

# Scarborough Borough Landscape Study: Executive Summary

Prepared by LUC  
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**Project Title:** Scarborough Borough Landscape Study

**Client:** Scarborough Borough Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by Principal
0	17.12.12	First (internal) draft	Andrew Tempany	Andrew Tempany	Kate Ahern
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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 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The landscape of Scarborough Borough is diverse and of extremely high quality, valued for the coastal and rural setting it provides to the principal towns of Scarborough, Whitby and Filey, and for its biodiversity and geological interest. Opportunities afforded by the landscape for recreation and tourism are also significant. The borough's landscape encompasses dramatic coastal cliffs and headlands defined by haunting land mark ruins such as Whitby Abbey and Scarborough Castle, wild and remote stretches of coast, wooded valleys such as the Esk, genteel coastal resort towns and harbours, expansive open lowland landscapes such as the Vale of Pickering and contrasting scarps, dales and uplands. A large part of the borough is covered by the North York Moors National Park Authority and by the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast.
- 1.2 The physical characteristics of the landscape have often formed a constraint to growth (for example topographic features such as strong wooded ridge lines and scarp slopes around Scarborough town) and have contributed to the sense of a remote, lightly settled landscape outside of the principal towns. The borough needs to plan for future protection, conservation and management of its rural landscapes and also to identify where future growth can be accommodated with the least adverse landscape impact.
- 1.3 Scarborough Borough Council commissioned Land Use Consultants (LUC) to undertake the landscape study of the borough. The study was steered by a project group comprising of officers from the Forward Planning team at the council. The study is in two volumes and excludes the land within the North York Moors National Park. Volume 1 is a borough wide landscape character assessment (LCA) of the rural landscapes of the borough, to inform landscape planning policy in the Scarborough Borough Local Plan. Volume 2 is a landscape sensitivity study in relation to potential housing allocations to the principal settlement fringes. It informs future direction of growth, in landscape and visual terms, in the plan period.

## What is landscape? What is landscape character assessment?

- 1.4 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'<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 The landscape character approach considers that all landscapes matter<sup>2</sup> 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.
- 1.7 The landscape character assessment of Scarborough Borough provides a comprehensive landscape evidence base to help underpin planning and development management policy and decision-making in the borough.

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe, 2000, **European Landscape Convention**

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

## What does the Scarborough Borough Landscape Study contain?

- 1.8 The study has been prepared in accordance with the national guidance on landscape character assessment<sup>3</sup>. **Volume 1** presents a landscape classification of the whole borough outside of the National Park Authority’s jurisdiction. **Volume 2** assesses the sensitivity of the local landscape and component landscape attributes of specific sites with this LCA framework, to residential and mixed use development.

## The Scarborough Borough landscape classification

- 1.9 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 generic landscape types**, 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, **locally specific 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.
- 1.10 The landscape types and character areas which lie within the study area are set out in **Table 1.1**, and illustrated on **Figure 1.1 and 1.2**, with the areas of focus for the landscape sensitivity study overlaid upon the character areas in **Figure 1.2**. Character area boundaries have been proofed as appropriate with those derived for LCAs undertaken for the National Park and the adjacent local authorities.

**Table 1.1: 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 Leubberston and Filey
	D5 Hunmanby Moor to Speeton
E Tabular Foothills	E1 Sawdon

<sup>3</sup> Former Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage: **Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland**. 2002. CAX 84/F. Also consultation draft update of the guidance, prepared for Natural England in 2011 and unpublished at the time of writing.

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
	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 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

1.11 Each character area contains the following information:

- Description: Key landscape characteristics and supporting information in relation to physical, cultural and experiential character
- Evaluation: Identifies positive landscape and visual features of significance (strategic sensitivities), as well as providing an understanding of change in the landscape. The evaluation concludes with an overall landscape strategy and high level objectives for the landscape to inform future landscape planning in the borough

## Landscape sensitivity: Criteria for assessment

1.12 For the settlement fringe sites/potential housing allocations, the component landscape attributes have been assessed against a range of criteria, to determine overall landscape sensitivity to residential and mixed use development. This in turn has been used to produce guidance to help focus potential change most positively, in landscape and visual terms.

1.13 The assessment criteria considered by the sensitivity study were as follows:

- Sense of openness and enclosure
- Landscape pattern and complexity



- Experiential landscape character
  - Relationship of the sites to existing settlement edges and cultural patterns
  - Visual sensitivities and intervisibility
- 1.14 Each site has been assigned an overall landscape sensitivity rating, on a five point sensitivity scale, ranging from low to high.

## Who is the landscape study aimed at?

### Volume 1: Borough wide LCA

- 1.15 This document is aimed at a wide audience. It provides a technical document and evidence base to underpin landscape policies in the Scarborough Borough Local Plan. It provides key information for use by both developers/their consultants and Development Management officers in helping to make decisions on appropriate location, scale and design of new development. It is also available to the wider public, providing a framework for more detailed studies of local landscape character, e.g. through parish plans. The assessment also has wider application, for example in informing land management decisions.

### Volume 2: Landscape sensitivity study

- 1.16 This document is aimed specifically at Forward Planners in planning future direction of growth, and Development Management officers in seeking better landscape outcomes from planning applications as they come forward. It can be used to developers and their consultants to help plan development which is likely to be more appropriate in landscape and visual terms.

## Considerations in using the landscape study

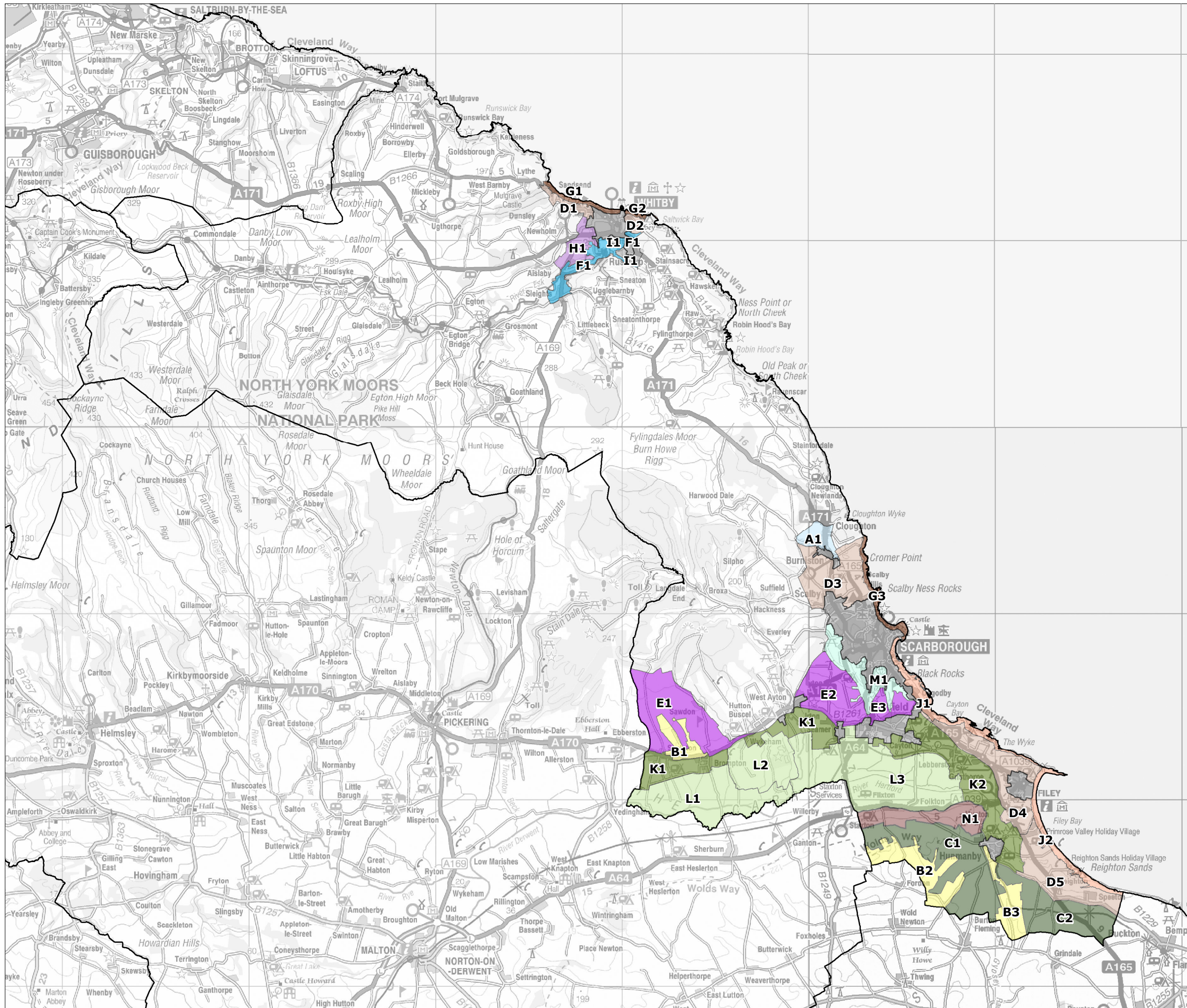
### Borough wide LCA

- 1.17 This has been undertaken at 1:25,000 scale and is therefore appropriate for use at this scale. A number of considerations govern its use:
- It is a strategic rather than detailed study, and detailed decisions will therefore need to consider specific local circumstances/variations
  - It focusses on the rural landscapes of the borough, with more detailed consideration of the urban-rural fringe landscapes provided in Volume 2: Landscape Sensitivity Study
  - Character area boundaries usually represent 'zones of transition'. In considering change within any one character area it is therefore often useful to consider potential effects on adjacent areas

### Landscape sensitivity study

- 1.18 This has been undertaken at a scale of 1:10,000 and is appropriate for use in decision making at that scale. It considers not only the sensitivity of the landscape of the allocation sites but also provides commentary on the sensitivity of specific landscape features within them. It therefore provides a useful high level framework for site feasibility studies and landscape/visual baseline evidence for master planning, and for future landscape and visual impact assessments in relation to any planning applications which may come forward on these sites.





# Scarborough Borough Landscape Study

**Figure 1.1**

## Landscape Characterisation of Scarborough Borough - Shown in Context

- 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 @ A3:1:200,000








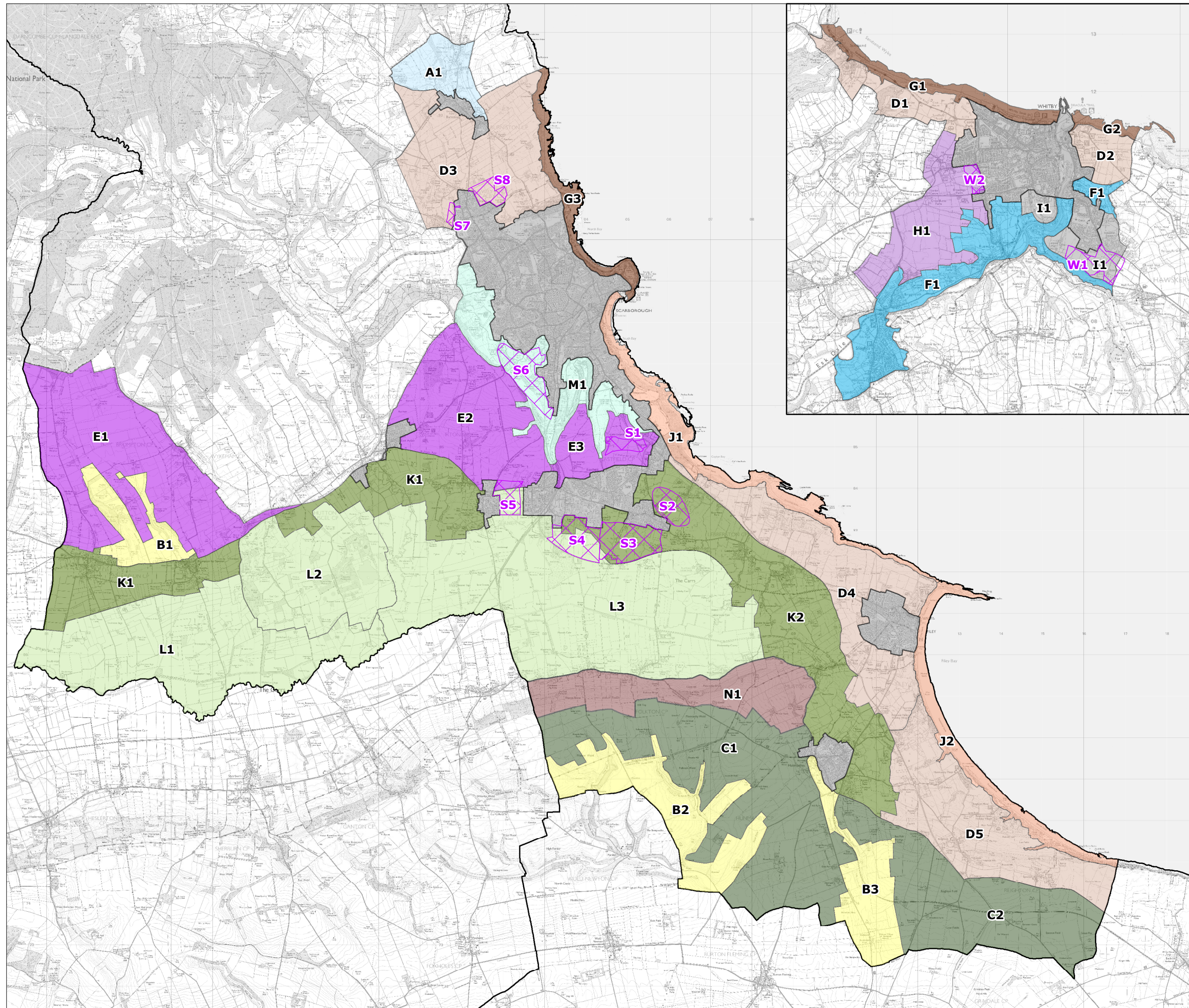
Figure 1.2

**Borough-wide LCA**

-  District Boundary
-  Urban Areas
-  Potential Strategic Growth Sites
-  **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**
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- 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













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