland on Deep Dale, part of the scarp slopes forming the area boundary is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.



Undulating sloping landform and simple farmland land cover.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.147 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies primary historic landscape processes acting on this area to be predominantly Parliamentary Enclosure in a regular, rectilinear pattern, with legibility often compromised by field boundary loss arising from mid-20th century agricultural intensification (referred to in the HLC as 'modern improved fields'). Other historic landscape types represented in the area include areas of irregular piecemeal enclosure with lower levels of boundary loss and partial legibility.
- 5.148 Other aspects of the historic landscape resource include scheduled archaeology – a prehistoric round barrow in the western part of the area, some 460m south of Oliver's Mount Farm, in the north western part of the character area.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.149 This is essentially an unsettled farmland landscape, largely isolated in character, although the southern boundary adjoins the exposed, modern northern settlement edge of Cayton. The only other evidence of settlement is in the form of isolated farmsteads, such as Oliver's Mount Farm (a 19th century red brick built farm house with rusticated stone outbuildings).

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.150 A large scale, open and exposed landscape due to the relative absence of structural landscape features within the area. A landscape of simple character due to the limited variety of elements within it and the sense of repetition and rhythm created by the undulating, rising landform. Whilst of a muted colour palette, this is seasonally dependent and varies with arable cropping regimes.
- 5.151 With the exception of the A1065 corridor and associated park and ride in the eastern part of the area, and the localised visual impact of the settlement edge at Cayton, this is a landscape of otherwise relatively tranquil character.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.152 An open visual character and extensive views persist across the area. Wider intervisibility is however confined by landform and scarp top woodlands which fringe much of the area.



Long views towards lower lying vale landscape

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

5.153 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:

- The distinctive, undulating landform
- The scarp top woodlands which border the area
- The remote, largely unsettled character

Visual sensitivities

5.154 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:

- The open, expansive views within and across the character area

Past change in the landscape

- Mid-20th century agricultural intensification and attendant field boundary loss
- Settlement edge expansion at Cayton which has impinged locally on the visual character of the area

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

5.155 The overall landscape strategy is to enhance and restore the landscape, seeking opportunities to create improved landscape connectivity (through native hedgerow linkages, expanded grassland margins) whilst seeking to respect the expansive, open character of the landscape.

Character Type F: River Valley

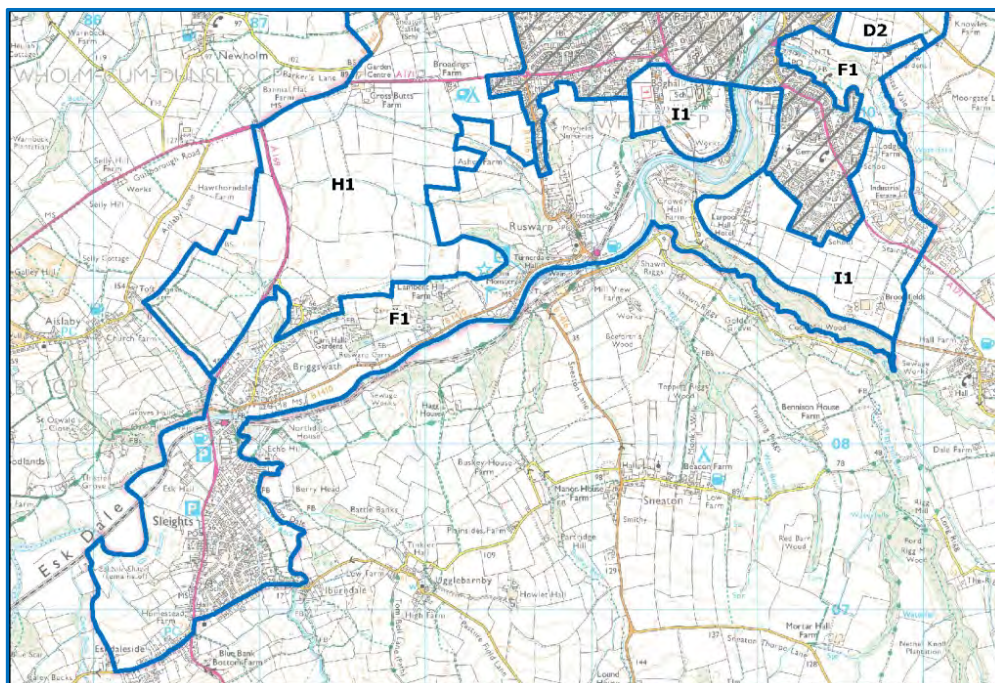
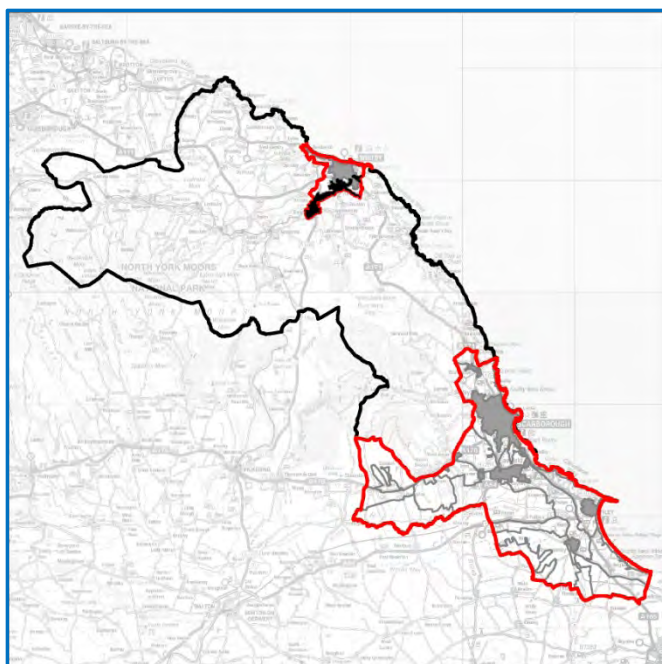
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A narrow valley, widening in places, and bound by steep rolling valley sides. Small becks and tributaries feed into the valley, incising the valley slopes and creating a rolling topography.
- The river corridor has incised the landscape and exposed varied underlying bedrock, which is overlain by alluvium along the valley floor and glacial Till on the valley sides.
- A mosaic of small scale fields used for rough grazing and pasture, are interspersed by areas of woodland and bound by dense hedgerows with trees.
- The valley provides a variety of wildlife habitats, which are associated with the river corridor, riparian habitats, and the wooded slopes. Areas of broadleaved plantation provide important historical and ecological value.
- A well settled landscape, with villages established along the valley floor and extending up the valley sides, and large estates and manor houses set within extensive landscape grounds along the valley sides overlooking the river. A strong historic intactness associated with settlement, with some modern extensions.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the landscape is largely shaped by piecemeal enclosure. Important historic landmark features are often associated with settlement and the use of the valley as a transport route.
- A largely enclosed landscape with a tranquil and intact character, and a sense of intimacy. The river creates a dynamic character, introducing a sense of movement, texture and reflectivity.
- Views are filtered and confined by variation in topography and woodland cover, often channelled along the river corridor. Some longer views are available from upper slopes.

Constituent LCAs

- F1 Esk

Character area F1: Esk



Character area F1: Esk

Location and boundaries

- 5.156 This area covers the River Esk Valley on the edge of the Borough, and which continues south into the North York Moors National Park. This area encompasses the valley floodplain and corridor, and the sloping valley sides. It is dictated along much of the south, west and east boundaries by the North York Moors National Park, and to the north by the crests of the steep valley sides. Elevated land and the settlement of Whitby sit above the landscape in the eastern portion of the area, and dictates much of these boundaries.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

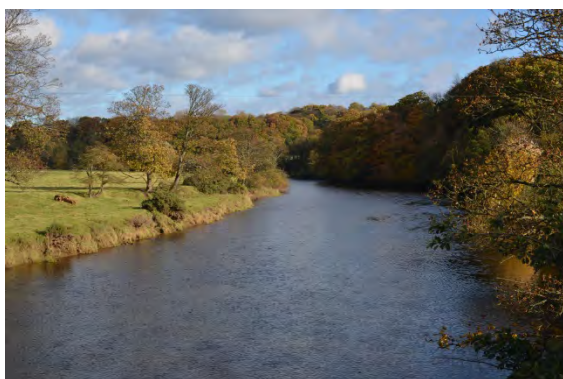
- The River Esk flows south west to north east, and forms a narrow valley, widening in places, and bound by steep rolling valley sides. Small beck and tributaries feed into the valley, incising the valley slopes and emphasising the rolling topography.
- Underlying bedrock varies throughout comprising layers of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. Alluvium forms superficial deposits along the river corridor and glacial Till conceals bedrock elsewhere.
- The River Esk imparts a dynamic character, which introduces a sense of movement, texture and reflectivity.
- The valley is a mosaic of small scale fields used for rough grazing and pasture, which are interspersed by areas of woodland and bound by dense hedgerows with trees, creating a well wooded and enclosed landscape.
- There are a number of areas of broadleaved plantation which are important for their historical and ecological value, which includes the large area of Larpool Wood, and Cock Mill Wood in the south east is a large area of ancient woodland.
- The valley provides a variety of wildlife habitats and ecological value, with a number of areas recognised as SINC's, include Cock Mill and Larpool Wood along Stainsacre Beck, Larpool and Whitehall Woods, the River Esk, and Turnerdale Slack.
- The landscape is well settled, with the three villages of Sleights, Ruswarp and Briggswath, a number of large estates and manor houses set within extensive landscape grounds on the Esk Valley sides, including Esk Hall, Turnerdale Hall is and Carr Hall Gardens, and several scattered farmsteads.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the landscape is largely shaped by piecemeal enclosure which consists of both medium and small sized fields in an irregular or semi-irregular pattern.
- The historic cores of Sleights and Ruswarp are located along the valley. Important historic landmark features associated with this settled valley includes the iron bridge and old watermill in Ruswarp and the Larpool Viaduct.
- A largely enclosed landscape which contrasts with occasional open valley slopes and open floodplain area. Despite the valley being well settled, it possesses a tranquil and intact character, with a sense of intimacy.
- Recreation activities include the long distance Esk Valley Walk and the Sustrans National Cycle Route No 1 which passes over the Larpool Viaduct, as well as rowing and canoeing along the River Esk.

- Typically views are filtered and confined by variation in topography and woodland cover, often channelled along the river corridor. Some longer views are available from upper slopes and from the A171 road bridge.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.157 The valley landscape of the River Esk forms a relatively narrow stretch of floodplain, enclosed by steep, rolling valley sides, which widens in sections, particularly to the east. The Esk flows through the Borough in a south west to north east direction, and cuts through varied bedrock geology of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, overlain throughout by alluvium deposits along the valley floor and glacial till on the valley sides. The valley sides are incised by a number of small tributary streams and becks, which creates variations in topography and create rolling valley sides. Particularly exaggerated variations occur on the slopes to the north west of Ruswarp, where a number of intersecting tributaries form a highly undulating landscape.
- 5.158 The valley is well wooded, with dense blocks and stretches of woodland particularly along the upper slopes, alongside the River Esk and besides other watercourses. Field boundaries are often lined by scattered or dense strips of mature trees. A number of significant areas of woodlands are recognised as SINC's for their wildlife importance include Cock Mill and Larpool Wood along Stainsacre Beck, and Larpool and Whitehall Woods. The river corridor is itself an important habitat and also designated as a SINC, as well as a number of other areas along the floodplain and valley sides, such as Turnerdale Slack, a diverse area of neutral grassland, and Spital Vale and The Bats.



River corridor edged by rough grazing and woodland



Valley slopes comprising small scale farmland wooded tops

- 5.159 The valley sides are largely comprised of small scale fields used for rough grazing and pasture, which are interspersed with areas of woodland and bound by dense hedgerows with trees. Scattered and specimen trees are also often scattered within fields.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.160 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that a large portion of the historic landscape is shaped by piecemeal enclosure which consists of both medium and small sized fields in an irregular or semi-irregular pattern, often defined by overgrown hedgerows. There are also some interspersed areas of unknown planned enclosure consisting of mediums sized field in a regular pattern.
- 5.161 There are a number of large estates and manor houses along the Esk Valley sides which overlook the river. Esk Hall Farm is a designed landscape and gardens surrounding a Georgian mansion house, with extensive grounds and an avenue of trees; Turnerdale Hall is a country manor property that has been recently refurbished, and dates back to 1810; and Carr Hall Gardens is another large estate set within extensive grounds on the northern slopes of the valley.



Valley slopes influenced by landscape estate/manor houses and associated grounds

- 5.162 There are a number of areas of broadleaved plantation which are important for their historical and ecological value, which includes the large area of Larpool Wood, and Cock Mill Wood in the south east.
- 5.163 The historic cores of Sleights and Ruswarp are located along the valley bottom and connected by the Esk Valley railway line which railway line which connects the city of Middlesbrough and the historic seaside town of Whitby.



Esk Valley Railway

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.164 The valley is well settled with the villages of Sleights, Briggswath and Ruswarp all located within the character area. These settlement areas are well integrated within the landscape as a result of woodland and tree cover, together with the variation in topography. Sleights is a sizeable village, and is split in two parts, divided by the River Esk. The name Sleights is derived from the Norse for 'flat land near water'. Briggswath joins Sleights on the north side of the River Esk and stretches up the valley slopes. There is a stone and steel road bridge, over the River Esk, which passes over the river and the railway line. Near the bridge is the Salmon Leap, which is a small weir allowing salmon to swim upriver to the spawning grounds. Briggswath and Sleights contain areas of large modern housing reflecting their growth in the late 20th century.
- 5.165 The village of Ruswarp is located on a steep hill which leads down to the River Esk on the valley floor. It comprises both modern buildings as well as traditional historic buildings, such as the stone cottages which line the main street. On the northern outskirts of the village is Ruswarp Hall, which dates back to about 1603. Important historic landmarks in the village include the iron bridge which was built using the iron from the same supplier as the Sydney Harbour Bridge (Dorman Long, Middlesbrough), and the old watermill built in 1752, with a working waterwheel. Another important landmark to the east of Ruswarp is the brick built Larpool Viaduct which once supported the main Scarborough to Whitby railway line. A Grade II listed viaduct, it was built between 1882-1884, and is 915 feet long, up to 120 feet tall and has 13 impressive arches. This bridge is visible from coastal hinterland to the west of Whitby.



Historic core of Ruswarp (left) and Briggswath settlement nestled with the valley side and woodland (above)

- 5.166 In between the villages are a number of large manor houses set on the valley sides, within landscaped grounds, which overlook the River Esk. In addition are several farmsteads also on the valley sides. The valley is well wooded and settlement is well integrated within the landscape.
- 5.167 The Esk Dale railway line passes through parts of the character area following the low lying valley floor. The B1410 forms an important transport corridor along the valley floor in the centre of the character area, however it is not overtly intrusive or excessively busy. The busier A169 passes through Sleights in the west of the area. A number of smaller winding rural lanes pass through the landscape.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.168 A relatively enclosed landscape, comprising a narrow wooded valley landscape. The varied topography includes enclosed densely wooded areas, which contrasts with occasional areas of open valley sides or open areas along the floodplain and river corridor. Despite the valley being well settled, it possesses a tranquil and intact character, with a sense of intimacy. The river twists and is interspersed by areas of woodland, creating a sense of intrigue and mystery. Movement and reflectivity created by the River Esk creates a dynamic character. The presence of historic estate buildings set within landscaped grounds, and historic features such as those associated with the villages (Sleights and Ruswarp), adds time depth and visual interest.



Enclosed landscape with strong sense of containment



- 5.169 The Esk Valley walk (long distance footpath) passes through the landscape and the Sustrans National Cycle Route No 1 also crosses the area, going over the Larpool Viaduct. Rowing and canoeing along the River Esk is another recreational amenity offered by the landscape.

Strong sense of place and time depth

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.170 The valley is contained by its landform and wooded edges, with views channelled along the valley floor and up and down the valley slopes, however these are often short and filtered. Some views into the valley are afforded from the higher ground (where woodland permits), and long views are possible from the A171 road bridge which forms the north east boundary with Whitby.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Woodland cover, including ancient woodland, notably on higher ground or along water courses which provides visual containment and biodiversity value.
- The River Esk which provide visual interest, ecological value and recreational opportunities.
- The enclosed, intimate and contained character with a strong sense of tranquillity and rural quality.
- Hedgerow and tree boundaries which are visually prominent on valley sides and provide ecological connectivity.
- Historic elements, such as field patterns (piecemeal enclosure) and historical features associated with villages such as the iron bridge and water mill at Ruswarp, the Larpool Viaduct, and large estate manor houses on the valley sides, which are visible reminders of the historic and cultural use of land.
- The strong rural character which persists in close proximity to the settlement and road corridor. The integration of settlement within the landscape.

Visual sensitivities

- The contrast in visual experience of the landscape, with confined views due to the variation in topography and woodland cover, and occasional long views from upper slopes and from the A171 road bridge which forms the north east boundary with Whitby.

Past change in the landscape

- Modern expansion of settlement.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.171 The overall strategy is to conserve and enhance the sense of tranquillity and maintain the rural intact character with settlement well integrated within the landscape. The landscape forms part of the setting of the National Park and this function should be conserved. A key aim should be to manage habitats such as broadleaved woodland and grassland and riparian habitats within the area, and enhancing connectivity of these features, and to conserve importance historical features which add time depth and visual interest.

Character Type G: Coastal Cliffs

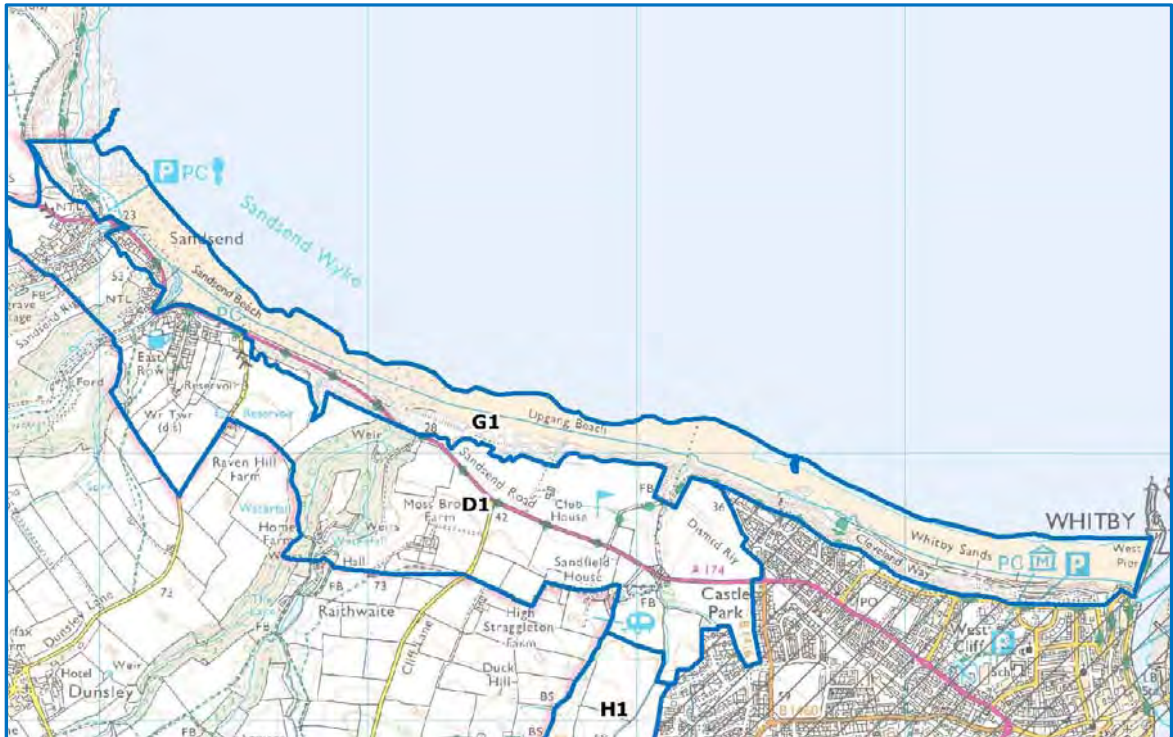
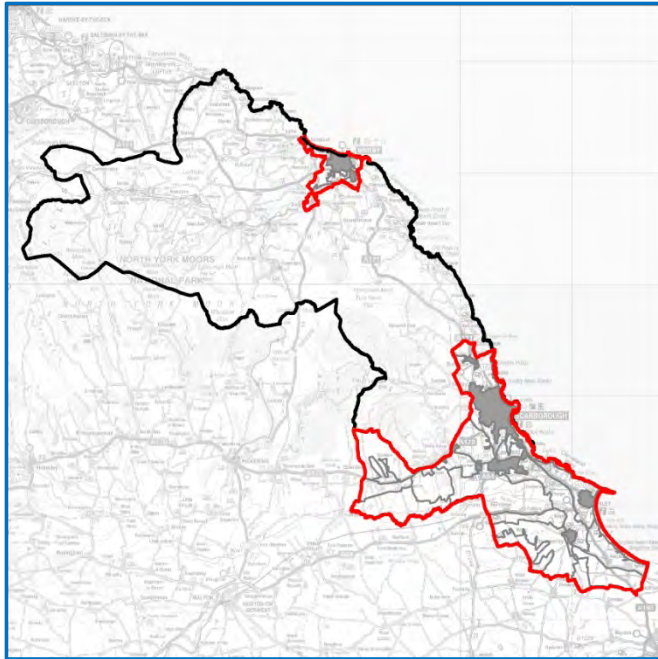
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Steep coastal cliffs composed of varied geology, such as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, and often overlain by glacial till.
- Erosion has created a weathered and varied series of cliff faces, with a series of intimate, sheltered coves and bays, contrasting with the expansive, smooth sandy beaches which are revealed at low tide.
- Some cliffs are largely controlled by sea defences whilst others remain unprotected.
- The landscape encompasses SSSI designations in relation to geological interest, and designated biodiversity interest is represented by a number of BAP habitats, such as coastal cliff mosaic, lowland meadows and lowland calcareous grassland, and locally designated sites.
- Views inland are confined by the cliffs, however there are extensive views along the coastline and out to sea. There is some intervisibility with important historic landmarks along the coastline, and with the North York Moors National Park.
- Recreational interest and experience is associated with wide sandy beaches, and along long distance paths which follow the cliff tops.
- A wild, remote and windswept character, although this contrasts with the more developed, engineered sections of coastline and coastal slopes associated with settlement and resort development.

Constituent LCAs

- G1 Whitby to Sandsend
- G2 Whitby Abbey
- G3 Long Nab to North Bay

Character area G1: Whitby to Sandsend



Character area G1: Whitby to Sandsend

Location and boundaries

- 5.172 This area covers the stretch of coastline from the North York Moors National Park in the west, to the west pier at Whitby. It encompasses Sandsend Beach, Upgang Beach and Whitby Sands, and forms part of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast in the west. The southern, inland boundary is formed by the cliff top which essentially coincides with underlying geology.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

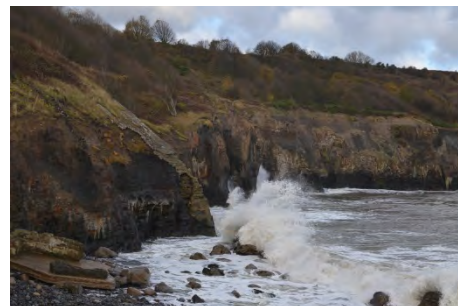
- A wide, sandy beach backed by steep mudstone, siltstone and sandstone cliffs, which are often overlaid by glacial Till deposits. Some cliffs are largely controlled by sea defences whilst others remain unprotected.
- Erosion has created a weathered and varied series of cliff faces, which contrast with the expansive, smooth sandy beach which is revealed at low tide.
- High biodiversity interest is represented by the coastal cliff mosaic, lowland meadows and lowland calcareous grassland BAP habitat, and in locally designated sites (SINCs) at Sandsend, Hardcliff; East Row Beck and Woodlands; Upgang Beck to Sandsend Cliff; and Upgang Beck.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates principal historic landscape processes acting on the character area to be Sandsend Alum Works in the far west, and resort/recreation development in the east associated with the edge of Whitby, at West Cliff.
- Considerable recreational interest and experience is associated with the wide sandy beach. The Cleveland Way long distance path follows the cliff tops, providing additional recreational experience and provision in the area.
- Much of the area has a wild, remote and windswept character, although this contrasts with the more developed, engineered sections of coastline and coastal slopes associated with settlement at Sandsend and development at West Cliffs.
- The area has expansive, panoramic views along the coastline and out across the North Sea, with extensive intervisibility with prominent coastal landmarks such as Whitby Abbey, Sandsend Ness and the North York Moors National Park.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.173 An open, extensive stretch of coastline is backed by steep coastal slopes, some of which are manipulated by sea defences whilst others remain unprotected. The cliffs rise upwards and form the inland threshold to the wide, open and expansive sandy stretch of coastline. At high tide the sea completely covers the sandy shoreline and meets the base of the cliffs. In the west the underlying bedrock is formed by mudstone and siltstone, and to the east the coastline is underlain by sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. The underlying bedrock results in an exposed rugged appearance of the lower cliffs in places. However, much of the cliffs are overlain by glacial Till deposits, particularly the upper slopes, and as a result the cliffs take on a smoother sloping form. Beach deposits comprise shingle, sand, silt and clay, and are occasionally

interspersed by a rocky foreshore, with a number of fossil rich rock pools. The stability of the cliffs vary along the character area. In the far west, undefended, rugged cliffs and rocky foreshores, are associated with the former Sandsend Alum Works. At Sandsend, the cliffs are defended by a large sloping concrete defences, and along the inland side of Sandsend Road (A174) to the east of Sandsend, steep coastal slopes rise inwards. The cliffs which back Upgang Beach are mainly composed of undefended till cliffs and further east, a graded coastal slope at Whitby west cliff is protected at its toe by a concrete wall and promenade. Along a number of the undefended cliffs processes of erosion and mass movement still continues, most notably at Upgang.



Sweeping arc coastline (above), rugged and craggy cliffs typical in the west (top right), and smoother, vegetated cliffs overlain with glacial till (bottom right)

- 5.1 The cliffs are highly vegetated, and there are a number of habitats of recognised ecological importance. From Sandsend, eastwards along Upgang cliffs there is a significant stretch of lowland meadows and lowland calcareous grassland BAP habitats. Almost the entire coastline is maritime cliff and slope BAP Priority habitats, which forms a dynamic system of semi-natural grassland, scrub and cliffs, with some area of woodland and heath. The Sandsend Beck and East Row Beck comprise the wooded valley slopes surrounding the village of Sandsend in the east and provide a natural setting to the villages and valuable ecological interest. The Upgang Beck also provides an important ecological corridor, further east, and is a designated SINC.



East Row Beck which feeds into the character Area. Views into the coastal hinterland.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.2 Sandsend Alum Works is an area used for the large scale extraction of alum shale. It is now disused, however, there are a number of ruined buildings where the processing of the alum occurred. There were several quarries which were concentrated along the coastal slopes, which have given rise to the rugged appearance of this area. The Former Alum Works is a scheduled (ancient) monument on the edge of Sandsend, and includes the buried and standing remains of an alum house. The house operated from 1733 and processed raw alum liquor produced from the alum quarries to the north, which was transported through wooden channels to the alum house.
- 5.3 Another principal aspect which is drawn out of the HLC are the gardens and pleasure grounds along West Cliff, in the eastern part of the area, which comprises an area of designed landscape with terraced paths, formal flower gardens and seating. Steep paths wind down West Cliff, to the sandy beach, and in the summer a cliff lift provide easy access to the beach, which was first

opened in 1931. A row of brightly coloured beach huts are situated along the foot of West Cliff. At the far end of the character area, the Whale Bone Arch is a distinctive feature, which was erected in 1853, when Whitby was an important whaling town. The Spa Pavilion is located on the Cliffside overlooking the North Sea and can be accessed through the whale bone arches. First opened in 1880, the pavilion remains an important entertainment venue, with panoramic sea views.

- 5.4 The landscaped grounds of Mulgrave Castle registered park and gardens are on the edge of the character area, with a very small section falling within the character area, lying to the south west of Sandsend, and forming the steep wooded valley slopes of Sandsend Beck and East Row Beck, which surround the settlement.

Settlement pattern; built character

Primary settlement relates to the small coastal village of Sandsend. The village comprises two historical settlements, Sandsend and East Row, which are linked by development at the foot of Sandsend Rigg. Only a small part of the settlement (that immediately at the foot of Sandsend Rigg) lies within the character area, however there is a strong visual and physical connection between the rest of the settlement and the character area. The settlements were built around two inlets, namely Sandsend Beck and East Row Beck, which feed into the North Sea, and the village is well established within this wooded valley. The buildings which form the frontage to the beach, and lie within the character area, are mainly of late 19th/early 20th century, with some older, pre 1849 buildings, and form a strong historical outlook to the beach. Access to the village is achieved via a single road, the A174, which runs along the edge of the beach in the western part of the character area.



Seafront of Sandsend

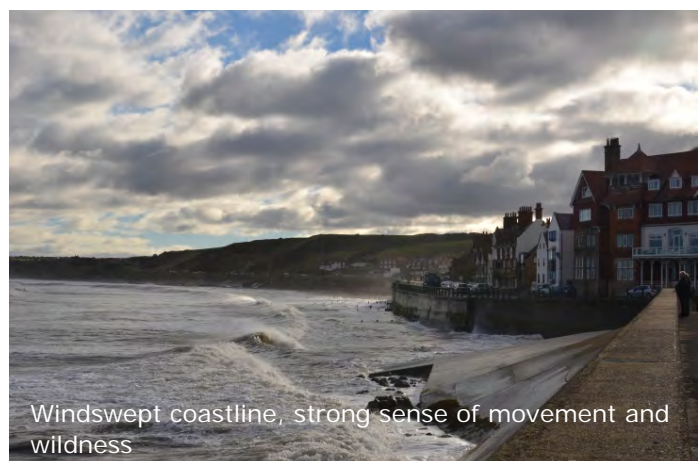


Village nestled within the cliffside

- 5.5 The northern edge of Whitby stretches along the top of West Cliff and overlooks this character area. There are a number of buildings which infiltrate into the character area itself which lie on the edge of the settlement, such as the Spa Pavilion Complex and beach huts along promenade.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.6 This is a wild, windswept stretch of coastline, which comprises a simple land cover of coastal slopes and a sweeping sandy beach, although contrast in colour and texture is provided by the juxtaposition of wooded and grassed coastal slopes, craggy cliff faces and smooth, sandy beaches. The sense of wildness is accentuated by the intervisibility with the dramatic, isolated cliff tops and the ruins at Whitby Abbey to the east, and by the transient movement and variation created by the activity of the sea and the tides. This



dynamic quality is reinforced by frequent changes in light, colour, reflectivity and atmospheric conditions.

- 5.7 Contrast in perceptual character is created by the presence of scattered resort development and designed landscape/engineered coastlines particularly near the Spa Pavilion, at the village of Sandsend, and along the A174.
- 5.8 Considerable tourism and amenity value is associated with the seascape and landscape particularly in summer. The Cleveland Way long distance path follows the cliff tops, providing additional recreational experience.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.9 From the cliff tops and coastal slopes there are expansive views along the coast to the east and west, and out to uninterrupted seascape. The area has intervisibility with the prominent historic landmark of Whitby Abbey, and with the North York Moors National Park to the north west.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.10 Key positive landscape character features are judged to be:
- The contrast in character created by the juxtaposition of wild, exposed coastal landscapes with settlement development at Sandsend and recreational development at West Cliff.
 - The expansive, open character of the foreshore and coastal slopes.
 - The habitat mosaic provided by the coastal cliffs and sandy shore.
 - The recreational value of the landscape.

Visual sensitivities

- 5.11 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- The expansive open views along the Heritage Coast, coastline and out to sea.
 - Intervisibility with historically significant coastal landmarks such as Whitby Abbey.

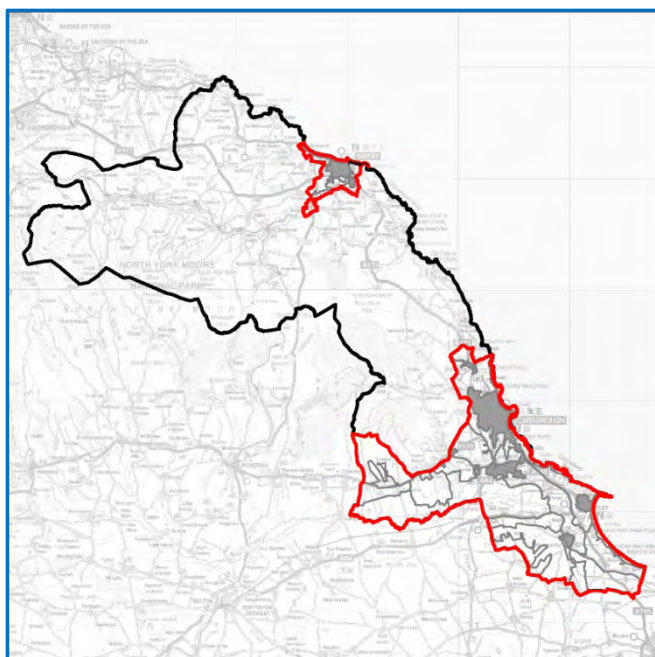
Past change in the landscape

- Recreational development and associated engineering of coastline and cliff face.
- Coastal erosion and defences.
- Development of the A174 along the coastal edge.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.12 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the sense of remoteness and the wild character which persists across much of the area. In addition, to conserve the largely uninterrupted visual relationships and intervisibilities with coastlines, and strategically significant historic monuments and National Park, and manage and enhance the habitat mosaic across the character area. The policy direction pursued by the Shoreline Management Plan should be monitored as part of this strategy.

Character area G2: Whitby Abbey



Character area G2: Whitby Abbey

Location and boundaries

- 5.13 This area is formed by the stretch of coastline between the walls of Whitby Harbour and the National Park to the east. The character area falls entirely within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast Designation. The inland boundary is formed by the cliff tops and broadly corresponds to the Cleveland Way long distance footpath.

Key characteristics

- The bedrock geology of the coast is formed by rocks of the Whitby Mudstone formation and alum shales, creating a series of craggy, low rock outcrops jutting into the sea, with sandy beach revealed at low tide. The tall, weathered cliffs behind are formed from interbedded layers of sandstones of the Dogger Formation, overlain with glacial till deposits on the clifftop.
- Topography ranges from 0mAOD on the beach and foreshore to approximately 60mAOD to the clifftop near the ruins of Whitby Abbey.
- The craggy coastal foreshore of the area extending from the harbour to The Scar and Rail Hole are designated a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (Whitby-Saltwick SSSI) on account of its Jurassic rock exposures, vertebrate paleontology and paleobotany.
- Views inland are confined due to the scale of the cliffs although there are extensive views along the coastline and out to sea. There is some intervisibility with important historic landmarks outside of the character area, specifically Whitby Abbey and the walls of Whitby Harbour.
- A wild, windswept and undeveloped stretch of the North Yorkshire Coast, which is largely inaccessible and one which is essentially tranquil out of season.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.14 The bedrock geology of the coast is formed by rocks of the Whitby Mudstone formation and alum shales, creating a series of craggy, low rock outcrops jutting into the sea, with sandy beach revealed at low tide. The tall, weathered cliffs behind are formed from interbedded layers of sandstones, overlain with glacial till deposits on the clifftop.
- 5.15 Headlands such as that on which the ruins of abbey are sited, and Saltwick Nab, create a series of shallow bays, although these have intervisibility with one another and the area has the sense of a continuous coastline. The western boundary of the area is marked by the wide mouth of the River Esk, which is the site of the harbour around which the town of Whitby grew.
- 5.16 The geological interest of this stretch of coastline is recognised in its designation as the Whitby-Saltwick Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is due to its representation of Jurassic rock exposures which are cited as being of 'international stratigraphic significance' and for the many fine fossil specimens in respect of Middle Jurassic plant life and Upper Liassic reptiles.
- 5.17 The entire character area is recognised as a maritime cliff and slope BAP priority habitat.



Interbedded layers of sandstone capped with glacial Till



Headlands and craggy outcrops

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.18 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) shows the principal historic landscape type to be coastal cliffs with significant legibility, and with relatively little historic landscape change. Other key aspects of historic landscape character are mainly outside the area, although on the fringes of, the character area, for example the walls of Whitby Harbour (on the site of the medieval port), the ruins of the 12th century St Hilda's Abbey which overlook the area, and the scheduled site of Saltwick Nab Alum Quarries, within the National Park, less than 100m east of the area.



Intervisibility with landmarks such as the walls of Whitby Harbour and St Hilda's Abbey

Settlement pattern; built character

This is an unsettled coastal landscape, although it relates closely to settlement and human activity in terms of its historic character in particular – proximity to the harbour and the former alum quarries, and also the intervisibility with the coastal aspects of Whitby town.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.19 A wild, windswept and exposed coastal landscape framed by dramatic, tall and weathered cliffs, with the sense of drama heightened by the gaunt and very visible clifftop ruins of Whitby Abbey in the adjacent coastal hinterland character area. The area is characterised by considerable contrast in texture, from the dense sandstone cliffs to the jagged, rocky foreshore to the smooth sandy beach. Much transient variation in light, reflection and perceived scale is also evident, due to the movement of the tide. A remote and largely inaccessible landscape, with the only publically accessible part of the character area being along the edge of the cliff top, along the Cleveland Way long distance footpath.



Wild, windswept, exposed coastal landscape



Rocky foreshore and movement of the tide

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

5.20 Views inland are denied by the tall coastal cliffs, although the ruins of Whitby Abbey and the walls of Whitby Harbour prominent feature visible from some areas. The area also has extensive, ever changing views out to sea, and views along the coast which are part framed and filtered by the curving form of the cliffs and the rocky foreshore.



Strong intervisibility along the coast



Long views out across the North Sea

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.21 Key positive landscape character features are judged to be:
- The wild elemental quality and essential undeveloped coastal character.
 - The coastal geology and associated scientific interest.

Visual sensitivities

- 5.22 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- Views to the ruins of Whitby Abbey.
 - Expansive views along the coast and out to sea.

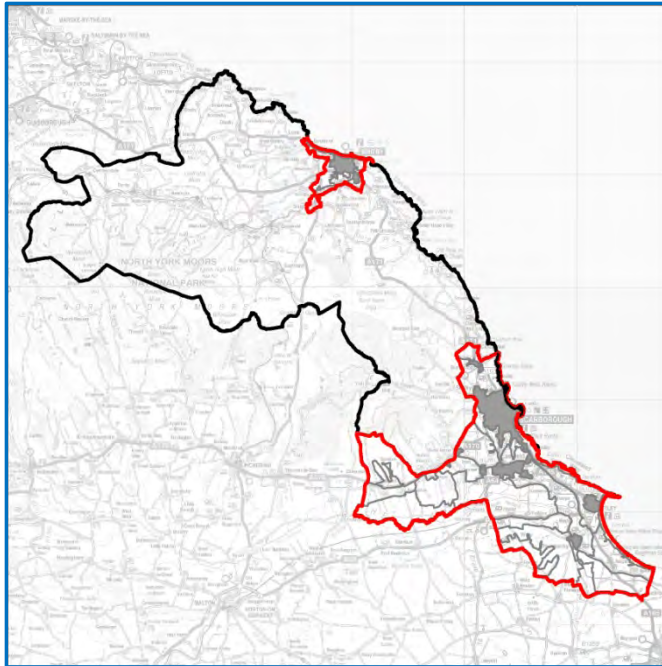
Past change in the landscape

- Construction of the harbour and pier walls at Whitby.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.23 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve the wild, undeveloped coastal character and the expansive uninterrupted views out, as well as visual relationships with historic landmarks such as Whitby Abbey and with the National Park. Conserve coastal geological features wherever possible. The policy direction pursued by the Shoreline Management Plan should be monitored as part of this strategy.

Character area G3: Long Nab to North Bay



Character area G3: Long Nab to North Bay

Location and boundaries

- 5.24 This area covers the stretch of coastline from the northern boundary with the North York Moors National Park to the rock outcrop on which Scarborough Castle is sited. It encompasses Scarborough's North Bay and associated coastal resort development to the fringe. The northern part of the area, north of Scalby Ness, forms part of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast. The inland boundary of the area is defined by the cliff tops.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A coastline of smooth, blocky sandstone and chalk cliffs, with elevation ranging from 35-45m AOD, and up to 80m AOD to the most elevated land at Scalby Ness and the headland on which the castle is located.
- The cliff elevations and rock forms to the foreshore create a series of intimate, sheltered coves and bays, in marked contrast to the more expansive sandy coast of North Bay, and of South Bay, beyond the castle headland.
- Erosion has created a weathered and visually complex series of cliff faces, which contrast with the shingle and sandy beaches which are revealed at low tide.
- Much of the area has a wild, remote and unsettled character, with quiet coves and windswept, remote cliff top farmland, although this contrasts with the more developed, engineered sections of coastline and coastal slopes associated with resort development at the southern end of North Bay.
- The area has extensive intervisibility with prominent coastal landmarks such as the rock outcrop and associated dramatic cliff top ruins of Scarborough Castle (Scheduled Monument). Expansive views out to sea are also available in this area.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates principal historic landscape processes acting on the character area to be coastal slopes and rocky foreshore, along with intact areas of coastline in an often natural state away from the settled stretch of coast.
- The area encompasses SSSI designations in respect of geology on the fossil rich limestone coastal cliffs and headland on which the ruins of Scarborough Castle are sited. The sandstone cliffs and rocky foreshore at Scalby Ness are also similarly designated as a geological SSSI.
- Nature conservation interest is represented by the Coastal Cliff Mosaic BAP habitat, and in locally designated sites (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs) at Castle Dyke and the mouth of Burniston Beck, near Scalby Ness.
- Recreational interest and experience is provided by the Cleveland Way, a long distance clifftop path.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.25 The physical landscape is defined by a bedrock geology of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone with occasional occurrences of interbedded limestone, overlain by glacial till deposits to the clifftops.

In the southern half of the area around the castle headland there is more variation, with sandstones being overlaid with both interbedded and oolitic limestones, creating weathered, visually complex cliffs. The bedrock creates a sequence of tall, blocky cliff faces and a series of intimate bays and sandy coves framed by sandstone foreshores, in marked contrast to the more expansive sandy coastline of North Bay, and of South Bay. The cliffs rise sheer from the rocky foreshore and the beach, to a height of approximately 80 metres AOD at the most elevated points of the headland on which the castle is sited, and Scalby Ness. The geological interest and diversity of the sandstone and limestone cliffs, specifically fossils, is recognised in the SSSI designation of these two parts of the coastline. The cliffs are part of the Coastal Cliff Mosaic BAP habitat, with the greatest habitat diversity being found in the softer chalk cliffs (bird habitats and representation of many of the other Scarborough BAP habitats). Local biodiversity interest is created by small scale wetlands or Becks, which cut the coastal cliffs, such as Burniston Beck (SINC).



Blocky coastal cliffs and the arc of North Bay

Rocky foreshores and intimate coves

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.26 The outcrop to the south has been strategically significant for many centuries, with the siting of an Iron Age settlement, a Roman signal station and latterly the medieval castle, now ruined and which looks out on the North Sea. The castle relates to other medieval development which now falls within the Scarborough settlement boundary, notably the adjacent large and formerly monastic 12th century church of St Mary.
- 5.27 The castle headland is identified by the HLC as an area of high historic legibility, with little change having occurred since c.1850. Other principal aspects of the character area drawn out in the HLC are the formal coastal gardens at Alexandra Gardens, which contrast with many parts of the coastline which largely remain in their 'natural state', for example North Bay sands and the coastal cliffs to the north, which are also described as having significant legibility.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.28 Primary settlement relates to 19th century resort development at the fringes of the character area (a small part of the area's southern boundary), and within the defined settlement boundary of Scarborough. This comprises curvilinear streets of 3-4 storey stuccoed regency townhouses and the associated promenade and heavily engineered/terraced cliff face at this point.



19th century resort development, North Bay

- 5.29 With the exception of the ruins, historic relics and resort development described above, the character area is otherwise largely un-settled.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.30 The sequence of small coves and bays, which are often of remote, isolated character in the northern part of the area, creates an intimate and contained spatial character, and which forms a contrast with the massive vertical cliff faces. Contrast is also created by the arcing form of the bays and the often angular elevations of the cliffs.
- 5.31 Considerable diversity is created by the juxtaposition of wild, empty coast with 19th century resort development and colourful beach huts to the promenade and by sandy beaches and rocky foreshores. Also by the contrast of rugged cliffs with remote windswept cliff top farmland extending into adjacent character areas.
- 5.32 The sense of wildness is accentuated by the intervisibility with the dramatic, isolated cliff top castle ruins and by the transient movement and variation created by the activity of the sea and the tides. This dynamic quality is reinforced by frequent changes in light, colour, reflectivity and atmospheric conditions.
- 5.33 The Cleveland Way long distance path follows the length of this character area from north to south.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.34 From the cliff tops and headlands are expansive views along the Heritage Coast to the north and out to sea, although views inland are greatly contained by the cliffs and the shape of the coastline. The area has intervisibility with prominent historic landmarks such as the castle.



Expansive views and strong intervisibility with historic landmark such as Scarborough Castle

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.35 Key positive landscape character features are judged to be:
- The contrast in character created by the juxtaposition of wild, undeveloped and sparsely settled coastal landscapes with 19th century resort development, and with the rugged, exposed, open farmland to the clifftops
 - The remoteness of the northern coastal headlands and foreshore
 - Presence of landmarks such as the ruins of Scarborough Castle which create dramatic skyline elements
 - The habitat mosaic provided by the coastal cliffs
 - The recreational value of the landscape, as recognised in the historic coastal resort and the Cleveland Way long distance path

Visual sensitivities

- 5.36 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- The expansive open views along the Heritage Coast, coastline and out to sea
 - Intervisibility with historically significant coastal landmarks such as the castle at Scarborough

Past change in the landscape

- Resort development and associated engineering of coastline and cliff face to the southern part of the character area
- Coastal erosion and defences

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.37 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the sense of remoteness and the wild character which persists across much of the area, as well as to conserve the largely uninterrupted visual relationships and intervisibilities with coastlines, headlands and strategically significant historic monuments. The policy direction pursued by the Shoreline Management Plan should be monitored as part of this strategy.

Character Type H: Upper Valley Side

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

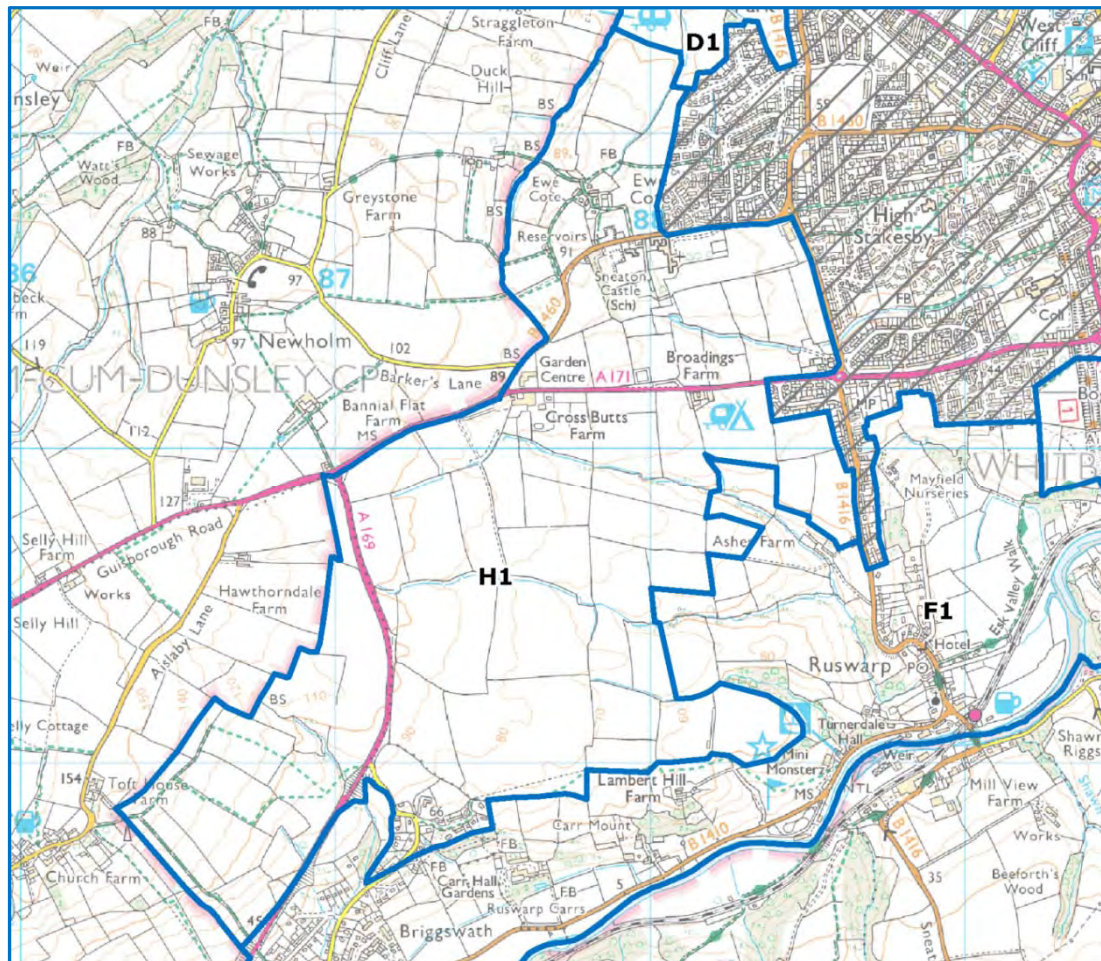
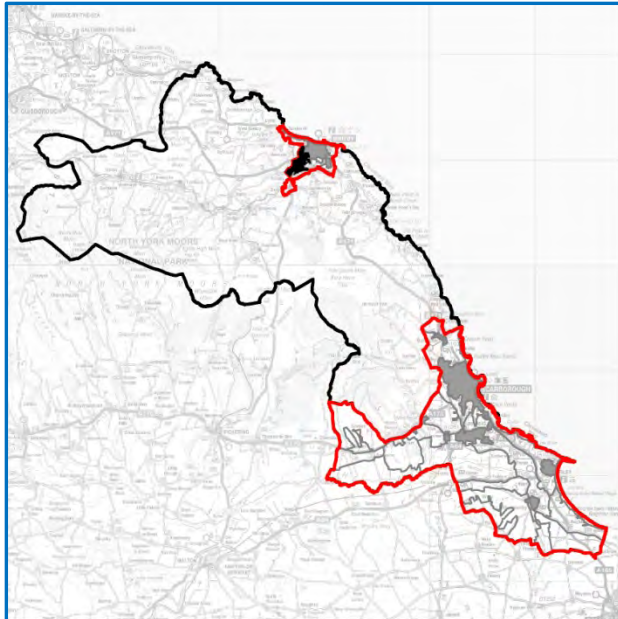
- A distinctive rolling landscape which forms upper river valley slopes, with a varied geology, and overlain principally by glacial till deposits.
- A farmland landscape with a mosaic of rough grazing, pasture and arable cultivation, delineated by hedgerows.
- Tributary streams feed into the valley and introduce small incised wooded valleys, often coinciding with field boundaries, which provide important green corridors within an essentially agricultural landscape.
- Primary historic processes acting on the landscape is piecemeal enclosure, with a few areas of modern improved fields²⁴.
- A uniform and simple character, created by the rolling topography and simplicity of farmland land cover.
- Long extensive views across the sloping landscape and towards the river valley from open elevated land, although some views are dictated by the rolling landform and field boundary vegetation, which provide a degree of enclosure.
- Localised audible and visual impact is created by the busy road corridors and settlement infringement.

Constituent LCAs

- H1 Esk

²⁴ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Character area H1: Esk



Character area H1: Esk

Location and boundaries

- 5.38 An area of rolling farmland which forms the sloping landscape above the River Esk Valley, stretching from the crest of the steep valley sides in the south to the North York Moors National Park boundary in the north and west. The urban edge of Whitby bounds the north east of the character area.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A distinctive rolling landscape, which forms the upper slopes of the River Esk valley, on bedrock geology predominantly comprised of sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, and overlain principally by glacial till deposits. Topography descends from 140m to 50m AOD.
- Landcover is defined essentially by farmland, which is a mosaic of rough grazing, pasture and arable cultivation, delineated by hedgerows.
- A number of small tributary streams, which feed into the River Esk, create small incised wooded valleys and form dense field boundaries, particularly in the east. These linear green corridors provide valuable ecological interest and connectivity within an essentially agricultural landscape.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates that the primary historic process acting on the landscape is piecemeal enclosure, with a few areas of modern improved fields²⁵. Sneaton Castle, which is an elite residence dating to the 19th century, set within extensive landscaped grounds and is located in the north of the landscape.
- A uniform and simple character, created by the rolling topography and simplicity of farmland land cover.
- There are some long extensive views south across the landscape and towards the River Esk valley from open elevated land, although some views are dictated to some degree by the rolling landform and field boundary vegetation, which provide a degree of enclosure.
- Localised audible and visual impact is created by the busy A169, A171 and the B1229 corridors, and settlement infringement in the south and north.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.39 The bedrock geology of this area is formed predominantly from sandstones, siltstones and mudstones. Glacial Till deposits cover the character area entirely, with the exception of a single pocket of glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits in the north. A number of small tributary streams feed into the River Esk creating small incised valleys, giving rise to a highly undulating topography. This landscape forms the part of the upper valley side of the Esk Valley, with topography sloping in a west to east/south east direction, ranging from approximately 140-50m AOD.

²⁵ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.



Smoothly undulating landform



Sloping landform, transitional with the Eskdale

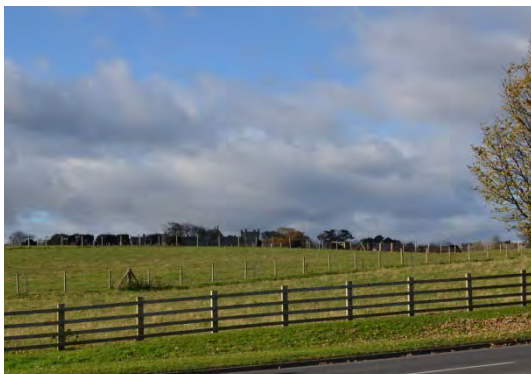
- 5.40 Land cover is a mix of rough grazing, pasture and arable cultivation. Arable farmland tends to occupy larger more regular shaped fields, with smaller fields typically used for rough grazing and pasture. Fields are delineated with hedgerows and occasional scattered trees, with the north and west often bound by low, well-trimmed hedgerows. In the south and east a number of watercourses, which feed into the River Esk, cut through the landscape and form field boundaries. These wooded tributaries create taller and more densely vegetated field boundaries. Due to the dominance of farmland, there is no designated nature conservation interest, and therefore these hedgerow field boundaries and wooded tributaries provide important linear corridors and connectivity within this landscape.



Dense hedgerows and scattered trees form field boundaries

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.41 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that the landscape has been principally shaped by piecemeal enclosure, which consists of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular or irregular pattern with some degree of boundary loss. There are a few areas consisting of medium and large sized fields which are recognised as modern improved fields²⁶. In addition, in the north of the character area is Sneaton Castle, an elite residence which is set within extensive landscaped grounds. The castle dates back to the 19th century, and it is today used as a hotel and conference centre, with the additional of a number of modern buildings. There are no designated heritage assets in this area.



Sneaton Castle

²⁶ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.42 This area is largely unsettled, with built elements confined to the southern and northern extents. The suburban edge of Briggsworth filters into the southern part of the character area and a number of scattered buildings are located in the north, including scattered farmsteads, a garden centre and Sneaton Castle. The urban edge of Whitby borders the north eastern edge of the character area. The busy A169, A171 and the B1229 pass through the character area.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.43 A well balanced and uniform character which results from the simple land cover and rolling landform. Although the landscape is dominated by agriculture, a number of incised wooded tributaries provide a variety of texture and colour, along occasional field boundaries. An overall open landscape, however wooded tributaries and rolling topography creates contrasting levels of enclosure, and a sense of intimacy. The busy A169, A171 and the B1229, which cut through the landscape, and the settlement edge which infiltrates the northern and southern parts of the character area, have a localised visual and audible impact on the perceived naturalness of the area. However, away from these features a rural and relatively tranquil landscape is apparent.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)



- 5.44 There are some long views across more elevated parts of the landscape, in the north and west, which look over the character area as it descends into the River Esk valley. However, rolling topography and occasional wooded field boundaries filter and frame views, particularly in the east.

Long views towards the Esk Valley

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.45 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:
- The rolling landforms which create a rhythmic pattern and considerable visual interest.
 - The simplicity of the landscape, and the mostly unified landscape character.
 - The contrast of openness.
 - The number of small wooded, incised tributary streams which provide ecological and visual interest.

Visual sensitivities

- 5.46 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- Long extensive views, from elevated open landscape, particularly in the north and west.
 - Confined, intimate and enclosed views as a result of rolling topography and wooded field boundaries.

Past change in the landscape

- Agricultural intensification and some boundary loss

- Development of road corridors

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.47 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve simple land cover, rolling landform and the uniform pattern of the landscape, which contribute to a strong sense of identity for this agricultural landscape and to its relationship to the adjoining National Park. Maintain the low density of settlement and built form. There is also an opportunity to manage and enhance linear habitat features such as hedgerows and watercourses.

Character Type I: Settlement Fringe

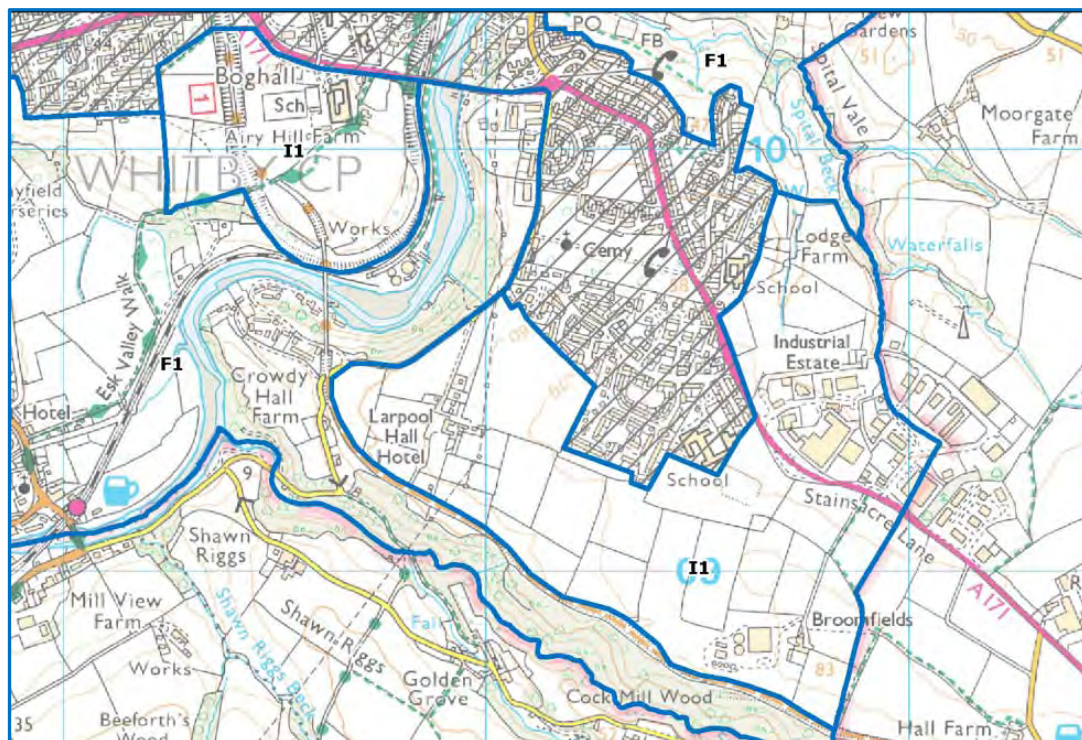
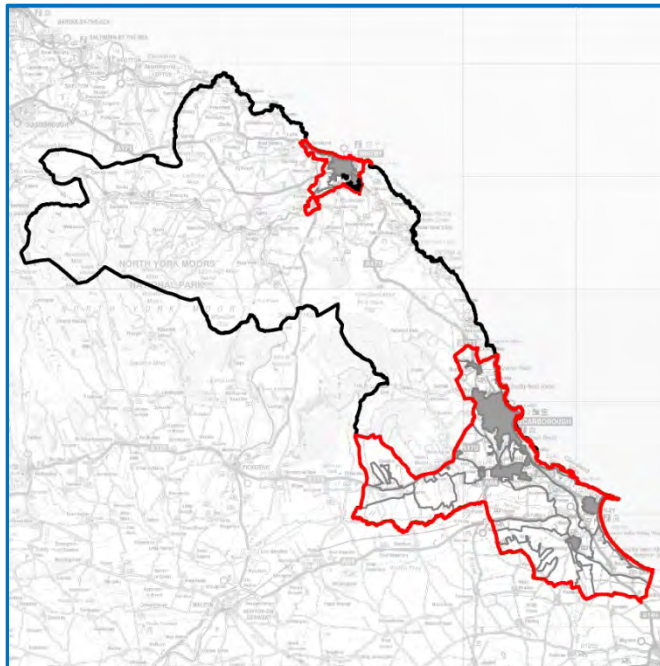
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Elevated, gently undulating landform, forming an urban fringe landscape in association with coastal seaside towns.
- A mixed land cover of open space consisting of farmland (typically rough grazing and arable cultivation), and open, amenity grassland/rough grassland (used for sports ground, playing fields and public space), interspersed with settlement fringe development.
- Tree cover is sparse and there is little visual or ecological interest.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates that the primary historic process acting on the landscape is piecemeal enclosure, and that much of the landscape has been shaped more recently by modern activities, such as expansion of the settlement, development of schools, as well as mixed commercial and industrial development.
- A simple and monotonous character resulting from the gently rolling landform, open farmland and amenity grassland, with a somewhat discordant character created by urban fringe development.
- Some long views are achieved across open farmland and amenity grassland, which contrasts with shorter filtered views, confined by hedgerows and built development.

Constituent LCAs

- I1 Whitby

Character area I 1: Whitby Settlement Fringe



Character area I 1: Whitby Settlement Fringe

Location and boundaries

- 5.48 The area occupies the higher ground above the Esk River Valley on the southern edge of Whitby, and forms the urban fringe landscape. The northern boundaries are defined by the settlement edge of Whitby, and to the south west and west the landscape is largely defined by the upper reaches of the River Esk Valley. The east is dictated by the North York Moors National Park.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Elevated, gently undulating landscape which lays either side of the River Esk valley, and is underlain by sandstones, siltstones and mudstones from the Scalby Formation. Underlying bedrock is largely concealed by overlying glacial Till deposits.
- An urban fringe landscape with a mixed land cover of farmland, comprising rough grazing and arable cultivation (typically located in the south), and open, amenity grassland and rough grassland, used for sports ground, playing fields and public space, often in association with local schools.
- Open space is interspersed by settlement fringe development, including Whitby Industrial Estate, a waste water treatment works, a number of schools, hotels, and a few scattered properties. The edge of Whitby borders the landscape along the north, and the A171 passes through the south east.
- Tree cover is sparse and predominantly associated with the edge of the character area in transition with the upper slopes of the River Esk Valley. Along the disused Whitby to West Cliff Station railway line in the north, a significant stretch of woodland provides valuable visual interest and ecological importance.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates that the primary historic process acting on the landscape is piecemeal enclosure, with a few smaller areas of unknown planned enclosure.
- Much of the landscape has been shaped by modern activities, such as modern expansion of the settlement and development of schools with associated areas of public open space and playing grounds, as well as mixed commercial and industrial development.
- A simple character resulting from the gently rolling landform, and open farmland and amenity grassland, however settlement fringe development creates a somewhat discordant character in places.
- Localised audible and visual impact is created by the busy A171 corridor, settlement infringement, large industrial estate, waste water treatment works, and other built infrastructure such as schools and hotels.
- The Esk Valley Walk (long distance route), the National Moors to Sea Route 9 cycle route and Cinder Route, which follow the disused Whitby to West Cliff Station railway line, provide recreational access in the north.
- Some long views are achieved across open farmland and amenity grassland, with the most extensive views from the south looking north east, occasionally towards the historic landmark of Whitby Abbey and the coastline. Views into the character area from adjacent landscapes are limited by vegetation screening along the edges, which provides a degree of containment.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.49 An elevated, gently undulating landscape, which is raised above and located either side of the Esk Valley. There is a gradual descent of landform in the direction of the River Esk. The bedrock geology of this area is formed almost entirely from sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, with narrow layers of limestone bedrock along the edge of the Esk Valley. Glacial Till forms superficial deposits across the character area.
- 5.50 Land cover is mixed, with farmland predominating in the south which comprises rough grazing and arable cultivation within medium to large scale fields. Elsewhere, land cover largely comprises amenity grassland, and some areas of rough grassland, used as sports grounds, playing fields and public space. Hedgerows typically delineate boundaries with occasional scattered trees. Tree cover is sparse throughout, however the edge of the character area, particularly in the north and south west, woodland or linear tracts of trees line these edges, which transcends into the Esk river valley. The most significant areas of woodland cover are in the north, which follow the disused Whitby to West Cliff Station railway line which converges with the Whitby to Saltburn line, which comprises broadleaved plantation.



Smoothly undulating amenity grassland

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.51 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that a large proportion of the character area, has been shaped by piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular or regular pattern, with a degree of boundary loss. There are some smaller areas of unknown planned enclosure, some of which has been planned over areas of piecemeal enclosure. The landscape has been shaped largely by modern activities associated with the proximity to the urban edge of Whitby. There is a significant area actively in use by three separate schools which have medium sized buildings and large areas of playing fields, which has resulted in fragmentary legibility of piecemeal enclosure. There is also an area of modern expansion on the edge of an area of low density housing, consisting of public space and playing fields. Whitby Industrial Estate, an area used as a mixed commercial and industrial estate with large buildings, is located in the east. Along the northern edge of the Esk Valley there are two areas of broad-leaved plantation which has developed alongside the River Esk and which has developed over the disused railway lines of the Whitby to Saltburn railway line. There are no designated heritage assets in this area.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.52 This area contains little residential development, but does contain a mix of scattered built development which filters out from the edges of Whitby. Whitby Industrial Estate, in the west, contains large modern buildings used for mixed commercial and industrial use, and large areas of associated car parking space. There are a number of schools or playing fields/sports grounds

associated with schools. In the south east is a small collection of holiday cottages located adjacent to a waste water treatment works, and in the south west is a collection of residential properties surrounding a hotel which is set within a country house. The Whitby to Saltburn disused railway line runs along the edge of the character area in the north. The modern expansion and low density residential edge of Whitby borders the character area along its northern boundary, and the busy A171 passes through the south east of the character area. There are a number of smaller residential roads which filter into the area or border the landscape.



Settlement and urban fringe edge

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.53 This is an open landscape with a mix of arable and grazing farmland fields and amenity grassland associated with sport grounds and school playing fields, which is interspersed by built urban fringe development. Features such as the large industrial estate, waste water treatment works, schools, the A171, and settlement fringe interrupt the landscape and create a discordant character, forming localised impacts such as visual, audible and movement disruption. There are however, few roads or opportunities for access into the character area, and woodland along the edge of the character area, practically in the north and south west, create a sense of containment. Despite the urban fringe character which prevails, settlement densities within the character area remain low. In the north the Esk Valley Walk (long distance route) passes through, as well as the National Moors to Sea Route 9 cycle route and Cinder Route, which follow the disused Whitby to West Cliff Station railway line.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.54 Views into the character area from surrounding landscape are limited due to screening vegetation along the boundaries. Within the character area there are some long views across open farmland and amenity grassland, however these are sometime filtered and terminated by hedgerow boundaries or the gently undulating landform.



The most open views are achieved from the south, looking north east, with some views towards the historic landmark of Whitby Abbey and to the coast.

Long views to the historic landmark of Whitby Abbey

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.55 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:
- The undeveloped green space in between settlement, which are vulnerable to settlement expansion.

- The sense of openness, which results from the elevated, gently undulating and limited tree cover.
- Network of hedgerows which create enclosure and visual unity, as well as providing an ecological interest.
- Woodland and vegetation screening around edge of character area, which provide a degree of containment.
- Woodland in the north and in transition with upper slopes of River Esk Valley, which provide visual interest and ecological value, particularly along the disused Whitby to West Cliff Station railway line.
- Public rights of way in the north, including the Esk Valley Walk (long distance route), the National Moors to Sea Route 9 cycle route and Cinder Route, which follows the disused Whitby to West Cliff Station railway line.
- The pattern of historic piecemeal enclosure, which provided visual unity and time depth.

Visual sensitivities

5.56 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:

- Long extensive views, from elevated open landscape, particularly from the south.
- Views north east towards the historic landmark of Whitby Abbey.
- Confined and enclosed views as a result of rolling topography and hedgerow field boundaries.
- Containment from vegetation along edges of the character area, resulting in few views into the character area from adjacent landscape.

Past change in the landscape

- Agricultural intensification and some boundary loss.
- Settlement development and modern extensions to Whitby.
- Industrial and commercial development, specifically at Whitby Industrial Estate.
- Recreational development, often in association with schools, with development of sports ground sand playing fields.
- Development of the A171.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

5.57 To conserve and enhance the open mosaic of farmland, public open space and small pockets of woodland, and to maintain the rural green space of areas in between settlement, with particular consideration to the fact that the area forms part of the setting to the National Park. There is also an opportunity to manage and enhance linear habitat features such as hedgerows and woodland to create greater visual and ecological connectivity with the landscape.

Character type J: Soft Coastal Cliffs

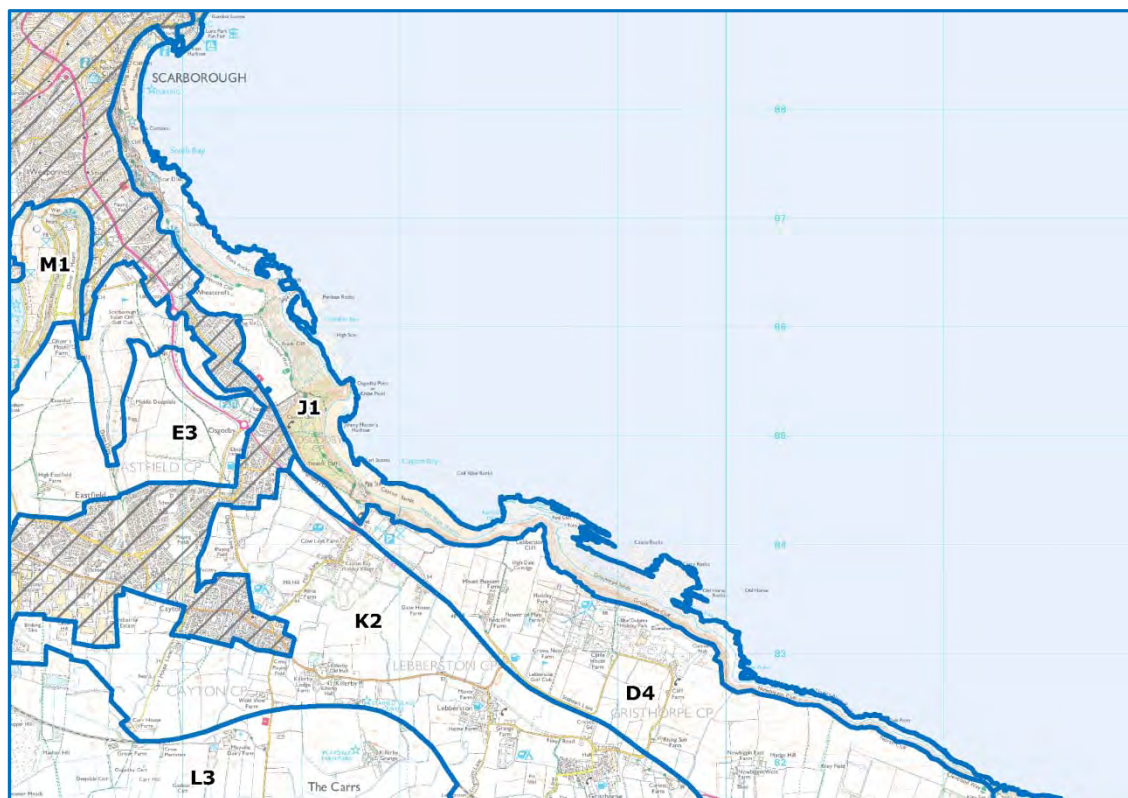
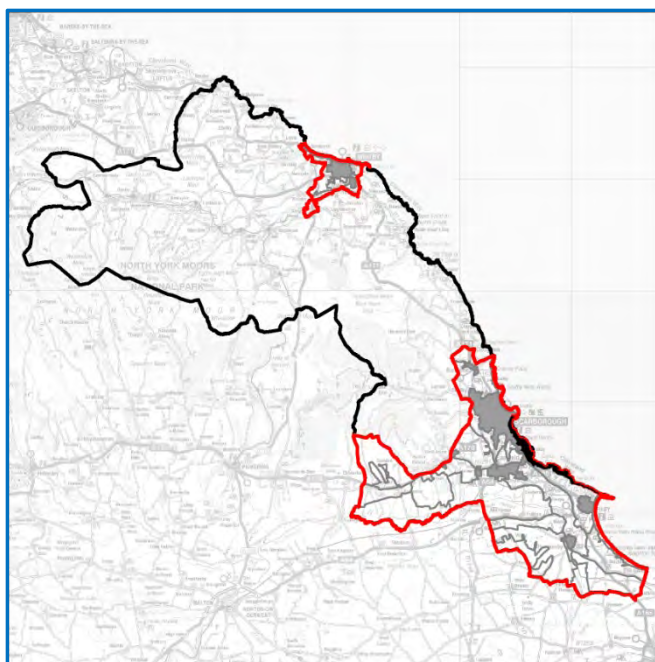
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A coastline of tall, weathered cliffs which are largely concealed by unstable glacial till, with prominent rocky outcrops, contrasting with expansive, wide sandy bays.
- A contrasting series of textures is created by the visually diverse, heavily weathered cliff faces and by the smooth, sandy beaches which are revealed at low tide.
- The landscape encompasses SSSI designations in respect of important geological exposures as well as nature conservation interest of the cliffs and coastline, which support a range of habitats, including a number of priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) maritime cliff and slope habitats. The cliffs support to a variety of seabirds.
- Sparsely settled, with some resort and coastal development along the edges and occasional caravan park developments on the cliff tops.
- The coast has a remote, wild and windswept quality away from areas of resort and tourist development.
- Visibility inland is greatly confined by the scale and shape of the cliffs, however there is extensive intervisibility along the coast, with coastal headlands, and wide panoramic views out to sea.
- The landscape offers a range of recreational uses, such as fishing, walking, sailing, diving, kayaking, surfing, windsurfing and kite surfing, bird watching and fossil collecting.

Constituent LCAs

- J1 South Bay and Cayton Bay
- J2 Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs

Character area J1: South Bay and Cayton Bay



Character area J1: South Bay and Cayton Bay

Location and boundaries

- 5.58 This area is defined by the stretch of coastline to the south of Scarborough, including South Bay and extending as far as a change in geology at Cunstone Nab/Newbiggin Cliff, to the north west of Filey. The character area lies beyond the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast area. The inland boundary is defined by the settlement edge of Scarborough in the north west, and follows the cliff top in the south.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A coastline of tall, weathered, predominantly limestone cliffs and expansive bays, notably the sandy beach of South Bay.
- Elevation of the cliffs ranges from 70-80m AOD, with the cliff tops formed by a contrasting pattern of open moorland grassland and dense plantation woodland on steep slopes, particularly towards Scarborough.
- A contrasting series of textures is created by the visually diverse, heavily weathered cliff faces and by the smooth, sandy beaches which are revealed at low tide.
- Beyond the settled parts of the area associated with 19th century resort and spa development at Scarborough, the area is sparsely settled, except for occasional caravan park developments and scattered dwellings on the cliff top.
- Out of season, much of the coast has a remote and wild quality away from areas of resort and tourist development.
- Although visibility inland is greatly confined by the scale and shape of the cliffs, there is extensive intervisibility with coastal headlands due to the sweeping, curvilinear form of the coastline, in addition to extensive, wide ranging views out to sea. The area also has intervisibility with the ruins of Scarborough Castle (Scheduled Monument).
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates primary historic landscape processes to be modern plantations planted over areas of coastal slopes, and coastal slopes and sands which are often intact and largely unchanged since the 19th century, and holiday resort development.
- The area encompasses SSSI designation in respect of important geological exposures and the nature conservation interest of the cliffs and coastline at Cayton, Cornelian and South Bays.
- The area also forms part of the Coastal Cliff Mosaic BAP Habitat. At a local level, the nature conservation interest of the area is recognised in Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designations at Wheatcroft Cliff and South Bay, Leberston and Gristhorpe Cliffs and a small stretch of the Coastal Cliffs North of Filey SINC.
- Recreational interest and experience is provided by the Cleveland Way long distance path. Evidence of recreational use and pressure is provided by cliff top caravan park and holiday resort development.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.59 The physical landscape is defined by a bedrock geology of sandstone and siltstone members overlain by interbedded sandstones and limestones of the Scarborough Formation at South Bay. To the south of Cornelian Bay calcareous grits are overlaid upon sandstone and mudstone. A visually complex coastline is created by the cliffs formed by these differing layers, with visual interest created by the eroded, softer chalk. The cliffs rise from the sand and shingle beach to a height of 70-80m AOD. However, in places the form is less pronounced or vertical than the northern stretches of coastline in adjacent areas, with landform sloping steeply and covered by moorland grassland and mixed plantation woodland of modern origin.
- 5.60 The geological and biological interest of this stretch of the coastline is recognised in the designation of much of the area as part of the Cayton, Cornelian and South Bays Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The cliffs to this stretch of coastline also form part of the Coastal Cliffs Mosaic BAP habitat, displaying a diversity of habitat groups including woodland and moorland grassland. A number of SINC's intersect the area and fall within the SSSI designation, notably at Wheatcroft Cliff and South Bay, Lebberton and Gristhorpe Cliffs, and a small part of the Coastal Cliffs North of Filey SINC.



A coastline formed by sweeping, sandy bays and prominent headlands

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.61 The HLC identifies primary historic processes acting on the landscape to be coastal cliffs and coastal sands with significant legibility and little change since c.1850, plus modified coastal slopes (changed post 1850), including slopes which have been planted with modern plantation woodland. Also 19th century designed landscapes and pleasure gardens associated with the Spa and a number of large cliff top houses, with the designed landscape somewhat fragmented in character. The historic landscape types represented at Cayton Bay, Johnny Flinton's Harbour and towards



View along South Bay and Scarborough seafront, around the Spa and towards Scarborough Castle

Filey are identified by the HLC as having either significant or complete legibility, with very little change since the mid-19th century.

5.62 Principal historic buildings and structures in the area relate to the evolution of the town around the fishing harbour (Old Harbour and associated 18th and 19th century Piers) and around the spa, with an imposing mid-late 19th century French baroque style spa complex and promenade to the seafront.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.63 Principal aspects of the settlement pattern relate to 18th and 19th century resort development in the northernmost part of the area, notably Old Harbour and the spa development, in addition to a number of large cliff top villas associated with the coastal designed landscape. With the exception of this and the modern Blue Dolphin Holiday Park at Cunstone Nab, the landscape of this area is otherwise largely un-settled, save for isolated dwellings near the cliff edge, just beyond but intervisible with this area.

Perception and experience of the landscape



Windswept, open stretch of coastline, with contrast in textures and colours

5.64 This is an often wild, windswept stretch of coastline, of remote character outside of the few areas of settlement. A simple coastal landscape of tall cliffs, coastal slopes and sweeping sandy bays, although contrast in colour and texture is provided by the juxtaposition of wooded and grassed coastal slopes, craggy cliff faces and smooth, sandy beaches.

5.65 Contrast in perceptual character is created by the presence of resort development and designed landscape/engineered coastlines near the spa and along the sea front towards Old Harbour, together with occasional areas of modern resort development to the cliff tops which depart from the otherwise often wild character. Incremental/scattered residential development also features in places along the cliff top.

5.66 The Cleveland Way long distance path follows the cliff tops, providing additional recreational experience and provision in the area.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

Whilst views inland are confined by the steepness of the coastal slopes and cliffs, expansive views are available out to sea, and there is extensive intervisibility with other aspects of the coast including the prominent headland and associated ruins of Scarborough Castle. The position of this headland obscures any potential intervisibility with the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast to the north.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.67 The following are judged to be key landscape sensitivities:
- The contrast between open, undeveloped, wooded and settled parts of the coastline.
 - The simplicity and largely uninterrupted nature of the landscape character.
 - Sense of remoteness and tranquillity, and the potential the landscape affords for quiet reflection and for contact with the elements and with nature.

Visual sensitivities

- 5.68 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:
- Expansive views along the coast and out to sea.
 - Intervisibility with prominent coastal headlands and associated historic landmarks e.g. Scarborough Castle.

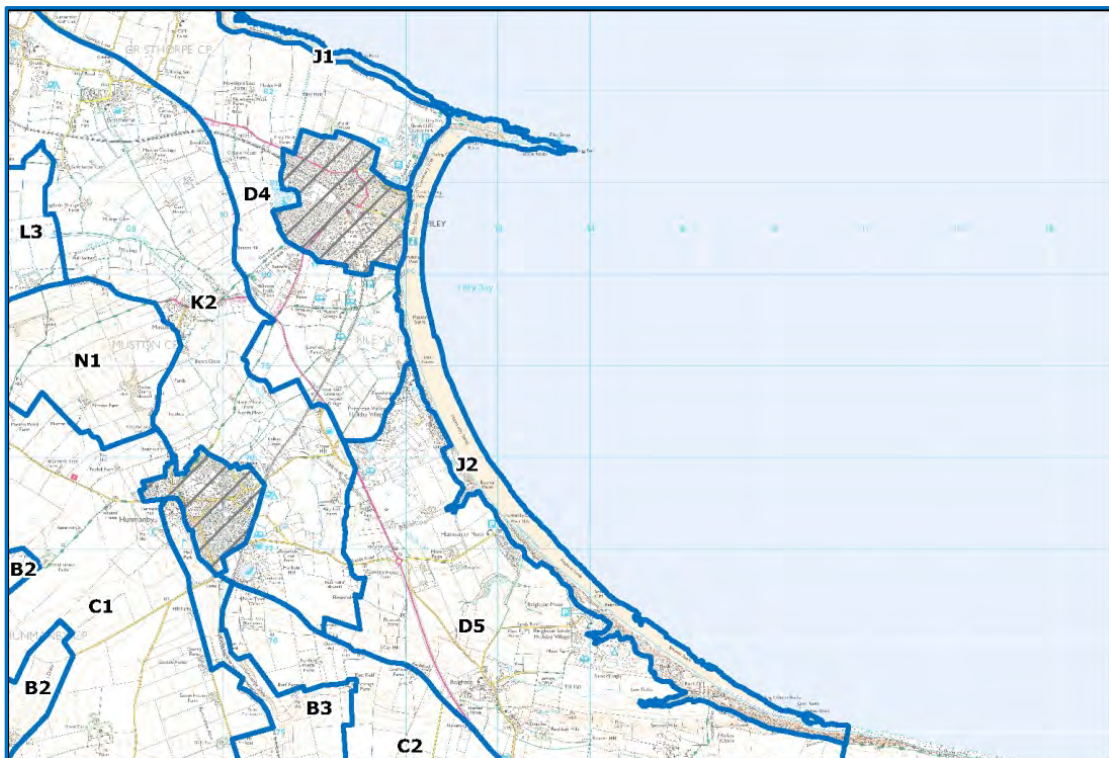
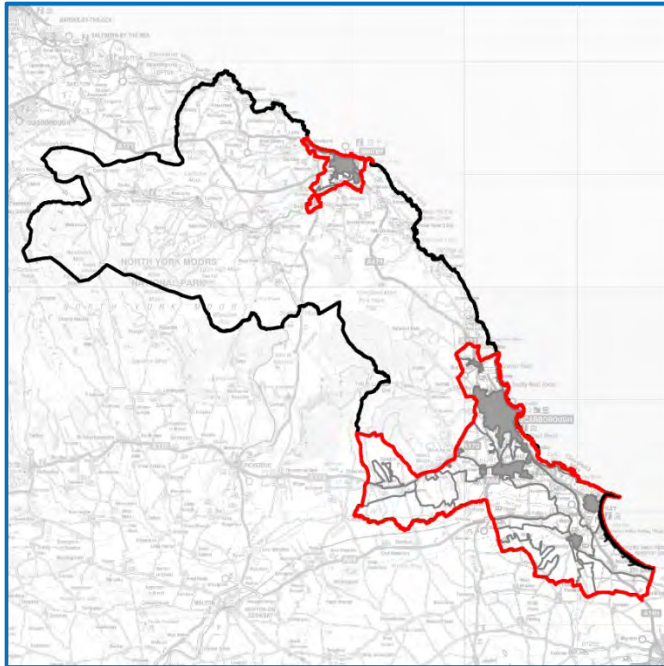
Past change in the landscape

- Spa, promenade and resort development and associated engineering of coastline and cliff face (associated with designed landscapes) to the northern part of the character area.
- Coastal erosion and defences.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.69 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the sense of remoteness and the wild character which persists across much of the area, as well as to conserve the largely uninterrupted visual relationships and intervisibilities with coastlines, headlands and strategically significant historic monuments. Also to monitor and check growth in relation to the settlement fringe and recreational uses such as holiday parks. The policy direction pursued by the Shoreline Management Plan should be monitored as part of the strategy.

Character area J2: Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs



Character area J2: Filey Brigg to Speeton Cliffs

Location and boundaries

- 5.70 This area covers the stretch of coastline and cliff tops which forms Filey Bay, and extends south from the narrow peninsula of Filey Brigg to the Speeton Cliffs. The southern extent falls within the Flamborough Headland Heritage Coast. The inland boundary is formed by the cliff tops.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Underlying bedrock is predominantly mudstone, largely concealed by overlying glacial till, which results in relatively unstable cliffs. Prominent outcrops of sandstone and limestone forms a peninsula in the north, Filey Brigg, and chalk formations form the distinctive white cliffs at Speeton Cliffs in the south.
- A broad, sweeping bay which is backed by steep cliffs, and marked by Filey Brigg peninsula in the north and the white chalk cliffs of Speeton in the south.
- Much of the area has a wild, remote character, with windswept, remote cliff tops and an open sweeping sandy beach.
- The area has extensive intervisibility with other parts of the coast, with long views along the coastline and south along the Heritage Coast, as well as panoramic views out to sea. The prominent Filey Brigg peninsula and white cliffs at Speeton form distinctive navigational features from sea.
- A small strip of modern 19th century buildings along Filey's Coble landing, comprises the only built features in the landscape, elsewhere the character area is unsettled. It immediately abuts the settlement of Filey along a small part of the north western boundary.
- The landscape offers a range of recreational uses, such as fishing, walking, sailing, diving, kayaking, surfing, windsurfing and kite surfing, bird watching and fossil collecting.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates principal historic landscape processes acting on the character area to be coastal cliffs, slopes and sands with rocky foreshore in the north.
- Coastal slopes and cliffs are of particular importance for nature and geological conservation, supporting a range of habitats, with a number of priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) maritime cliff and slope habitats, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), such as Primrose Valley & Eller Howe Cliffs, Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is recognised for its extensive geological exposures. The cliffs support to a variety of seabirds.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.71 This landscape stretches from the peninsula headland known as Filey Brigg and extends southwards in the broad and sweeping arc of Filey Bay. The bay is characterised by a wide sandy shoreline and backed by steep cliffs. The white chalk cliffs of Speeton mark the southern extent of the landscape.



Sweeping arc form of the bay



Speeton cliffs

- 5.72 Filey Brigg is comprised of calcareous grit, which projects more than a half mile from the foot of the peninsula, and is formed from alternate layers of Coralline sandstone and limestone. The Brigg is low lying in many places and therefore is often submerged. In bad weather it becomes more noticeable, with waves breaking against the rocks. South of the Brigg, clay formations underlay the area, although this is mainly concealed by superficial till and marine deposits. At the southern end of Filey Bay chalk bedrock forms the distinctive white cliffs. Steeply inclined Devensian glacial till deposits overlay bedrock along the bay, and where bedrock dips below sea level, the cliffs are at times formed entirely of this glacial till. The glacial till is easily eroded and susceptible to mass movement and the cliffs suffer from the processes of coastal erosion and collapse.
- 5.73 The coastal slope and cliffs are of particular importance for nature conservation, supporting a range of habitats, and recognised Priority BAP habitats are found extensively along the coast as well as three SINCs (Primrose Valley & Eller Howe Cliffs; Butcher Haven; Coastal Cliffs Reighton). Filey Brigg is recognised as a SSSI revealing extensive exposures of the Lower Calcareous Grit, the Hambleton Oolite and Middle Calcareous Grit. During the winter months the intertidal areas and rocky shoreline of Filey Brigg support purple sandpiper. The south of the character area falls within Flamborough Head SSSI, Flamborough Head SAC and Flamborough Head & Bempton Cliffs SPA, and is of particular geological interest, providing exposure of the Upper Cretaceous Chalk. Cliff-top vegetation comprises maritime grassland vegetation and chalk grassland, and supports large numbers of breeding seabirds.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.74 Although this character area is natural in its form, it is an important area of historic character, with the historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicating principal historic landscape processes acting on the character area to be coastal cliffs, slopes and sands with rocky foreshore in the north. The sandy coastline and rocky cliffs provide evidence which demonstrates its more recent history of leisure activities within the 20th century. The coastal cliffs which fringe the coastal area are interspersed with access points to the beach for the public and for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). The northern coastal cliffs and the more southern cliffs (Gill Cliff, New Closes Cliff, Middle Cliff, Black Cliff and Speeton Cliffs) have very few structures and appear to have very little evidence of human interaction with this landscape, due to the steeper and rockier character of these cliffs.
- 5.75 In the late 4th Century the Romans built a signal station on Carr Naze, on the northern cliff of Filey Brigg, now recognised as a scheduled ancient monument as a site on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The station was excavated in 1857 when base stones were found, however no remains are visible today due to subsequent cliff erosion.
- 5.76 Filey Bay is known for its coble boat history, for generations a small fleet of fishing cobbles have worked here, and continues to do so today, with the boats traditionally pulled up onto the beach by rope or horse power. Today tractors are used. This activity and presence of these distinctive boats are characteristic of this stretch of coastline.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.77 There is no built settlement within the character area with the exception of a small strip of modern 19th century buildings along Filey's Coble landing, including small food establishments, and amusements arcade and lifeboat station. The settlement of Filey is located at the fringes of the character area along a small part of the north western boundary. This town is built into the cliffs and onto the above hinterland and there is significant intervisibility between Filey and the character area.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.78 The strong sweeping arc of the bay is contrasted with the tall, rugged and often unstable looking cliffs which rise vertically behind the sandy beaches. A sense of wilderness is created by the lack of built form within the character area and the few detracting human features. Long uninterrupted views are achieved along the coastline and out to sea. Particularly expansive views are possible from the cliff tops. The Centenary Way long distance footpath runs along the cliff edge in the north of the character area from Filey to Filey Brigg, and the Headland Way long distance footpath runs long the Speeton Cliffs in the south. Several local footpaths provide access from the cliff tops to the beach. The close proximity of the settlement of Filey results in a greater infiltration and use of Filey Bay for recreational purposes. This settlement area provides an obvious contrast with the natural open and sandy coastline and rugged cliff line. The bay and cliffs are used for a number of recreational activities, such as fishing off Filey Brigg, walking along the cliff tops, for a number of water sports, such as sailing, diving, kayaking, surfing, windsurfing and kite surfing, bird watching and fossil collecting.
- 5.79 This dynamic quality of the character area is reinforced by frequent changes in light, colour, reflectivity and atmospheric conditions influenced largely by the sea.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.80 From the cliff tops expansive views are possible along the coast to the north and south along the Heritage Coastline, as well as panoramic views out to sea. Views inland from the majority of the character area are greatly contained by the cliffs and the form of the coastline. Filey Brigg is an important landmark in the north and the white chalk cliffs are an interesting and distinctive feature, both visible and noticeable landmarks from the sea, and a navigational feature for boats.



Long panoramic views out to sea

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- The wild, undeveloped coastal landscapes with sweeping sandy beach, exposed, open cliffs and sense of openness.
- Low dispersal of settlement and built form.
- The remote character of the cliff tops and northern coastal peninsula of Filey Brigg and white chalk cliffs of Speeton Cliffs.
- The wildlife habitats associated with the coastal slopes and cliffs which support a range of habitats and wildlife such as seabirds.

Visual sensitivities

- The expansive open views along the coastline, including south along the Heritage coastline, and out to sea.
- Navigational landmarks such as Filey Brigg and the white chalk cliffs at Speeton Cliffs are recognisable features from sea.

Past change in the landscape

- Resort development and associated engineering of coastline and cliff face particularly around Filey town.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.81 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the sense of remoteness and the wild character which persists across much of the area, as well as promoting the active use of the landscape for recreational and other uses such as fishing cobbles. The strategy should also seek to conserve the uninterrupted visual relationships and intervisibilities with coastlines, open sea and peninsulas. The policy direction pursued by the Shoreline Management Plan should be monitored as part of this strategy.

Character Type K: Vale Fringe

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

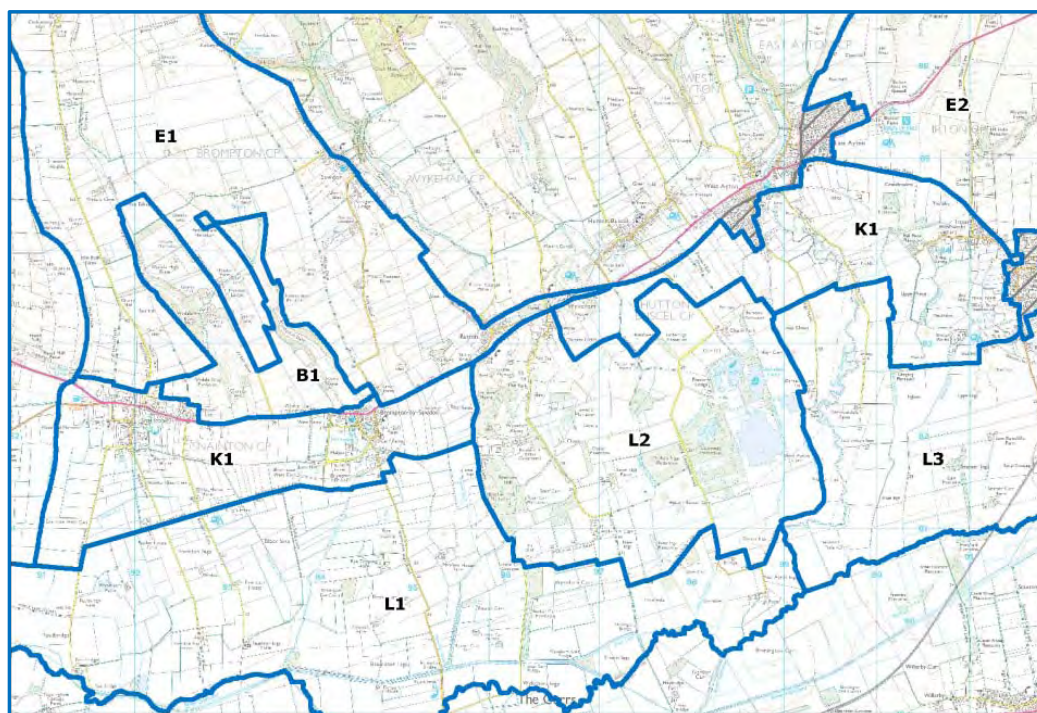
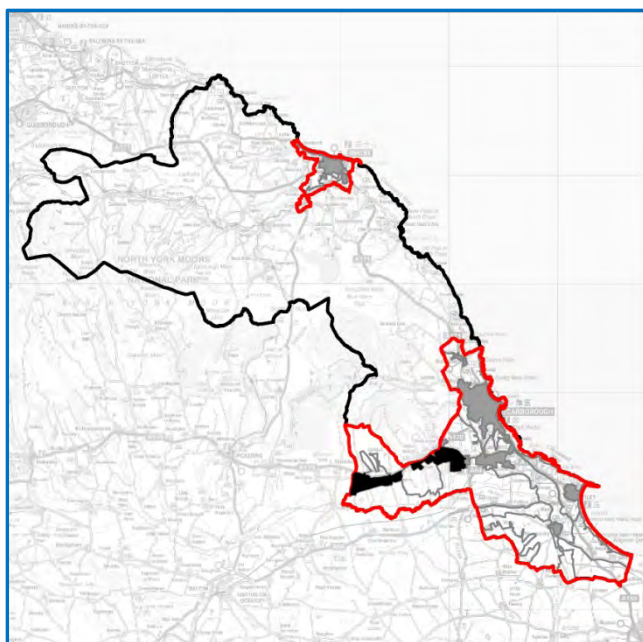
- Bedrock geology is predominantly mudstone, with occasional sandstone and limestone, overlain by superficial deposits such as sand and gravel and glacial till, which were deposited by the formation and subsequent draining of the prehistoric Lake Pickering.
- Topography is typically flat, with gentle undulations, and slight topographic variation.
- Land use comprises mixed use farmland, with fields of arable cultivation, rough pasture and grazing. There are some smaller subdivided fields used as paddocks which are typically located on the edge of settlement.
- Field boundaries and roads are lined by hedgerows and grassy verges, with a mix of low well-trimmed boundaries and dense overgrown hedgerows, scattered trees or occasional lines of trees. Sporadic woodland cover is interspersed throughout.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies a mix of historic landscape types such as large scale planned Parliamentary Enclosure, areas of modern improved fields²⁷, strip fields, piecemeal enclosure, and also localised areas of crofts and medieval open fields.
- Other important aspects of the historic landscape pattern include a number of scattered manor houses and scheduled (ancient) monuments.
- Primary settlement influences include small villages associated with the rural road network, often with an intact historic core and character, modern settlement edges, and some holiday and caravan park developments. The cores of many villages within the landscape are designated Conservation Areas.
- A number of designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are scattered across the landscape, which provide value wildlife habitats. There is a large network of water bodies, such as drainage ditches, dikes, small farm ponds and mill ponds, which provide a network of open water habitats and green corridors.
- A tranquil landscape, with a strong rural character, enclosed by vegetated boundaries. Vegetation which is interspersed within this farmland landscape creates a well-balanced and harmonised character. An urban fringe character prevails in places.
- Views are often filtered and confined by field boundary and road side vegetation, as well as settlement, with occasional long, open views across the Vale of Pickering.

Constituent LCAs

- K1 Snainton to Seamer
- K2 Lebberston to Gristhorpe

²⁷ Term taken from Scarborough HLC

Character area K1: Snainton to Seamer



Character area K1: Snainton to Seamer

Location and boundaries

- 5.82 This area forms the northern fringe of the Vale of Pickering, comprising the transitional landscape between this low lying vale landscape and the limestone foothills. It comprises a flat to slightly undulating, settlement influenced farmland landscape, with a typically small scale character when compared to the adjacent vale landscape to the south. The northern boundary is dictated by the sloping foothills and the north eastern edge borders the North York Moors National Park. The Borough boundary formed the western edge, and in reality the landscape character continues beyond this boundary.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- The bedrock geology of this area is predominantly mudstone, with layers of sandstone and ooidal limestone in the north east. Sand and gravel overlays much of the eastern part of the character area.
- Topography is flat with gentle undulations, with a greater variation in the east, and ranges from 22m AOD on the edge of the adjacent vale character area to 35m AOD.
- Land use comprises mixed use farmland, with fields of rough pasture and grazing interspersed with larger fields of arable cultivation. There are some smaller subdivided fields used as paddocks which are typically located on the edge of settlement.
- Field boundaries and roads are lined by hedgerows and grassy verges, with a mix of low well-trimmed boundaries and dense overgrown hedgerows, with scattered trees or lines of trees. Occasional small woodlands are interspersed throughout farmland.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies primary historic landscape types in this area to be large scale planned Parliamentary Enclosure and areas of modern improved fields²⁸, which are interspersed with smaller scale enclosures, often located closer to settlement, and comprising of unknown planned enclosure, areas of strip fields, piecemeal enclosure, and also areas of crofts which are associated with the villages of Snainton and Seamer.
- Other important aspects of the historic landscape pattern include the 17th century Low Hall manor house, and two scheduled (ancient) monuments; Castle Hill fortified house, which is located in the north east corner of Brompton-by-Sawdon; and a site of a medieval manor house, which includes the remains of the medieval manor at Manor Garth, situated on the edge of the village of Seamer.
- Primary settlement influences and characteristics in this area are the villages of Snainton and Brompton-by-Sawdon which are associated with the rural road network and are designated Conservation Areas, as well as the settlement edges of a number of other villages, namely West Ayton, Irton and Seamer.
- The area is crossed by a number of small, single track, rural lanes, which are often enclosed by roadside vegetation, and radiate from the A170 in the north towards the Vale of Pickering.
- In terms of biodiversity interest, a number of sites in the area are designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), such as Sikes Plantation, Bulls Piece Plantation and Seamer Mere, which provide value wildlife habitats.

²⁸ Term taken from Scarborough HLC

- There is a large network of water bodies which characterise the landscape, with the River Derwent, drainage ditches, dikes, small farm ponds and mill ponds across the landscape, which provide an extensive network of open water habitats and green corridors.
- A tranquil landscape, with a strong sense of intimacy, largely enclosed by vegetated boundaries and intersperse with small scale features such as streams, ponds. Vegetation which is interspersed within this farmland landscape creates a well-balanced and harmonised character.
- Views are often filtered and confined by field boundary and road side vegetation, as well as settlement, with occasional long, open views in the south across the Vale of Pickering.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.83 Bedrock geology is predominantly mudstone which forms a swath across the southern extent of the character area, with sandstone and ooidal limestone present in the north east. Much of the eastern side of the character area is overlain by sand and gravel of uncertain age and origin.
- 5.84 The landscape is typically flat with occasional gentle undulations gently, which is more obvious in the east. Topography varies from 22m AOD on the edge of the adjacent vale character area to 35m AOD in the east.
- 5.85 Land use in the area is predominantly mixed use farmland, comprising fields of rough pasture and grazing interspersed with larger fields of arable cultivation. There are some smaller subdivided fields used as paddocks which are located on the edge of settlement, and delineated by wooden post fencing. Elsewhere fields are lined by hedgerows, with a mix of low well-trimmed boundaries and dense overgrown hedgerows with scattered or lines of trees. Breaks in the pattern are provided by occasional areas of woodland and tree cover, which are sometimes associated with settlement, water bodies such as the River Derwent, and country estates such Low Hall Halls. Rural country lanes are often lined by dense hedgerows, hedgerow trees and grassy verges and ditches.
- 5.86 Biodiversity and nature conservation interest is represented in the area by a number of designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are Sikes Plantation, Bulls Piece Plantation and Seamer Mere. All three sites are located in the east of the character area. Seamer Mere is located adjacent to the medieval Seamer Manor House. Here, pasture, species rich grassland, fen and open water is being managed to conserve and enhance botanical diversity and provide value wildlife habitats.
- 5.87 There is a large network of water bodies which characterise the landscape, with the River Derwent, drainage ditches, dikes, small farm ponds and mill ponds across the landscape, which provide an extensive network of open water habitats and green corridors. The intricately winding River Derwent passes through the east of the character area from north to south and provides a valuable habitat corridor, which is lined by riparian vegetation and trees.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.88 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) shows a mix of historical processes which have shaped the landscape. The area has been largely influenced by large scale planned Parliamentary Enclosure, which often consists of medium sized regular and semi-irregular fields defined by hedgerows and ditches, as well as areas of modern improved fields²⁹ that consist of large irregular fields, often with fragmented legibility due to a degree of boundary loss. Fields surrounding settlement are characterised by smaller scale enclosures, with a mixed origin and often in a semi-irregular pattern. In addition, there are some areas of unknown planned enclosure; strip fields consisting of medium fields; piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields; and areas of crofts which are associated with the villages of Snainton and Seamer and consist of small or medium sized fields.

²⁹ Term taken from Scarborough HLC

- 5.89 Other important aspects of the historic landscape pattern include Low Hall, which is an elite 17th century manor house residence with extensive private grounds and a designed landscape on the edge of Brompton-by-Sawdon. Within Brompton-by-Sawdon, Castle Hill fortified house, a scheduled (ancient) monument, is located on a steep natural hill in the north east corner of the village, overlooking a millpond that was created by utilising a natural spring. A site of a medieval manor house is located in the east of the character area, also recognised as a scheduled (ancient) monument, which includes the remains of the medieval manor at Manor Garth, situated on the edge of the village of Seamer on a low bluff overlooking low marshy land. The remains consist of a section of medieval masonry which was originally part of the manor house and dates to the 15th century, and further earthwork remains which dates to the early 14th century. The area to the south west of the monument is currently boggy land but in the medieval period was a lake or mere from which Seamer takes its name. The upstanding ruins are Listed Grade II.



Field which contains the remains of Seamer Manor

- 5.90 Principal villages in the character area are designated as Conservation Areas and fall completely or partly within the character area, namely, Snainton, Brompton-by-Sawdon, West Ayton, Irton and Seamer.

Settlement pattern; built character



The well integrated settlement of Snainton, which is largely screened by surrounding vegetation

- 5.91 Primary aspects of the settlement pattern include linear settlement of Snainton and nucleated village of Brompton-by-Sawdon. These villages are associated with the historic rural road network which crosses the area. The materials palette of the settlement core is predominantly sandstone with clay pantile roofing. Brompton-by-Sawdon is centred around a Mill Pond and a network of watercourse and water bodies. Modern expansion occurs on the edges of the settlement and comprises low density housing. In the east the small village of Irton is situated and the settlement edges of West Ayton and Seamer fringe the character area. There are a number of scattered farmsteads along the small rural lanes which pass through the area. These

roads cross the landscape in a roughly south north direction, radiating from the A170 corridor which forms much of the northern boundary, and linking to the Vale of Pickering.



Stone built houses within Brompton-by-Sawdon

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.92 The landscape has an intimate character, which results from the well-established trees and vegetation which bound fields, settlement and roads, interspersed small scale features such as streams, ponds, and small scale fields, and lack of overt human influences. Despite the close proximity to settlement and settlement edge, the landscape retains a deeply rural and tranquil character.
- 5.93 Essentially this is a quiet rural landscape with only localised variation introduced by small scale vernacular villages and settlement edge. The A170 creates a localised intrusion in the landscape, however, the locality along the northern edge results in a minor impact on much of the character area.



Tranquil and peaceful rural landscape, with a small scale, intimate field pattern.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)



Views to tabular foothills, transitional with the North York Moors National Park.

5.94 Views are often filtered and confined by field boundary and road side vegetation, as well as settlement, which adds to the sense of intimacy. Fields are more open in the south, and thus occasional long views are afforded across the Vale of Pickering.

5.95 A degree of intervisibility also exists with the North York Moors National Park from the north east of the character area, which abuts this designated landscape.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

5.96 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:

- Intimate, small scale and tranquil character.
- Areas of historic landscape character e.g. , areas of strip fields, piecemeal enclosure, areas of crofts which are associated with the villages, the 17th century Low Hall manor house, Castle Hill fortified house at Brompton-by-Sawdon, and the remains of the medieval manor at Manor Garth.
- Network of water bodies such as the River Derwent, drainage ditches, dikes, small farm ponds and mill ponds, which provide an extensive network of open water habitats and green corridors.
- Network of hedgerows, trees, and grassy verges which provide important linear wildlife corridors, linking occasional areas of woodland and designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), such as Sikes Plantation, Bulls Piece Plantation and Seamer Mere.
- Small scale vernacular villages, namely Snainton and Brompton-by-Sawdon.

Visual sensitivities

5.97 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:

- Visual containment by the field boundary and road side trees, and settlement.
- Intervisibility with the North York Moors National Park from the north east part of the character area.
- Occasional Longer views across the adjacent Vale of Pickering to the south.

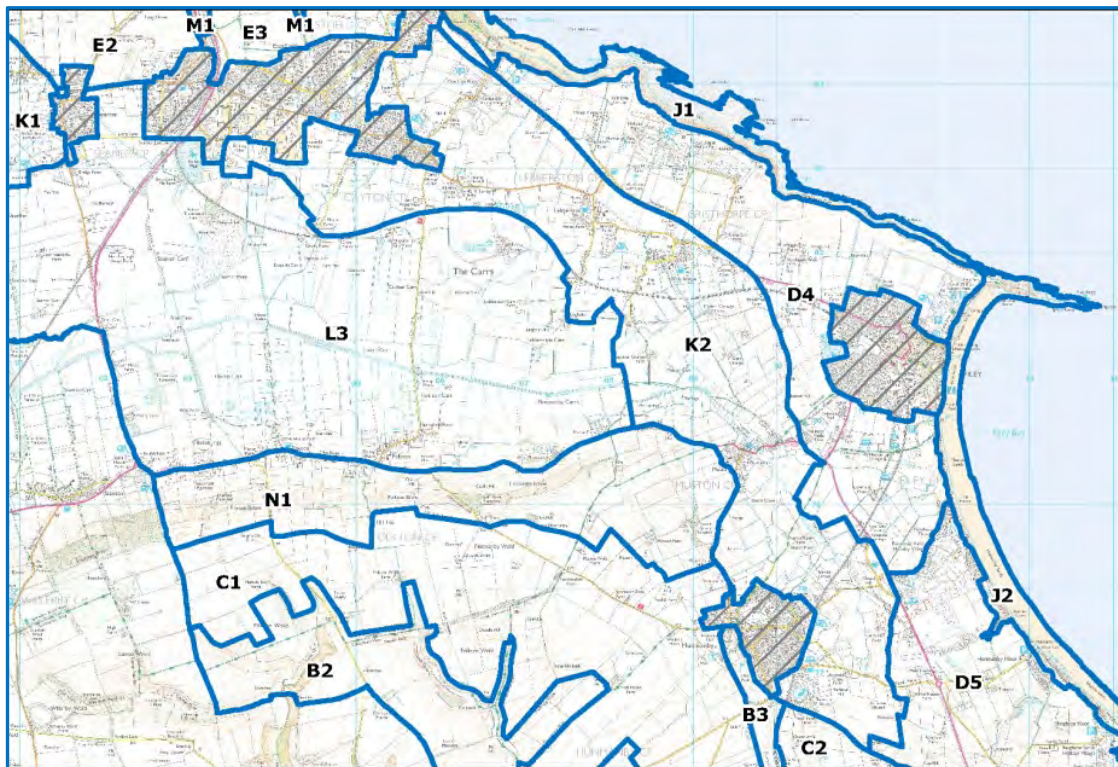
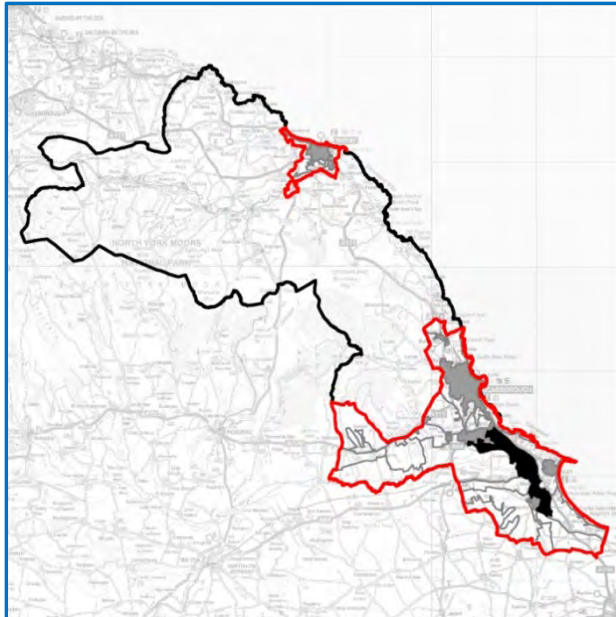
Past change in the landscape

- Agricultural intensification and resultant field boundary loss.
- Settlement development and modern extensions to villages such as Snainton, Brompton-by-Sawdon, Irton, West Ayton and Seamer.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

To conserve and enhance the rural vale fringe landscape, mosaic of farmland and occasional woodland, network of water features, historic character and intact villages; and to maintain the tranquillity away from overt human influence. Also conserve the role of the landscape as part of the setting to the National Park.

Character area K2: Lebberston to Gristhorpe



Character area K2: Lebberston to Gristhorpe

Location and boundaries

- 5.98 This area forms the easternmost fringe of the Vale of Pickering, forming part of the gap between Cayton and Filey. It comprises of undulating, settlement influenced farmland, overlooking the expansive and low lying vale landscape to the west. It does not contain any designated landscapes.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- The bedrock geology of this area is predominantly mudstone, overlain with glacio-fluvial drift deposits of sands and gravels and glacial till, deposited by the formation and subsequent draining of the pre historic Lake Pickering.
- Topography ranges from 30m AOD to the edge of the adjacent vale character area to the west, to 45-55m AOD to the east, at the interface with the adjacent coastal hinterland character area.
- Predominant land cover in this area is arable farmland, with sporadic woodland cover (carr woodland and wooded remnant parkland such as at Killerby Old Hall/Killerby Hall, and woodland fringed caravan park/campsite developments).
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies primary historic landscape types in this area to be irregular enclosure, possible medieval open fields associated with Killerby Old Hall, planned large scale parliamentary enclosure associated with adjacent coastal hinterlands, piecemeal enclosure, modern improved fields and holiday resort/caravan park development.
- Primary settlement influences and characteristics in this area are the modern settlement fringe at Cayton, to the westernmost edge of the area, holiday and caravan park developments, plus compact nucleated villages associated with the rural road network – Lebberston and Gristhorpe and the linear village at Muston. The cores of all these villages are designated Conservation Areas.
- The area is crossed by the Scarborough-Filey railway line to the south of Gristhorpe and fringed to the north by the A165.
- In terms of biodiversity interest, a number of sites in the area are designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), such as Well Spring and Muston Bottoms, Hunmanby Meadow and Hunmanby Pit and a small number of other sites to the fringe of Hunmanby village which lies just outside the area.
- Primary recreational interest and experience is represented by the caravan parks and by a network of paths and rights of way including part of the Centenary Way long distance route which crosses the area in the south near Hunmanby.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.99 Bedrock geology is predominantly mudstone, overlain with glacio-fluvial drift deposits of sands and gravels, and glacial till, deposited by the formation and subsequent draining of the pre historic Lake Pickering. However these geological features are barely perceived in the landscape today and there is little evidence of the great 'moraine' to which geologists refer and which

marked the eastern 'wall' of Lake Pickering (although the feature is topographically clearer in the north facing ridge of the adjacent landscape character area P1).

- 5.100 Topography in this area undulates gently, ranging from 30m AOD to the edge of the adjacent vale character area to 45-55m AOD to the east, to the interface with the adjacent coastal hinterland character area.
- 5.101 Principal landcover elements in the area are fields under arable cultivation, set within a relatively sparse, eroded hedgerow network. Breaks in the pattern are provided by occasional areas of woodland cover, associated both with minor historic parklands and landed estates such as the two Killerby Halls, and woodland screening to recreational developments such as caravan sites.
- 5.102 Biodiversity and nature conservation interest is represented in the area by a number of designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are notably Well Spring and Muston Bottoms, Hunmanby Meadow and Hunmanby Pit, Northgate Lane Pasture and Sands Lane Meadow. The majority of these sites are associated with the modified course of the River Hertford, which rises on the western edge of the area, and a number of tributaries which drain it.



Small scale fields delineated by hedgerows and scattered trees, with a strong rural character

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.103 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) shows principal historic landscape types in this area to be irregular enclosure (potentially of very early date), possibly medieval open fields associated with Killerby Old Hall, planned large scale Parliamentary Enclosure linked with adjacent coastal hinterlands, piecemeal enclosure, modern improved fields and holiday resort/caravan park development. In terms of the legibility of these historic landscape types, the HLC identifies fragmentary landscape legibility associated with holiday parks such as Cayton Bay Holiday Village, high degrees of boundary loss in areas of piecemeal enclosure including creation of mid-20th century 'prairie' fields.
- 5.104 Other important aspects of the historic landscape pattern are landed estates and minor parklands such as at Killerby. The present house at Killerby Old Hall is a 17th century stone built farmhouse, modified and re fronted in the 18th century to a simple five bay Georgian design. Its relict parkland now includes holiday cottages and a caravan park. Opposite is the mock Tudor (late 19th century red brick and applied timber) gabled house and former hunting lodge at Killerby Hall, now a hotel.
- 5.105 The cores of the principal villages in the character area are designated as Conservation Areas - Lebberston, Gristhorpe and Muston.

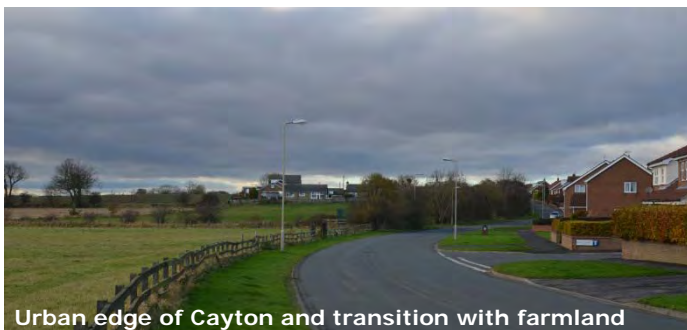
Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.106 Primary aspects of the settlement pattern include compact nucleated historic villages at Gristhorpe and Lebberston and a linear settlement at Muston. These villages are associated with the historic rural road network which crosses the area. The materials palette of the settlements is predominantly brick and render, with some natural and colour washed local stone, and clay pantiles and slates for roofing. The larger nucleated settlement of Hunmanby lies just outside the character area.

- 5.107 Other settlement influences acting on the area are related to the modern settlement edge at Cayton to the west and the A165 corridor which forms the northern boundary to the area, in addition to the railway line which crosses the area south of Gristhorpe and east of Hunmanby. Localised urbanising influences are created by the modern settlement edge at Cayton.



The well integrated edge of Hunmanby village

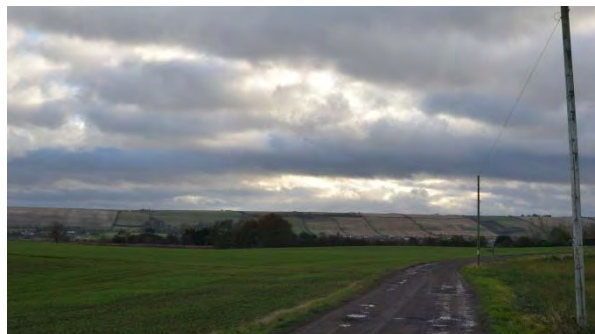


Urban edge of Cayton and transition with farmland

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.108 Essentially this is a quiet rural landscape with only localised variation introduced by small scale vernacular settlement and occasional holiday parks. The A165 creates a sense of localised intrusion in a landscape which is otherwise tranquil.
- 5.109 A coastal influence persists due to intermittent views to the sea and the presence of small scale holiday resort development. In terms of perceptual and aesthetic character, the landscape of this area has some features in common with the adjacent coastal hinterland character area to the east, namely the sense of rhythm and pattern created by rolling arable fields interspersed with occasional linear hedgerows. A seasonally colourful landscape, depending on arable cropping.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)



Prominent scarp stretching across views to the south west

5.110 This area has long views out across the adjacent Vale of Pickering to the west and to the prominent scarp, with some views in the character area filtered by landform undulation and field boundary vegetation.

5.111 A degree of intervisibility also exists with the adjacent coastal hinterland and with parts of the coastline in the northern/eastern parts of this area, although this rapidly recedes due to the level of topographic variation.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

5.112 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:

- The undulating landform and associated rhythmic landscape pattern.
- Areas of more intact historic landscape character e.g. relict medieval field systems associated with Killerby Old Hall, and the hall houses themselves.
- Localised areas of wetland landscape, specifically the chain of SINC's associated with the westerly draining tributaries of the River Hertford.
- Small scale vernacular villages and historic village cores such as Lebberton, Gristhorpe and Muston.

Visual sensitivities

5.113 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:

- Longer views across the adjacent Vale of Pickering and from more elevated land within the character area.
- Filtered intervisibility with the coast in parts of the area.

Past change in the landscape

- Agricultural intensification and attendant field boundary loss.
- Holiday resort development and associated localised erosion of the landscape fabric.
- Farm diversification in relation to minor landed estates, such as holiday accommodation at Killerby Old Hall.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

5.114 The overall landscape strategy is to enhance the intermittent/variable landscape fabric, to provide a foil/check to perceived urbanising influences, and to check urban expansion at Cayton. Also to conserve relict important feature such as medieval field systems.

Character Type L: Vale

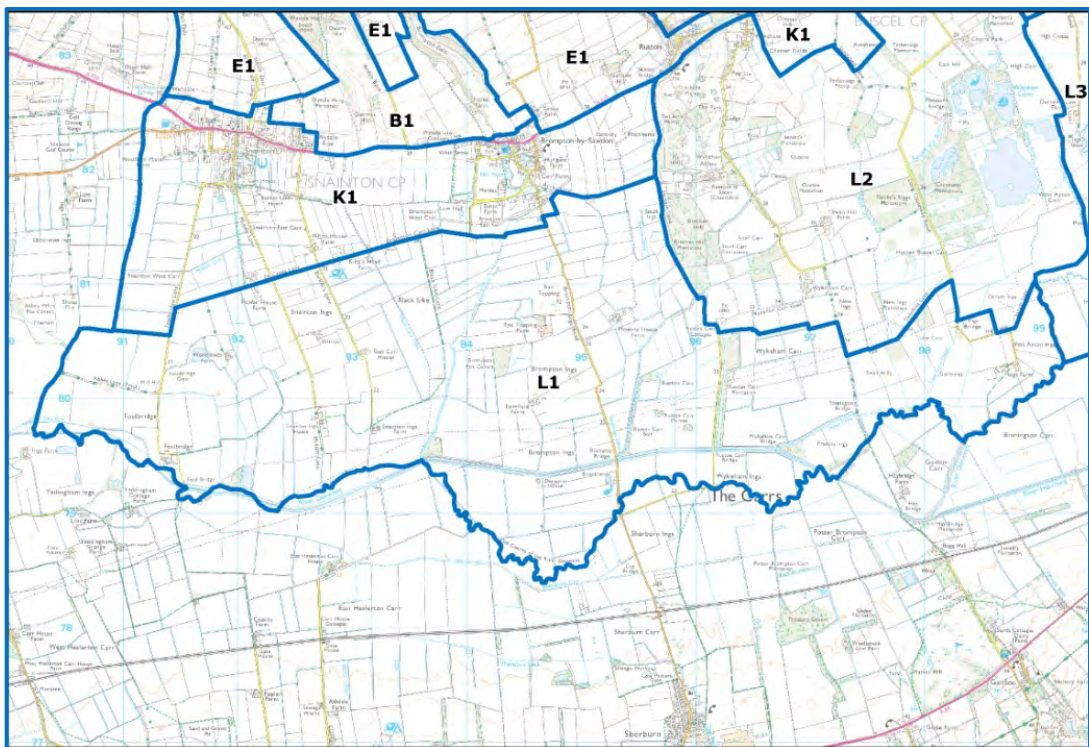
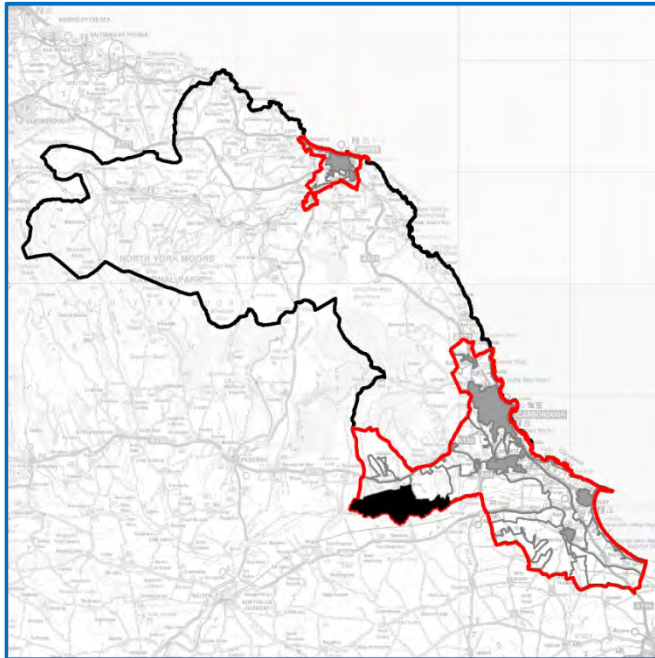
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A flat, low lying topography, with very little topographic variation. Underlying bedrock is overlain in places by superficial glacial and glacialacustrine deposits comprising clay, sand, and gravel.
- An agricultural landscape predominantly comprising medium to large, rectangular arable fields, enclosed by low hedges, fencing, and drainage ditches and dykes. Landscaped parkland, estate woodland and planned estate/enclosure farmland, is found in association with Wykeham Abbey.
- Overall, relatively sparse tree cover, with occasional tree groups, plantations (coniferous and broadleaved) and carr woodlands.
- Drained by the River Derwent and River Hertford, and crossed by a network of canalised water courses, cuts and drainage dykes.
- A low density of dispersed settlement pattern, with occasional scattered farmsteads and a number of small hamlets/villages.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates the landscape has been largely shaped by planned Parliamentary Enclosure, with some large scale modern improved field, which have seen a degree of boundary loss leading to the creation of large consolidated fields.
- Principal designations in this area are the historic remains of Wykeham Abbey (scheduled monument), nature conservation interest represented by a number of SINC's and a number BAP Priority habitats often associated with water courses and carr woodland.
- A flat, low lying topography which is easily viewed from adjacent landscapes and elevated ground. It provides a strong contrast to adjacent scarp landform.
- A strong sense of openness, with long views across open fields over the Vale of Pickering, towards more distant surrounding elevated land in the south and north. Occasional woodland, plantation and carr woodlands frame views.
- A calm, rural environment, with limited roads, consisting of straight rural lanes and tracks. A strong geometric landscape pattern, with a uniform and simple character.

Constituent LCAs

- L1 Snainton to Brompton
- L2 Wykeham Abbey
- L3 Star and Flixton Carr

Character area L1: Snainton to Brompton



Character area L1: Snainton to Brompton

Location and boundaries

- 5.115 Snainton and Brompton Ings lies within the eastern part of the Vale of Pickering, which continues westwards outside the Borough boundary. It is the most westerly character area within this type in the Borough of Scarborough. The area is defined by low lying flat landscape, comprised of medium and large scale fields dominated by arable farmland. The extent of the Borough of Scarborough defines the character area boundary to the south and west, although in reality landscape character continues beyond the boundary. Changing field pattern/sizes and land use determines the boundaries to the north and east. The North York Moors National Park is situated on elevated ground to the north of this landscape and there is a strong intervisibility between these landscapes, although it does not abut the character area boundary.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Underlain by mudstone, with some overlying superficial glacial and glacialacustrine deposits comprising sand, and gravel in the north.
- A flat, low lying topography which is easily viewed from adjacent vale landscapes and elevated ground, such as rising landform to the north.
- An agricultural landscape predominantly comprising medium size rectangular arable fields, with some areas of large scale fields in the south, enclosed by low hedges, fencing, and drainage ditches and dykes.
- Relatively sparse tree cover, with occasional tree groups, plantations (coniferous and broadleaved).
- Drained by the River Derwent and crossed by a network of canalised water courses, cuts and drainage dykes.
- A low density of dispersed settlement pattern comprising occasional scattered farmsteads.
- Parliamentary field enclosures, drainage ditches and dykes, and straight rural roads generate a strong geometric landscape pattern, with a uniform and simple character.
- A strong sense of openness, with long views across open fields over the Vale of Pickering, towards more distant elevated land in the south and north.
- A still and calm environment, despite it being a working agricultural landscape. Limited roads pass through the area, consisting of small rural lanes and tracks.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates the landscape has been largely shaped by planned Parliamentary Enclosure, which saw the change of this area from low lying wetland to drained medium sized arable fields. To the south some areas comprise large scale modern improved fields, which have a more fragmented legibility.
- Important areas for habitat and nature conservation include coastal and floodplain grazing marsh priority BAP habitats, and two SINC sites, namely Brompton Beck and the River Derwent.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.116 A flat, low lying landscape which is underlain by mudstone, comprising the Speeton Clay Formation, Amphill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (undifferentiated). Superficial layers of glacial and glacialacustrine deposits, such as sand and gravel, overlay bedrock in the north. The landform of the Vale has been largely shaped by the last glaciation, which saw vast amounts of material (rock, sand and clay) deposited from ice sheets. Ice sheets and associated moraines impeded the drainage of this area and the former Lake Pickering was thus formed. As a result the vale has a predominantly level topography covered by Glacialacustrine deposits which still remain and this now forms the landscape of the Vale of Pickering. Lake Pickering gradually drained away leaving a complex of rivers and marshes, and the unusual old course of the River Derwent, which passes through the south of the area, is a result of obstructing glacial deposits forcing the river west across the Vale of Pickering and then south to the Howardian Hills. The area acts as a drainage basin for the surrounding hill country and an extensive number of drainage ditches crisscross the area.
- 5.117 Agricultural practice and drainage activities have resulted in the loss of many habitats in this area, such as fen and wetland habitats, and have largely obscured the natural distribution of vegetation. The system of rivers, streams, drainage ditches and small farm ponds, provide an extensive network of open water habitats and green corridors, however many of these features are intensively managed and as a result degraded. Extensive river engineering has resulted in the loss of natural features thus reducing the diversity of riparian habitats. However, despite this, rivers, becks and other water bodies in this area provide one of the most important wildlife habitats.
- 5.118 There are several pockets of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh BAP priority habitats in the north west and west. The Derwent River, a SINC, is largely channelised through the southern part of this character area, however it does support a range of plant communities and widespread aquatic plants include shining pondweed, fennel pondweed, flowering rush and unbranched bur-reed. The small tributary stream, Brompton Beck, flows from the north to join the River Derwent, and is characterised by clear calcareous water with species including marestalk, water-cress and water-starworts.
- 5.119 The area is sparsely wooded, with most small woods comprising modern plantations. The most significant areas of woodland include Brompton Fox Covert, Ruston Carr and Ruston Carr Plantation.



Flat, open arable fields, occasionally terminated by small linear woodland edges.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.120 This landscape has experienced dramatic land use changes in both past and recent times. The area is largely a result of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure, which has changed the area from low lying wetland to drained arable fields. Planned enclosure has resulted in a dominance in medium sized regular fields defined by hedgerows and ditches, which has maintained significant legibility. Intensification of agriculture has led to a breakdown of field boundaries, with some areas in the south comprising larger scale modern improved fields, which have a higher degree of boundary loss, fragmented legibility and a more irregular field pattern.

- 5.121 Large scale drainage and river engineering has been undertaken since the 18th century, and most of the water bodies have been modified to some degree, such as canalisation of the River Derwent, deepening, straightening and embankment. Although trees and wildlife habitats have been lost as a result of river engineering and management, these man made features are not overly prominent in this area and it still retains a sense of an undisturbed, rural landscape. Aspects of the old natural river course are still visible in the landscape, such as the sinuous lines of river bank trees in places. Drainage has created fertile soils, which have resulted in the landscape being used extensively for arable cultivation, with occasional pasture.
- 5.122 The flat, low lying landscape means the area has been a desirable landscape for built infrastructure and a number of overhead electricity pylons cut through this area.

Settlement pattern; built character



Rural roads cross the vale, delineated by grassy verges, which provide important green linear corridors

The area is predominately agricultural arable land, and the settlement reflects this land use, with associated individual farmsteads scattered across the vale. Settlement is low and dispersed, comprising individual farmsteads which are often situated at the end of long driveways radiating off straight rural lanes. Buildings tend to comprise of a mix of historic and modern buildings. Narrow single track lanes pass through the landscape roughly in a north to south direction.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.123 This landscape has a large scale, open character as a result of the landform and dominance of large arable fields, with typically low field boundaries and sparse tree cover. The repetition of the geometric field enclosures, drainage ditches and dykes, and the low lying topography of this area, contributes to an organised and rhythmic landscape pattern, with a uniform and simple character. Despite the extent of human influence within this character area, specifically the dominance of agriculture and development of pylons, the landscape has a calm and still character overall.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.124 This landscape has a strong sense of openness, with large scale fields, low hedgerows and sparse tree cover allowing for long views across the landscape which are expansive across the Vale of Pickering. Elevated landscape further south, which forms a more distant ridgeline, and gradually rising landscape to the north which ascends to meet the North York Moor National Park contrasts with the vale landform, with long views to and from these elevated perspectives.



Long views across open, flat farmland to the chalk scarp

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Sense of openness.
- Simple, organised and rhythmic landscape pattern.
- Calm and still character.
- Low dispersal of settlement.
- The system of rivers, streams, drainage ditches and small farm ponds, which provide a network of open water habitats and green corridors.
- Time depth of the landscape.

Visual sensitivities

- Extensive open views across the Vale of Pickering.
- Intervisibility - Views to and from prominent ridgeline to the south and elevated land to the north, which rises to join the North York Moors National Park.

Past change in the landscape

- Development of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure and intensification of agriculture.
- Large scale drainage and river engineering.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

The overall landscape strategy is to conserve and enhance the large scale, organised and rhythmic landscape pattern, network of open water habitats, and to maintain the openness of the landscape, calm character and low density of settlement. Also, to restore the network of habitats along watercourses and grazing marsh.

Character area L2: Wykeham Abbey

Location and boundaries

- 5.125 This area comprises the parkland and wider wooded estate landscape and vale farmland associated with Wykeham Abbey. It also includes the fishery and sailing lakes at Wykeham Lakes and associated carr woodland. The village of Ruston and the A170 form the northern boundary, whilst the transition to a more open landscape character in other parts of the Vale of Pickering define the other area boundaries.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- A gently undulating lowland vale landscape, with topography ranging from 25-35m AOD, based on a bedrock of Corallian group sandstones, Jurassic mudstones and Speeton Clays of the Early Cretaceous era and isolated instances of calcareous grits. Bedrock geology is overlain by sand and gravel drift which has historically been worked for extraction.
- Landcover is defined by landscaped parkland, estate woodland and planned estate/enclosure farmland, plus areas of carr woodland fringing former sites of mineral extraction (Wykeham Lakes).
- A sparsely settled, rural character, with the only evidence of settlement provided by the stone hamlet of Wykeham, occasional narrow, quiet rural lanes, the Wykeham Abbey estate and associated farmsteads. The area is fringed by the small vernacular village of Ruston to the north, and to the A160 corridor, although the latter is barely perceptible.
- Woodland, plantation and carr woodlands frame views, as does the undulating landform, although there is intervisibility with more open and expansive landscapes in other parts of the Vale of Pickering.
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates primary historic processes acting on this area to be the designed landscape overlain upon the former Cistercian monastic foundation at Wykeham Abbey, planned large scale Parliamentary Enclosure with some later boundary loss, modern improved fields, mixed plantations which have proliferated since c.1850, plantations on the site or earlier woodlands, and quarrying.
- Principal designations in this area are the remains of Wykeham Abbey (scheduled monument). Local nature conservation interest is represented by a proposed Site of Importance for Nature Conservation at Wykeham Abbey parkland (SINC) and a SINC at Wykeham Pits and Woodland. The parkland at Wykeham Abbey is unregistered but forms the setting to the listed country house of the same name, adjacent to the monastic ruins.
- Principal features of recreational interest and aspects of the recreational experience of this area are the sailing club and angling facilities at Wykeham Lakes (members only/semi private facility).

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.126 A gently undulating topography reflects the underlying bedrock of sandstones, mudstones and Speeton Clay formation and isolated instances of calcareous grits, overlain by drift deposits of sands and gravels and occasional pockets of clays, silts and sands. The area has relatively little topographic variation, forming a gently undulating part of the low lying Vale of Pickering.

Topography ranges from 25-35m AOD, with the highest points found along the northern boundary, towards the A170.

- 5.127 Landcover features primarily relate to cultural pattern – the estate of the Cistercian nunnery and the post reformation landed estate and parklands occupying the site of the same. The park of Wykeham Abbey contains many intact parkland features including parkland trees/specimens and field trees and grazed pasture/parkland grass.
- 5.128 Much of the surrounding landcover has a perceptible estate influence – mixed plantation woodlands and planned enclosure mixed farmland bounded by mixed hedgerows, plus land associated with former estate farmsteads.
- 5.129 In lower lying areas associated with the network of minor dykes and wet ditches which cut the area are areas of carr and wet woodland, particularly in the eastern parts of the area.
- 5.130 The mineral rich drift deposits have meant that parts of this area have historically been worked for sands, gravels and aggregates. The legacy of these workings are the lagoons and lakes at Wykeham Pits, which now accommodate a range of recreational uses including sailing, boating and angling.
- 5.131 The local biodiversity interest of the area is recognised in the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) at Wykeham Pits and a proposed SINC covering the parkland core of the Wykeham Abbey estate.



Low lying, flat farmland often terminated by densely wooded edges (left), well vegetated field boundaries and roadside edges (above)

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.132 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) indicates one of the principal historic landscape processes to be the extensive designed parkland and formal gardens associated with the country house at Wykeham Abbey, a landscape with some historic legibility and some change since c.1850. The estate includes characteristic features such as mature parkland trees/field trees and planted roundels, plus grazed parkland. Other historic landscape types represented in the area are planned Parliamentary Enclosure defined by a medium scale regular field pattern, with some boundary loss, and 'modern improved' fields with fragmentary legibility. Also areas of mixed plantation and gravel workings.



Entrance to Wykeham Abbey

- 5.133 The ruins of the 12th century Cistercian nunnery at the core of the Wykeham Abbey estate are a scheduled monument. The north wall and part of the transept arch of the church survives. The grade II* listed country house of the same name dates from the 18th century – a four bay Georgian mansion with later, 19th century, wings and much early 20th century alteration. The house forms the design focus for an 18th and 19th century English parkland plus formal gardens.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.134 With the exception of the landed estate and associated scattered farmsteads this is a very lightly settled landscape, with the vernacular stone built hamlet of Wykeham being the only other settlement feature. This is a small nucleated settlement centred on a green and is linked to the village of Ruston just north of the area, and the A170, by a narrow, quiet rural lane network. A disused railway line follows part of the northern boundary of the area adjacent to the A170 and some features, such as embanked sections and bridges, are still traceable.

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.135 Much of this landscape has a tranquil and fairly remote, rural character due to the relative sparseness of settlement and land uses such as parkland, landed estate and mixed farmland and the quiet, lightly used rural lane network. Localised intrusions are represented by the A170 although this is not readily perceived due to the disused railway embankment and hedgerow vegetation.
- 5.136 The presence of woodland and dense hedgerows creates visual interest and an intimate spatial scale at points, which contrasts with the expansive landscape elsewhere in the vale.



Dense hedgerow network, estate landscape influence near Wykeham Abbey

- 5.137 Low key recreational uses are provided at Wykeham Pits in the form of a members only sailing and angling club, although these are not readily perceived due to the density of carr and plantation woodland surrounding the site.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.138 Views are filtered by field boundary and woodland vegetation, although there is intervisibility with other, more open and expansive landscapes in other parts of the Vale of Pickering, particularly from the rural road network which traverses the area.

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- 5.139 Key landscape sensitivities are judged to be:
- The historic parklands and estate landscape associated with Wykeham Abbey, and the setting they form for the associated country house and ruins
 - The quiet, lightly settled rural character
 - Mixed and wet woodland blocks and the hedgerow network, which create visual interest and variation in landscape scale
 - Wetland feature such as the dyke network, which create micro landscape interest and the diversity of habitats associated with Wykeham Pits

Visual sensitivities

5.140 Key visual sensitivities are judged to be:

- The availability of views across the open and expansive landscape in other parts of the Vale of Pickering
- The visual foiling created to features such as transport corridors (A170) to the north by landform and vegetation

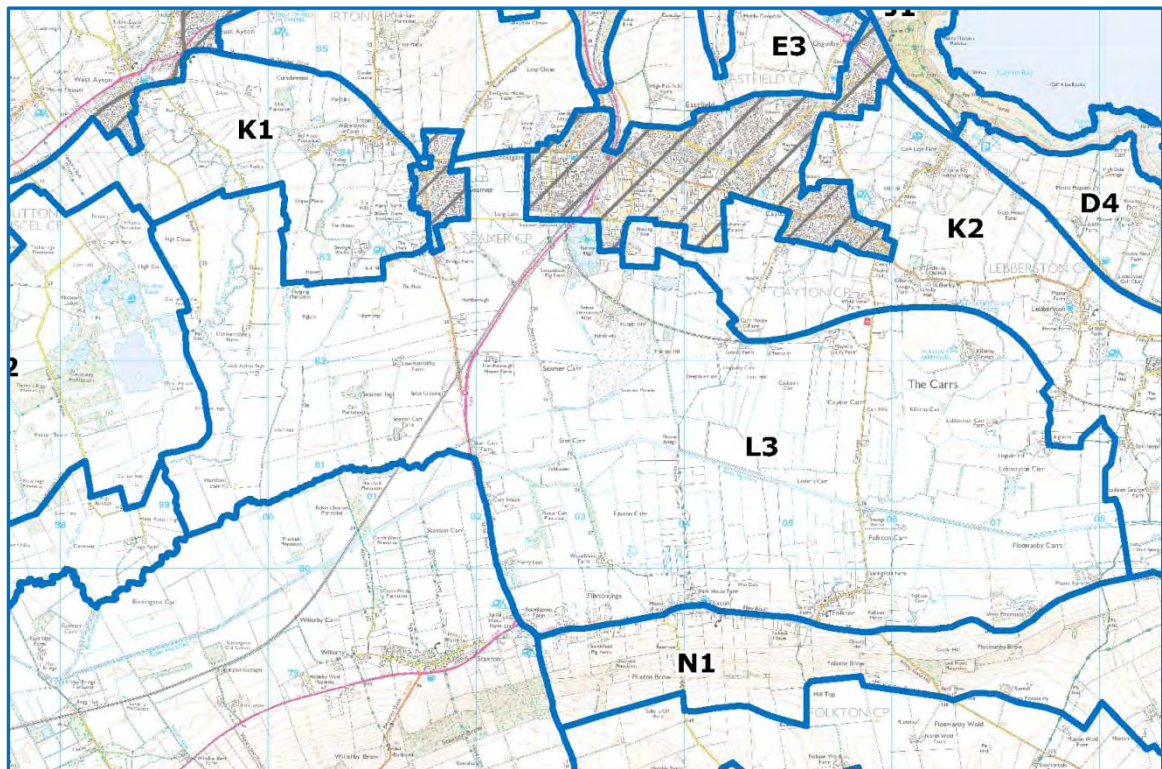
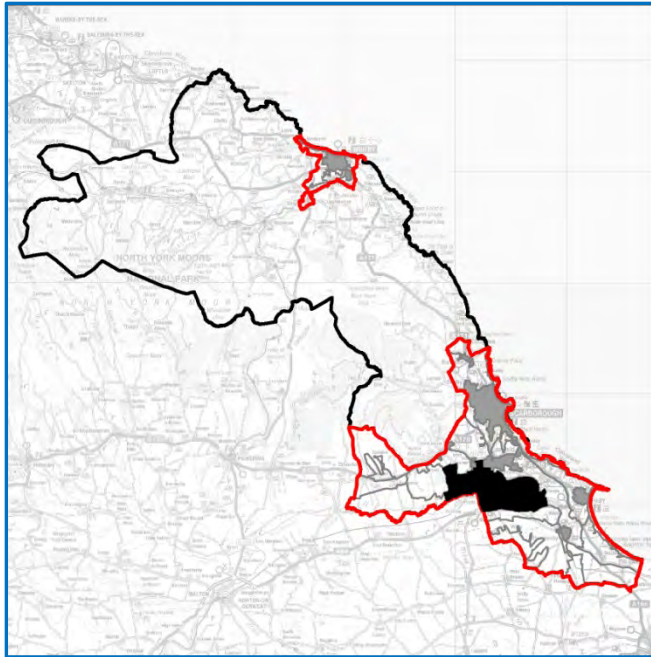
Past change in the landscape

- Parkland creation and planned estate landscape
- Mineral workings and associated wetland creation/habitat colonisation as part of their legacy
- Recreational provision associated with the former mineral workings
- Parliamentary Enclosure and later agricultural intensification and attendant boundary loss

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

5.141 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and enhance the historic parkland landscape, the setting it provides to the listed structures at Wykeham Abbey and its sense of historic integrity – the wider planned farmland landscape. Conserve areas of open landscape and visual character where these persist, in particular the visual relationships with the wider Vale of Pickering.

Character area L3: Star & Flixton Carrs



Character area L3: Star & Flixton Carrs

Location and boundaries

- 5.142 Star and Flixton Carrs lies within the eastern part of the Vale of Pickering, which continues west through the Borough and beyond. The area is defined by low lying flat landscape, which is comprised of large scale fields dominated by arable farmland. The rising land to the north and south define the boundaries in these directions, and changing field pattern/sizes and land use determines the boundaries to the east and west. The North York Moors National Park is situated on elevated ground to the north west of this landscape, however it does not about the character area boundary.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Underlain by mudstone, which is concealed in peripheral areas of the LCA by superficial glacial and glaciallacustrine deposits comprising diamictons, clay, sand, and gravel.
- A flat, low lying topography which is easily viewed from adjacent landscapes, particularly from elevated landscapes to the north and south. It provides a strong contrast to surrounding elevated areas.
- An agricultural landscape predominantly comprising large size rectangular arable fields enclosed by low hedges, fencing, and drainage ditches and dykes.
- Relatively sparse tree cover, with occasional tree groups, plantations (coniferous and broadleaved) and some carr woodland dispersed linearly along field boundaries.
- Drained by the River Derwent and River Hertford and crossed by a network of canalised water courses, cuts and drainage dykes.
- A low density of dispersed settlement pattern with occasional scattered farmsteads and a number of small hamlets/villages along the southern edge.
- Parliamentary field enclosures, drainage ditches and dykes, and straight rural roads generate a strong geometric landscape pattern, with a uniform and simple character.
- A great sense of openness, with long views across open fields which stretch out across the Vale of Pickering, towards the prominent ridgeline to the south, and rising land to the north at Oliver's Mount on the edge of Scarborough.
- A still and calm environment, despite it being a working agricultural landscape and in proximity to public roads (A1039) and Scarborough and its suburbs. Limited roads cut through the landscape, which consist of small rural lanes and tracks.
- The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates extensive areas in the east have been characterised by planned large scale Parliamentary Enclosure, which saw the change of this area from low lying wetland to drained arable fields. To the west the area comprises modern improved fields, which have seen a significant degree of boundary loss leading to the creation of large consolidated fields.
- The area contains nationally significant remains of a Mesolithic hunter gather settlement associated with the glacial Lake Pickering/Lake Flixton, at Star Carr.
- Important areas for habitat and nature conservation, such as extensive areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (priority BAP habitats), and a number of SINC sites, for example Flixton Carr Plantation and Fox Covert, Burton Riggs Gravel Pits, Seamer Mere, Well Spring, and River Hertford.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.143 A flat, low lying landscape which is underlain by mudstone, comprising the Speeton Clay Formation, Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (undifferentiated), and overlain particularly around the periphery by superficial layers of glacial and glacialacustrine deposits, such as diamictons, clay, sand, and gravel. The landform of the Vale has been largely shaped by the last glaciation, which saw vast amounts of material (rock, sand and clay) deposited from ice sheets. Ice sheets and associated moraines impeded the drainage of this area and Lake Pickering was thus formed. As a result the vale has a predominantly level topography covered by glacialacustrine deposits which still remain and this now forms the landscape of the Vale of Pickering (the former bottom of Lake Pickering). Lake Pickering gradually drained away leaving a complex of rivers and marshes, and the unusual old course of the River Derwent in the west of the area, was a result of obstructing glacial deposits forcing the river west across the Vale of Pickering and then south to the Howardian Hills. The area acts as a drainage basin for the surrounding hill country, with the canalised River Hertford draining west into the River Derwent. An extensive number of drainage ditches intersect the area.
- 5.144 Agricultural practice and drainage activities have resulted in the loss of many habitats in this area, such as fen and wetland habitats, and largely obscured the natural distribution of vegetation. The system of rivers, streams, drainage ditches, small farm ponds and artificial lakes such as those formed from gravel extraction (e.g. Burton Riggs), provide an extensive network of open water habitats and green corridors, however many of these features are intensively managed and as a result degraded. Extensive river engineering has resulted in the loss of natural features thus reducing the diversity of riparian habitats. However, despite this, the rivers and other water bodies in this area provide one of the most important wildlife habitats.
- 5.145 There are several relatively large areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh BAP priority habitats in the area, as well as a few small BAP priority areas of purple moor grass and rush pastures, and lowland meadow. In and around Cayton and Flixton Carrs there are some small areas of fen meadow remaining (these are the vestiges of Lake Flixton which superseded Lake Pickering), in isolated locations as well as small areas of wet grassland. Areas of wet woodland are now rare in the wider Vale, however there are important areas at Flixton Carr Plantation where downy birch and silver birch is found. A number of farmland birds, wetland species and breeding waders are found in some of the Carrs, which form an important wetland feature near to the coast, part of the Eastern Atlantic flyway migration route, such as Seamer tip pools, Scalby Lodge, Johnson's Marsh, Filey Dams.



Sparsely wooded, flat, low lying farmland

5.146 The area is sparsely wooded, with most small woods comprising modern plantations. The most significant area of woodland is at Flixton Carr, which includes stands of birch and oak-bracken-bramble woodland, as well as wet woodland (carr) communities. Thorn and gorse scrub are typically found along river corridors, particularly along the River Hertford which provides an important wildlife corridor within this agriculturally dominant landscape.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.147 The character area forms part of the historic extents of both Lake Pickering and later Lake Flixton. At Star Carr, the area contains one of the most archaeologically significant Mesolithic sites in the country, on the former lake shore.
- 5.148 This landscape has experienced dramatic land use changes in both past and recent times. The east and south is predominately as a result of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure, which

changed the area from low lying wetland to drained arable fields. Some enclosed areas are likely to have been related to woodland clearance as several place names have 'ings' and 'carr' in their title. Intensification of agriculture has led to a breakdown of field boundaries, with much of the west of the area associated with modern improved fields³⁰ which have fragmented legibility and boundary loss. Fields within this character area are defined by straight hedgerow boundaries, with some wooden post and wire fencing, more commonly in the east.

- 5.149 Large scale drainage and river engineering has been undertaken since the 18th century, and most of the water bodies have been modified to some degree, such as canalisation, deepening, straightening and embankment. Although trees and wildlife habitats have been lost as a result of river engineering and management, these features are not overly prominent in this area and it still retains a sense of an undisturbed, rural landscape. Drainage has created fertile soils, which have resulted in the landscape being used extensively for arable cultivation. An important historic drainage event was the cutting of the straightened River Hertford following the passing of an Act of Parliament (The Muston and Yedingham Drainage Act) and the formation of The Muston and Yedingham Internal Drainage Board.
- 5.150 The flat, low lying floodplain results in a number of roads running along the edges of the character area, with the A64 along the south west and the A1039 running along the southern boundary. The Scarborough and Filey to York railway lines pass along the northern boundary and cuts through the western part of the area. The landform and low lying nature also means that a number of overhead electricity pylons cut through this area.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.151 The area is predominately agricultural arable land, and the settlement reflects this land use, with associated individual farmsteads scattered across the vale. Settlement is low and dispersed, with individual farmsteads often situated at the end of long driveways. The central part of the character area has very few properties, with most farms situated around the periphery of the area close to roads and in the west. Many properties, particularly in the west and south west have a name association with carr, indicating an historical connection to woodland and wetland. A number of small hamlets are linearly dispersed along the A1039 in the south, such as Flixton and Flixton Ings. Most of the settlements and farmsteads are comprised of a mix of historic and modern buildings.



5.152 At Star Carr, evidence has been found of settlement, around 10600 BC, the earliest known in the UK. Star Carr would have been slightly elevated on the marshy edge of Lake Flixton, and anaerobic conditions within the peat soils have preserved remains from the settlement, such as wooden structures, animal bones, worked bones and antlers.

Urban edge influence

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.153 This landscape has a large scale, open character as a result of the landform and dominance of large arable fields, with typically low field boundaries and sparse tree cover. The repetition of the geometric field enclosures, drainage ditches and dykes, and the low lying topography of this area, contributes to an organised and rhythmic landscape pattern, with a uniform and simple character. Despite the extent of human influence within this character area, specifically the dominance of agriculture, development of pylon lines and communication corridors along the periphery, the landscape has a calm and still character overall.

³⁰ Term taken from Scarborough HLC.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)



5.154 This landscape has a great sense of openness, with large scale fields, low hedgerows and sparse tree cover allowing for long views across the landscape which are expansive across the Vale of Pickering. The low lying landscape contrasts with the surrounding landform, with views to and from the prominent ridgeline to the south and elevated land to the north, which rises to Oliver's Mount. Views to the elevated edge of the North York Moors National Park are possible from the western part of the character area.

Prominent views to the chalk scarp

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Sense of openness.
- Simple, organised and rhythmic landscape pattern.
- Calm and still character, despite close proximity to several communication corridors and suburbs of Scarborough.
- Low dispersal of settlement.
- The system of rivers, streams, drainage ditches, small farm ponds and artificial lakes which provide a network of open water habitats and green corridors.
- Time depth of the landscape, reflected in features such as the Mesolithic settlement remains at Star Carr.

Visual sensitivities

- Extensive open views across the Vale of Pickering.
- Intervisibility - Views to and from prominent ridgeline to the south and elevated land to the north, which rises to Oliver's Mount.
- Views to the elevated edge of the North York Moors National Park from the western part of the character area.

Past change in the landscape

- Development of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure and intensification of agriculture.
- Large scale drainage and river engineering.
- Communication corridor.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

5.155 The overall landscape strategy is to conserve and enhance the large scale, organised and rhythmic landscape pattern, network of open water habitats, and to maintain the openness of the landscape, calm character and low density of settlement. Also, to preserve, explore and interpret

the archaeological and historical remnants, which provide a unique sense of identity of the landscape.

Character type M: Wooded Escarpment

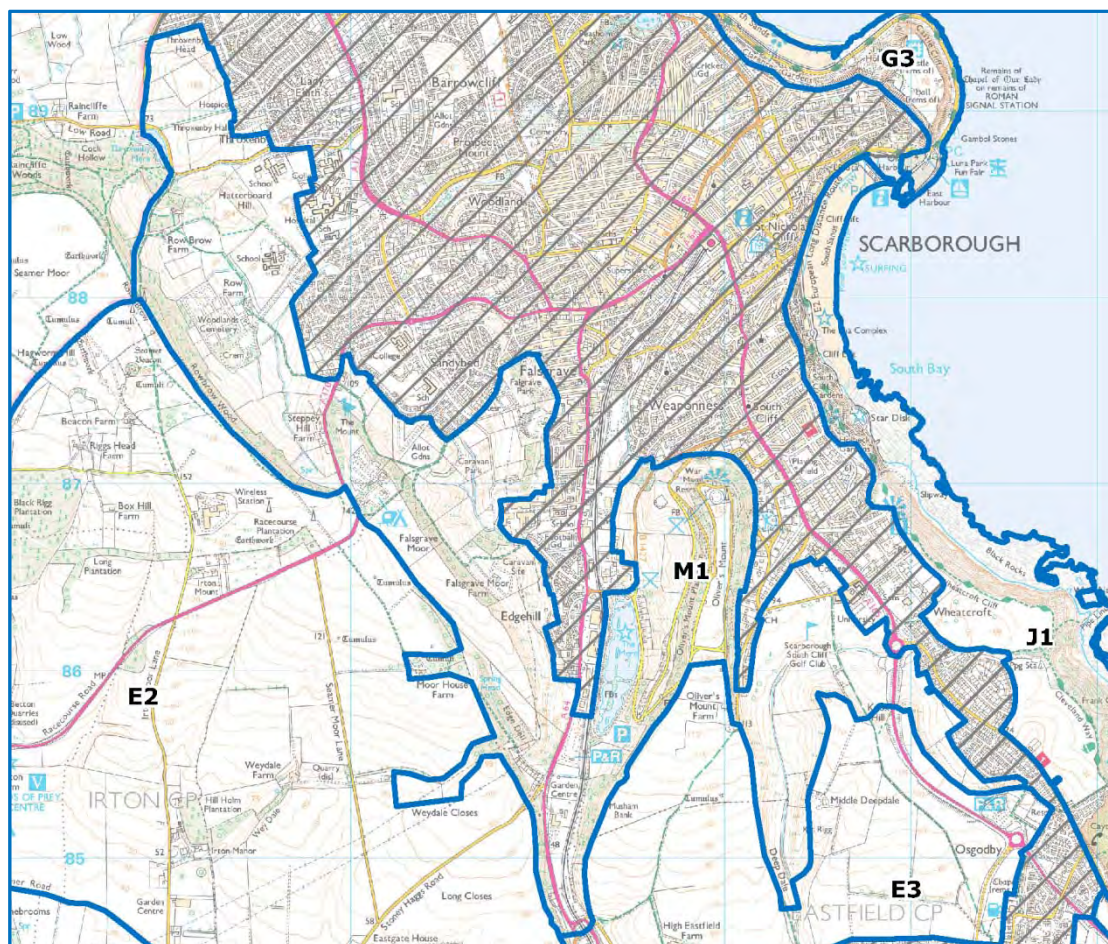
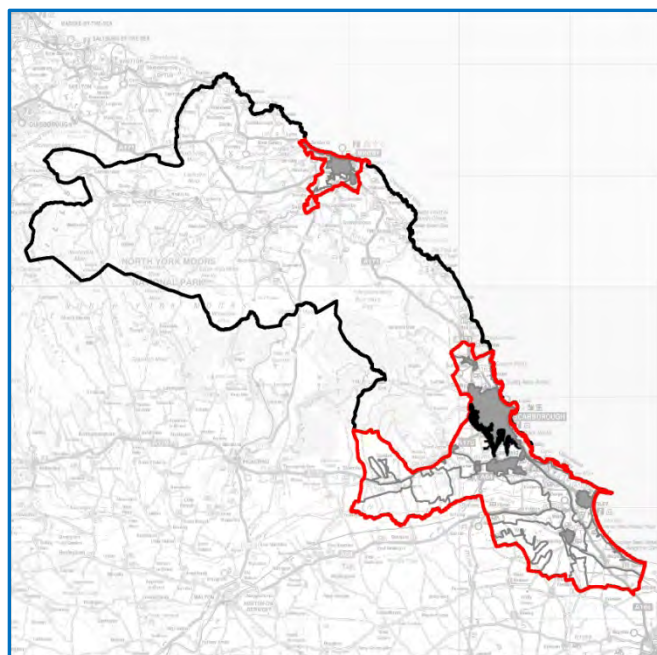
Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Dramatic, undulating and steep escarpment, forming a visible and prominent feature over long distances from surrounding landscape.
- Variations in land cover and land use, with heavily wooded upper scarp slopes and more open areas of rough grassland and agricultural fields on the lower slopes. Interspersed areas of amenity grassland, which include formal sports pitches, school grounds, and golf courses.
- A number of small streams and springs, and small lakes from important hydrological features which provide visual and ecological interest as well as recreational amenity.
- Important historic landmarks relate specifically to the war memorial at Oliver's Mount, a tall granite obelisk, which is recognisable over long distances within the Borough.
- Although settlement density is low, there is a degree of settlement fringe influence; including schools, camping and caravan sites, scattered individual farmsteads and golf courses. Dense urban edges fringe the landscape.
- A number of roads cross the landscape, from busy transport corridors, to smaller roads which wind up the steep slopes.
- The landscape provides a range of recreation opportunities include cycling, walking, horse-riding and fishing, with formal recreation land use including caravan and camping sites, sports pitches and golf courses.
- A varying degree of enclosure, with dense woodland blocks creating a strong sense of containment, contrasting with open slopes.
- Localised interruptions from settlement fringe development, create audible and visual impacts, however, woodland helps to integrate and unify disparate elements, contributing to a sense of intimacy and enclosure in parts.
- Long, panoramic vistas from open elevated aspects, with a strong visual inter-connection with the surrounding landscape. This contrasts with more enclosed and broken views which are largely contained by dense woodland.

Constituent LCAs

- M1 Oliver's Mount

Character area M1: Oliver's Mount



Character area M1: Oliver's Mount

Location and boundaries

- 5.156 This area is formed by the scarp which runs along the south western edge of Scarborough, forming a prominent visual and physical feature within the Borough. The western boundary abuts the North York Moors National Park and the escarpment continues into this protected landscape. The southern boundary is formed by the limestone tabular foothills which gradually slope away from the scarp. The northern and eastern edges of the character area are defined by the urban edge of Scarborough.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Dramatic, undulating and steep scarp topography formed by the underlying geology consisting of bands of sandstone, mudstone, limestone and siltstone, which forms a prominent visual feature. Oliver's Mount provides an important landmark, with land rising up to 155m AOD.
- Varied land cover and land use, with heavily wooded upper scarp slopes which provide a strong contrast to the surrounding landscape. The landscape is interspersed with areas of rough grassland and agricultural fields, which typically form the lower slopes, and areas of amenity grassland, which include formal sports pitches, school grounds, and a golf course.
- Hydrological features include a number of small streams and springs, as well as larger water bodies, namely The Mere and Throxenby Mere. In the early/mid-20th century, the Mere was a popular tourist attraction, with rowing boats, a cafe and putting green. It is still popular for recreation today and is mainly used for fishing and water skiing.
- The war memorial at Oliver's Mount, a tall granite obelisk, is an important historical landmark feature, which is visible for miles across the surrounding landscape.
- Settlement density within the character area is very low, and built form is largely limited to a number of schools, a cemetery, camping and caravan sites, a small number of individual farmsteads and a golf course. The urban edge of Scarborough forms the north eastern boundary.
- Three busy roads pass across the scarp which radiate from Scarborough, the A170, A64 and A165, as well as the railway line, which individually create localised impact on the landscape.
- A variety of recreation and amenity land uses, with a number of caravan and camping sites, sports pitches and Scarborough South Cliff Golf Course. The landscape provides opportunities for cycling, walking, dog walking, horse-riding and fishing. Oliver's Mount is a popular place associated with recreation, and is home to the Oliver's Mount road race circuit.
- A contrasting landscape, which has a somewhat discordant character. A varied land use and landscape pattern exists, which interrupts the landscape and create localised impacts. Repetition of woodland helps to integrate and unify disparate elements, and create a more legible landscape, contributing to a sense of intimacy and enclosure in parts.
- Varying degrees of enclosure occur throughout the area, with enclosed, dense woodland blocks, contrasting with open, undulating farmland on the lower slopes.
- Long, panoramic vistas across open elevated aspects, such as Oliver's Mount, contrast with more enclosed and broken views which are largely contained by dense woodland. There is a strong visual inter-connection with the surrounding landscape, and the scarp is a highly visible and prominent feature in the landscape and from adjacent areas.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.157 An undulating scarp which follows the sinuous underlying geology consisting of bands of sandstone, mudstone, limestone and siltstone. Poorly sorted Till deposits overlay the lower slopes. The steep, dramatic scarp slopes rise and fall forming a number of plateau tops, with Oliver's Mount being the most prominent, rising up to 155m AOD and providing a prominent landmark in Scarborough. The upper scarp slopes are heavily wooded and provide a strong contrast to surrounding landscape and urban areas, and an important habitat. Rowbrow Wood is a significant linear ancient woodland. Interspersed with woodland are areas of rough grassland and agricultural fields, which typically form the lower slopes. There are areas of amenity grassland, which include formal sports pitches, school grounds, and a golf course. Hydrological features include a number of small streams and springs, as well as larger water bodies, namely The Mere and Throxenby Mere. The Mere is a natural lake in a valley which fringes Oliver's Mount Country Park to the west. The immediate surroundings have been designed and developed in an ornamental style and the mere contains islands and bridges, with the surrounding woodland comprising Scots Pines, Rowan and Limes.



Wooded scarp slopes



The Mere

Cultural pattern and historic character



Oliver's Mount War Memorial

5.158 The historic landscape characterisation (HLC) indicates that a large proportion of the lower slopes are largely of unknown planned enclosure, consisting of medium sized fields in a regular pattern. In the north and south there are some areas of piecemeal enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern. There are a number of significant linear areas of broad-leaved plantation which have curvilinear and straight hedgerow boundaries, which include Oliver's Mount Plantation and Edge Dell.

5.159 In the early/mid-20th century, the Mere was a popular tourist attraction owned by Scarborough Corporation, with rowing boats, a cafe and putting green.

5.160 There are two historic earthworks in the character area which are recognised as scheduled (ancient) monuments, both are bowl barrows near to Moor House Farm. The war memorial at Oliver's Mount is an important historical landmark feature, which is visible for miles across the surrounding landscape. It is a very tall granite obelisk, which was erected after 1918 on northern end of Oliver's Mount to pay tribute to those lost in WWI.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.161 Settlement density within the character area is very low, with the built form largely limited to a number of schools, a cemetery, camping and caravan sites, a small number of individual

farmsteads and a golf course. The settlement edge of Scarborough forms the north eastern boundary and has a visual and physical impact on the character area, forming a dense, urban boundary.

- 5.162 Three busy roads pass across the scarp which radiate from Scarborough, the A170, A64 and A165, as well as the railway line, which individually create localised impact on the landscape. A number of smaller roads also pass through the area, with a particular network of lanes on Oliver's Mount, which wind up and down the steep scarp slopes, forming 'hairpin bends'.

Perception and experience of the landscape

A contrasting landscape, which has a discordant character in places. A varied land use and landscape pattern exists, which comprises woodland and agriculture interspersed with a number of recreational land uses, such as a golf course, caravan sites, sports pitches and a cemetery. Several busy roads cut across the scarp and extensive tracts of smaller local roads wind up and down Oliver's Mount. The dense, urban settlement edge of Scarborough hugs the north eastern boundary of the character area. These features together interrupt the landscape and create localised impacts, resulting in a slightly chaotic character. However, repetition of woodland helps to integrate and unify disparate elements, and create a more legible landscape, contributing to a sense of intimacy and enclosure in parts. Varying degrees of enclosure occur throughout the area, with enclosed, dense woodland blocks, contrasting with the open, undulating farmland on the lower slopes. The diversity of woodland provides a variety of texture and colour, with a rich seasonal interest.



A contrast of openness and enclosure

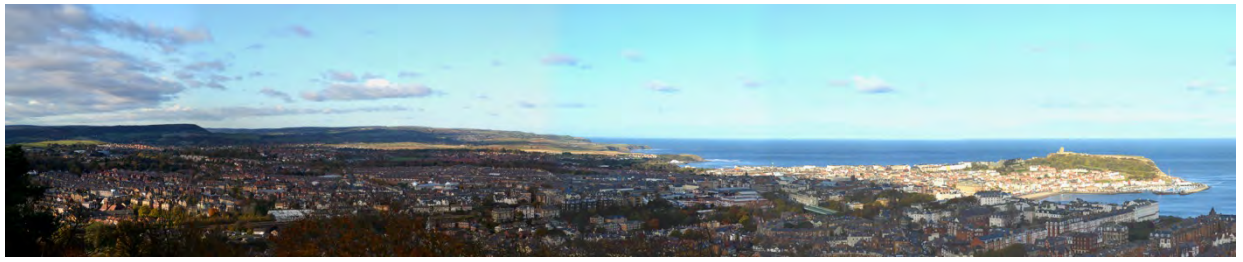


Variety of texture and colour provided by dense swathes of woodland.

- 5.163 The landscape forms an important amenity and recreation area for Scarborough and its surroundings, with both informal and formal opportunities. Informal activities include cycling, walking, dog walking, horse-riding and fishing. Formal activities within the area include several camping and caravan sites, Scarborough South Cliff Golf Course and a number of other activities which largely take place on Oliver's Mount. Here a number of sports pitches are used for football matches, and it is also the home of the Oliver's Mount road race circuit. The war memorial is also an historic landmark which draws visitors to the area. The Mere is a popular site for recreation, and it is today mainly used for fishing and water skiing.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.164 The degree of enclosure varies throughout the scarp landscape, with views changing from long, panoramic vistas across open elevated aspects, such as Oliver's Mount, to more enclosed and broken views which are largely contained by dense woodland. This adds interest and intrigue to the landscape character. There is a strong visual connection with the surrounding landscape, with a public viewing point located on Oliver's Mount, allowing for extensive views across the town of Scarborough and the coastline. The scarp is a highly visible and prominent feature in the landscape, and viewed from long distances from surrounding landscape. Oliver's Mount obelisk is a recognisable landmark and viewed from as far as the National Park.



Panoramic view across Scarborough from Oliver's Mount public viewpoint

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- Dramatic and steep scarp terrain, which creates an interesting and strong identity, and forming a prominent feature in the surrounding landscape.
- Heavily wooded upper scarp slopes which provide a strong contrast to the surrounding landscape and are an important historical and ecological feature.
- Hydrological features include a number of small streams and springs, as well as larger water bodies, namely The Mere and Throxenby Mere.
- The war memorial at Oliver's Mount, a tall granite obelisk, is an important historical landmark feature, which is visible for miles across the surrounding landscape, and popular for visitors.
- Low settlement density.
- The variety of recreation and amenity land uses.
- Repetition of woodland which helps to integrate and unify disparate elements, and create a more legible landscape, contributing to a sense of intimacy and enclosure in parts.

Visual sensitivities

- A varying degree of enclosure.
- Long, panoramic vistas across open elevated aspects, such as Oliver's Mount.
- A strong visual inter-connection with the surrounding landscape, with the scarp forming a highly visible and prominent feature in the landscape.
- Oliver's Mount obelisk is a recognisable landmark and viewed from as far as the National Park.

Past change in the landscape

- Sprawling and scattered development due to the close proximity to Scarborough, such as schools and recreation.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.165 Conserve and manage the distinctive scarp landscape and uninterrupted skyline which forms a prominent backdrop and feature, and has a strong inter-visibility with the surrounding landscape, including the National Park. Protect the setting of the National Park and conserve important landmark features such as Oliver's Mount and war memorial, and the long, panoramic vistas from open elevated aspects. Maintain and manage wooded upper scarp slopes (uninterrupted scarp skylines) which provide a strong contrast to the surrounding landscape and an important historical and ecological feature, providing visual unity within a largely discordant landscape.

Character area N: Escarpment

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Steep, gently undulating chalk escarpment, forming a visible feature over long distances.
- Land use comprises sloping open farmland of arable use and some interspersed grazing, with some areas of woodland along the upper slopes.
- Large scale Parliamentary Enclosure has shaped the landscape, resulting in a strong geometric character.
- Sparsely settled with occasional well dispersed farmsteads along upper slopes. Small villages occasionally fringe the lower slopes, along the boundary with adjacent lower lying landscape.
- Minor rural roads climb the scarp slopes, lined by hedgerows and characterised by limited traffic.
- A range of important habitats provide a refuge within an agricultural landscape, such as woodland, hedgerows and areas of calcareous grassland which have responded to the underlying chalk bedrock.
- Archaeological interest includes Bronze Age earthworks, and a number of small, disused chalk quarries.
- A simple land use and landscape pattern, limited settlement and traffic generate a uniform and balanced character, with a secluded and tranquil quality.
- A strong sense of openness, which allows for long views over the lower lying land. Strong intervisibility with surrounding landscape, the scarp is viewed from long distances forming an important landmark within the Borough.

Constituent LCAs

- N1 Flixton Brow to Muston

Character area N1: Flixton Brow to Muston

Location and boundaries

- 5.166 This area covers the steeply sloping chalk escarpment, which runs from west to east along the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering. The character area is largely defined by its distinctive topography and contrast with the surrounding lowland vale landscape.

Summary of landscape character: Key characteristics

- Steep, north facing chalk escarpment which is gently undulating. A visible feature over long distances from lower lying areas in the Vale of Pickering.
- Predominantly open farmland, comprising large scale fields of arable and some grazing. Field systems are largely shaped by parliamentary field enclosure and have a strong geometric character, delineated by hedgerows.
- Sparsely populated area with the edge of the villages of Flixton and Flixton Ings encroaching at the bottom of the slope on the boundary with the Vale landscape. A small number of farmsteads/properties along upper slopes in the south east.
- Occasional minor rural roads ascend the scarp slope, lined by hedgerows with little traffic. These radiate from the busier A1069 which runs along the northern boundary. The Yorkshire Wolds Way long distance footpath passes through the landscape.
- A range of important habitats provide a refuge amongst surrounding agricultural land, with a number of areas of calcareous grassland, areas of woodland and hedgerows. A small number of quarries have resulted in exposure of bedrock that has led to designations in respect to geological and ecological interest. Spell Howe Plantation SSSI is notable for the large colony of baneberry *Actaea spicata*.
- Archaeological interest includes a round barrow on Flotmanby Brow, dating to the Bronze Age, a number of small, disused chalk quarries, which date to the early part of the 19th century, and two areas of broad-leafed plantation, one of which (Green Cliff) dates to the post medieval period.
- This steep yet smoothly sloping scarp, with simple land use, limited settlement and traffic generates a uniform and balanced character, with a secluded and tranquil quality.
- A strong sense of openness, which allows for long views over the lower lying landscape to the north, across the Vale of Pickering. The scarp is a highly visible and prominent feature within the surrounding landscape, and is viewed from long distances forming an important landmark within the Borough.

Description

Physical and natural

- 5.167 The underlying chalk geology of the area was laid down during the Cretaceous period. Steep scarp slopes, which form a narrow north facing ridge on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds overlook the Vale of Pickering. The slopes are slightly undulating and become gentler in the east near Muston, where overlying deposits of Till are common. There are very few hydrological features within the landscape, due to the porous nature of the underlying rock, however in the east small scattered ponds are more common, due to overlying glacial Till deposits.



Steep farmland slopes



Prominent scarp ridgeline, rising above the low lying vale

- 5.168 The chalk hillside comprises fertile soils which have been largely developed for farmland, comprising a mix of fields under arable and grazing pasture. Blocks of mixed woodland are occasionally scattered along the upper scarp slopes. Hedgerow field boundaries are in varying condition, with some fragmented and severely clipped, and others dense with scattered hedgerow trees, particularly at higher elevations. A number of pockets of lowland calcareous grassland are interspersed with more intensively farmed land, which is recognised as a BAP Priority habitat. Three of these sites are within disused chalk quarries, at Muston Quarry, Folkton Brow and Flixton Brow, which are also recognised as SINC's. There are several other SINC's across the character area and Spell Howe Plantation SSSI is located on the exposed chalk slopes, being notable for the large colony of baneberry *Actaea spicata* (a national rare species), which is established within the ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elm *Ulmus glabra* woodland. It also includes chalk grassland. These habitats are a valuable wildlife refuge in an area of predominantly arable and grazing farmland.

Cultural pattern and historic character

- 5.169 The landscape has been largely shaped by extensive large scale Parliamentary Enclosure during the early 19th century, with the western part of the legacy of the Folkton/Flixton Enclosure Act, dated to 1806. There is evidence of continued enclosure of Flixton Wold in the early 20th century. The landscape is characterised by straight, regular field boundaries. A large area of modern improved fields is situated centrally, and has been subject to a large degree of boundary loss, which has led to the creation of one field which is over 80 hectares in size. This is a feature of modern agriculture creating large prairie fields.
- 5.170 There is one scheduled (ancient) monument located in the character area within an area of arable farmland, which is a round barrow on Flotmanby Brow, dating to the Bronze Age.
- 5.171 There are a number of small, disused chalk quarries, which date to the early part of the 19th century and where extraction of chalk has typically been carried out on a small scale, to provide material for the production of lime.
- 5.172 Two small areas of broad-leaved plantation are important features in the landscape, one of which (Green Cliff) dates to the post medieval period, and exist on steep slopes which is probably due to the land not being practical to farm. Spell Howe Plantation is a significant area of enclosed land which is the only existing example of lynchets along this slope, although the exact date is unclear, probably dating from to the medieval period.
- 5.173 The location of a series of villages, such as Flixton, Folkton and Hunmanby along the northern edge of the character area, is likely to be a reflection of the historical siting of these villages in relation to supply of water, with a number of former natural springs located at these settlement points, where the permeable chalk bedrock and less permeable clay meet.

Settlement pattern; built character

- 5.174 Settlement density is generally low within the character area, with very little dispersal of properties. There is a linear cluster of settlement, which is spread along the A1039 at the foot of the escarpment in the west, at Flixton and Flixton Ings (both of which continue north into the Vale of Pickering). Settlement character is varied, with 20th century development established at Southfield Pig Farm to the west of Flixton. This is characterised by large buildings associated with

the farmland. There is also an area of 20th century development which has occurred on the outskirts of Flixton, characterised by terrace housing and representing the expansion of settlement along the Filey Road, with private gardens and public car parking. A modern caravan park has been developed to the west of Flixton Ings, and reflects the ways of spending leisure time in the late 20th century. The southern extent of Flixton Ings lies within the character area, and this comprises an area of modern development (20th century) with most of the houses built in perpendicular plots which appear to date to an earlier period. The southern edge of Flixton falls within the character area, with the earliest reference to this settlement being in the 12th century. The edge of the village contains a small area of large mixed commercial units which have been constructed within the wider landscape of the old medieval strip fields of Flixton. An area of 20th century development has occurred on the outskirts of Flixton, and is characterised by terrace housing, representative of the expansion of settlement along the Filey Road. This is also an area of late 19th century development which has seen the construction of two large private dwellings on the edge of Folkton, with no discernible public space and extensive private grounds. These seem to have being built as a rectory. There are a small number of properties/ farmsteads on elevated ground in the east of the landscape, which surrounded by shelterbelts. Elsewhere there is no other settlement. The village of Muston fringes the eastern boundary.

- 5.175 The landscape is crossed by a limited number of small rural roads which pass steeply up and down the escarpment. These roads radiate from the busy A1069 which runs along the northern boundary of the area.



Steep rural road lined by dense tall hedgerows

Perception and experience of the landscape

- 5.176 This elevated, sloping landscape is dominated by farmland, which results in a strong sense of openness. However there is a varying degree of enclosure, with dense woodland blocks along the tops of the scarp, and occasional high hedgerows contrasting with open, sloping farmland elsewhere. The limited settlement and traffic, and simple land use generates a uniform and balanced character, with a secluded and tranquil quality. The sloping landform with large scale open fields creates a smooth and expansive character. The Yorkshire Wolds Way long distance footpath passes across the scarp.

Visual character; visual relationships and intervisibility (including with designated landscapes)

- 5.177 This landscape has a great sense of openness, with large scale open fields dominating the scarp slopes, which allows for long views across the lower lying landscape to the north. There are extensive long distance and panoramic views which look across the Vale of Pickering. Some views are broken by wooded areas on the scarp tops. The scarp is a highly visible and prominent feature within the surrounding landscape, and is viewed from long distances forming an important landmark within the Borough.



Long views to the coast



Extensive views across the Vale of Pickering

Evaluation

Key positive landscape features/strategic sensitivities of the landscape

- The large scale and sense of openness, rolling landform and the uniform pattern of land use which contribute to a strong sense of identity for this agricultural landscape.
- Pockets of calcareous grassland, woodland and hedgerows which provide distinctive landscape and ecological features.
- The variety of archaeological features, such as the round barrow on Flotmanby Brow, a number of small, disused chalk quarries, and areas of broad-leafed plantation, which add time depth and historic interest.
- The Spell Howe Plantation SSSI, which provides biodiversity value and an important wildlife habitat.
- The visual unity of the landscape, and organised, well balanced character.
- Sparse density of small scale settlement and built form, comprising settlement along the escarpment bottom, small rural roads and scattered farmsteads with surrounding shelterbelts.

Visual sensitivities

- Strong sense of openness, and elevated rolling landform which offers extensive and uninterrupted panoramic rural views, particularly across the Vale of Pickering.
- The role of the escarpment as the uninterrupted and prominent skyline feature and landmark for surrounding landscapes.

Past change in the landscape

- Development of large planned Parliamentary Enclosure and modern enclosures, and intensification of agriculture.
- Small scale quarries and extraction of chalk.
- Linear settlement and road development along the northern boundary, adjacent to the lower lying vale.

Landscape strategy and high level objectives

- 5.178 The overall strategy for the landscape is to conserve and manage the escarpment as the distinctive backdrop to the low lying vale landscape and allowing for long distance, panoramic views. Conserve uninterrupted skylines which form the backdrop to the Vale. Maintain and enhance the large scale and sense of openness, rolling landform and the uniform pattern of land use which contribute to a strong sense of identity for this agricultural landscape. There is also an

opportunity to connect, manage and enhance the isolated areas of woodland and linear habitat features such as hedgerows and grass verges, and areas of calcareous grassland whilst maintaining the strong sense of openness and expansive views.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Field Survey Template

SCARBOROUGH LCA FIELD SURVEY FORM

LANDSCAPE TYPE:
DRAFT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:

DATE:
TIME:
WEATHER:

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS.....

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES.....

RELATIONSHIP WITH DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES AND SHARED CHARACTERISTICS
.....
.....

KEY WORDS/SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

GEOLOGY.....
.....

SOILS
.....
.....

ELEVATION

Lowland (under 50m) Transitional (50-200m) Upland (over 200m)

LANDFORM

Flat Steep slopes Escarpment Broad Valley/Dale
 Shelving Gentle slopes Knoll Narrow

- Rolling
- Undulating

- Floodplain
- Hills

- Plateau
- Coomb Valley

- Valley/Dale
- Shallow Valley
- Deep Valley

HYDROLOGY

.....

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Key physical characteristics (geology/topography) and their significance/ contribution to character:

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CULTURAL/HUMAN INFLUENCES

VISIBLE FEATURES

- Motorway
- Dual carriageway
- Rural road
- Rural lanes/tracks
- Sunken lanes
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Railway

- Farm buildings
- Manor/parkland
- Landmark building
- Mills
- Church
- Fortifications
- Hill Forts
- Ruins- abbey/castle

- Earthworks
- Moats
- Ridge and furrow
- Tumuli
- Hamlet
- Village
- Town edge
- Suburb

- Nucleated settle.
- Linear settle.
- Dispersed settle.
- Industrial workings
- Masts/Poles
- Telecom Masts
- Pylons/turbines
- Coastal development

LAND USE

- Farmland
- Forestry/Woodland
- Historic Parkland

- Residential
- Industrial
- Leisure/Recreation

- Commercial
- Transportation
- Mineral Working

- Natural
- Military
- Other

LAND/VEGETATION COVER

- Arable
- Permanent pasture
- Ley/improved
- Paddocks
- Rough grazing
- Wet meadow
- Chalk Grassland
- Set-aside

- Amenity grassland
- Conif.plantation
- Christmas Trees
- Decid.woodland
- Mixed woodland
- Parkland
- Avenues
- Orchards

- Small farm woods
- Shelterbelts
- Copses/clumps
- Woodland belt
- Hanging woodland
- Scattered trees
- Hedgerow trees
- Hedgerows

- Heathland/moorland
- Scrub
- Wetland/Aquatics
- Gardens
- Common
- Green
- Other
- Other

FIELD PATTERNS AND BOUNDARIES

- Banks

- Fence – rural

- Geometric

- Small

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ditches
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walls – rural/dry stone
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walls – urban

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fence – urban
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedgerow Trees

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sinuuous
<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregular
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular

<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Describe features, land use, field patterns and significance/ contribution to character:

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Tree cover:

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SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE

Pattern.....

Density.....

Style and materials.....

Relationship to the landscape.....

Settlement edge character.....

RECREATION

Evidence of recreational use/character.....

PERCEPTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS

SCALE	Intimate/ small/ large/ vast
ENCLOSURE	Tight/ enclosed/ open/ exposed
DIVERSITY	Unified/ simple/ diverse/ complex
TEXTURE	Smooth/ textured/ rough/ very rough
FORM	Vertical/ sloping/ rolling/ horizontal
LINE	Straight/ angular/ curved/ sinuous
COLOUR	Monochrome/ muted/ colourful/ garish
BALANCE	Harmonious/ balanced/ discordant/ chaotic

MOVEMENT	Dead/ still/ calm/ busy
PATTERN	Random/ organised regular/ formal

Tranquillity

Noise levels:

Perceived Naturalness:

Visible overt human impact:

Density of settlement/ diffusion of people:

Overall tranquillity taking into account the above observations:

Views

Intervisibility with designated landscapes and associated features

Views within:

Views to:

Views from:

LANDSCAPE CONDITION/INTACTNESS

DETRACTING FEATURES

VISUAL UNITY/INTACTNESS

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SENSITIVITIES

Consider: Scale

Landform

Appendix 2: Glossary

Scarborough LCA: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum or above sea level.
Bedrock	Solid rock that underlies looser material/depositions such as drift or glacial till deposits.
Calcifuge	Any plant incapable of thriving in calcareous (alkaline/lime-rich) soil.
Carr woodland	Lowland wet woodland with alder and willow often predominant species.
Cistercian	A monastic order prevalent in North Yorkshire until the Reformation of 1540. The 'White Monks', noted for the efficient land management of their estates and farmland, they were one of the wealthiest monastic orders in the country.
Corallian	A deposit of coralliferous limestone forming a portion of the middle division of the oolitic rocks. Sometimes also called coral-rag.
Drift	Glacial deposits. Often poorly sorted or graded material including mixed clay, gravel, sand, and boulders transported and laid down by glaciers/ glacial melt waters.
Fault lines	The surface of a geological fault fracture along which rocks have been displaced.
Geology	In this context, the structure of a specific region of the earth's crust.
Glacialacustrine deposits	Deposits derived from glaciers and deposited in glacial lakes by water originating mainly from the melting of glacial ice.
Gothic	A style of architecture which lasted from the 12 th -16 th centuries, with later revivals in the 18 th and 19 th centuries in England. In England the first iteration went through three distinct phases of development –Early English in late 12 th and 13 th centuries, Decorated in the 14 th century evolving into Perpendicular in the 15 th and 16 th centuries.
Green infrastructure	A network of multi-functional green spaces providing a wide range of services and benefits; a sustainable approach to land use/landscape planning embodying conservation and enhancement of such elements.
Jacobean	The second phase of Renaissance architecture in England, following on from Elizabethan architecture. It is named for King James I, with

Term	Definition
	whose reign (1603-25) it is associated.
Jurassic	The Jurassic period or the system of rocks deposited during it. It lasted from about 208 million to 146 million years ago.
Landscape character	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape.
Lias	The lowest series of rocks of the Jurassic geological system.
Moraine	A mass of rocks and sediment deposited by a glacier, typically as ridges to the edges or extremities.
Oolitic	Oolite – egg stone. A sedimentary rock formed of 'ooids' – spherical grains made up of concentric layers. Certain types of limestone are oolitic.
Relief	Variations in elevations on the earth's surface.
Time depth	The imprint of the past on the contemporary landscape.
Vernacular	A form of architecture which is indigenous to a specific locality and user need. The term originated from the Latin 'vernaculus', meaning native.



LUC