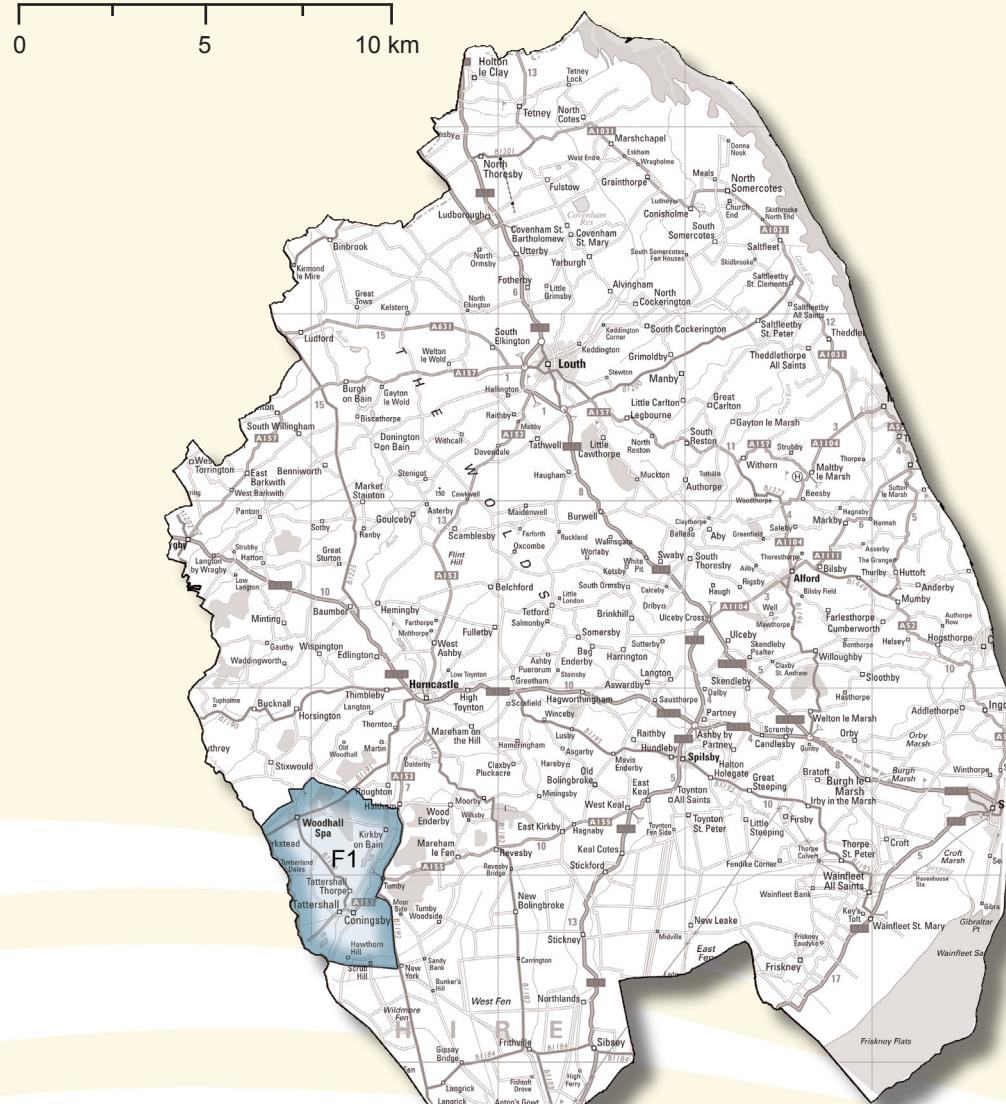


# F1 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace

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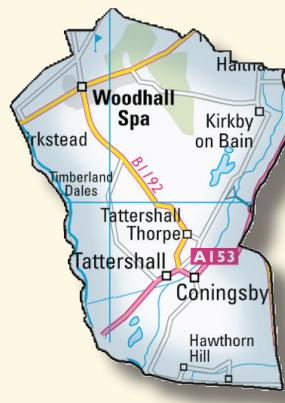
## Key Characteristics

- A largely flat river terrace at the confluence of the Old River Bain and River Witham.
- Some gentle undulations across the terrace and flooded sand and gravel pits. Raised man-made flood embankments to the River Witham and Old River Bain.
- Views enclosed due to river and canal embankments, settlement and tree cover.
- A diverse landscape which contrasts with the surrounding rural character areas.
- Remnant vegetation typical of the Coversands including heather, gorse, bracken, coniferous plantations with some birch and oak woodland.
- Frequent ornamental tree planting along roadsides and within and around settlements.
- Coningsby aircraft base, reflects Lincolnshire's strong historical links with the RAF.
- Woodhall Spa is a historic Victorian spa town.
- Tattershall medieval castle stands proud of the surrounding flat landscape in the historic settlement of Tattershall.

# F1 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace

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0 5 km



## Landscape Character Description

*Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace* is a small area between the confluence of the Old River Bain and the River Witham. It is in the south west corner of East Lindsey District, nestled between *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland*, *Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland*, and *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* character areas.

The area is underlain by Jurassic clay and overlain by marine and alluvial deposits on the bed of the River Bain. There is a band of glacial till to the east, and glacial sands and gravels on either side of the river.

This is a largely flat river terrace contained in part by the confluence of the Old River Bain and River Witham but with some gentle undulations. It is enclosed in many parts by woodland cover, hedgerows and mature ornamental tree avenues as well as planting in and around the settlements.

This small character area has evolved over time and is centred around a historic communications hub. It has a diverse mix of small to medium scale land uses which include; sand and gravel extraction, a variety of tourist and recreational uses, continuing agriculture, an active RAF base all interwoven with historic settlements and buildings. Consequently the landcover is an amalgamation of settlements, smallholdings, holiday camps, lakes, flooded sand and gravel pits, conifer plantations, broad leaf woodlands and fields of mixed arable and pastoral farmland.

The Old River Bain and the Horncastle Canal with its associated embankments meander through the area. The navigable River Witham is contained by large grassed and reinforced flood embankments and forms the south western boundary of the character area.

## F1 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace



Extraction of sand and gravel is the dominant activity around the River Bain and Horncastle Canal where clusters of pits can be found. Some gravel pits are under excavation and others are water filled and have been restored for recreational and conservation purposes.

There is a mix of medium to small scale arable and pastoral fields with hedgerows throughout which remain between settlements and other landuses. There is also a scattering of small holdings and pony paddocks.

The development of built-up areas and the excavation of sand and gravel have left only small areas of heathland including some areas around Moor Farm and Kirkby Moor which have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The vegetation contains remnant heathland species on the sandy soils including; heathers, bracken, gorse, birch, Scots pine and Corsican pine.

Woodland and ornamental trees in and around settlements is fairly extensive in the north. Much of this is ancient and semi natural and ancient replanted woodlands including Bracken Wood and Well Syke Wood. Tattershall Carrs is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, designated as the most extensive example of ancient woodland on fen edge sands and gravels. Waterloo Wood was planted as a memorial to those lost in the Battle of Waterloo.

Settlements are frequent with a diversity of period architectural styles including the Victorian and Edwardian architecture of Woodhall Spa with a designed garden suburb layout, and the more traditional vernacular architecture of Coningsby and Tattershall. In between these are scattered farmsteads and dwellings of mixed ages, styles and materials. Both Woodhall Spa and Tattershall have designated Conservation Areas. Woodhall Spa is an unusually designed Victorian Spa village with tree lined boulevards and recreational woodland parks in and around the town.

## F1 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace



There are several high profile heritage features in the area including the medieval Tattershall College and Tattershall Castle which reaches a height of 130 feet and is an impressive heritage landmark within this flat landscape. The remains of the Tower on the Moor is another medieval heritage feature in Woodhall Spa that is thought to be the remnants of an old hunting lodge associated with Tattershall Castle. Kirkstead Abbey ruins are also a prominent local landmark.

The active RAF Coningsby air base is a visible reminder of the continuing tradition of Lincolnshire as 'The Home of the Royal Air Force'. It has a great influence on the landscape due to the noise and interest associated with the frequent activities of military aircraft and the associated RAF base.

As a whole the area has many additional tourist attractions including; a motor racing track, a pottery at Tattershall, boating on the River Witham, several fishing lakes, scattered caravan and camping sites, and a country park.

This area was historically a communications crossroads with road, rail and water routes meeting in the area, including the now disused Horncastle Canal. Today several busy routes border or pass through the area including the A153, B1192 and B1193. The River Witham is a navigable waterway which is also used for leisure craft. Minor roads and tracks serve the agricultural areas. There are several public rights of way including walks in recreational woodland and the Viking Way long distance route which passes through Woodhall Spa and continues north along the Old River Bain. In addition there are cycleways which link to Boston and Lincoln.

# F1 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace



## Landscape Forces For Change

- An increase in the size and number of amenity sites such as golf courses, fishing lakes, holiday chalets and caravan sites.
- Some small new built developments and modern housing estates have been developed on the outskirts of the towns.
- The subdivision of large gardens in Woodhall Spa for infill housing.
- Sand and gravel extraction and the restoration of disused gravel pits into recreational and nature conservation areas.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of hedgerows and field edges through changing farming and land management practices.

# F1 Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace



## Landscape Sensitivity

*Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace* has a moderately distinctive but very diverse character. The landscape character is disturbed in some areas but overall there are only a few detractors. A dense concentration of settlements, woodland and hedgerow cover provides a high level of enclosure and screening. This may help to restrict visibility of future changes within the landscape from the moderate to high number of sensitive viewers in the area. However there are several designated areas and buildings which increase the sensitivity of the landscape. There is a high potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts in this area as described below.

Any development should be designed to respect the small scale localised distinctiveness within this diverse character area. It should be sensitive to the habitats and vegetation types that are unique to the area. Location of future developments should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent further loss of the remaining rural landscape.

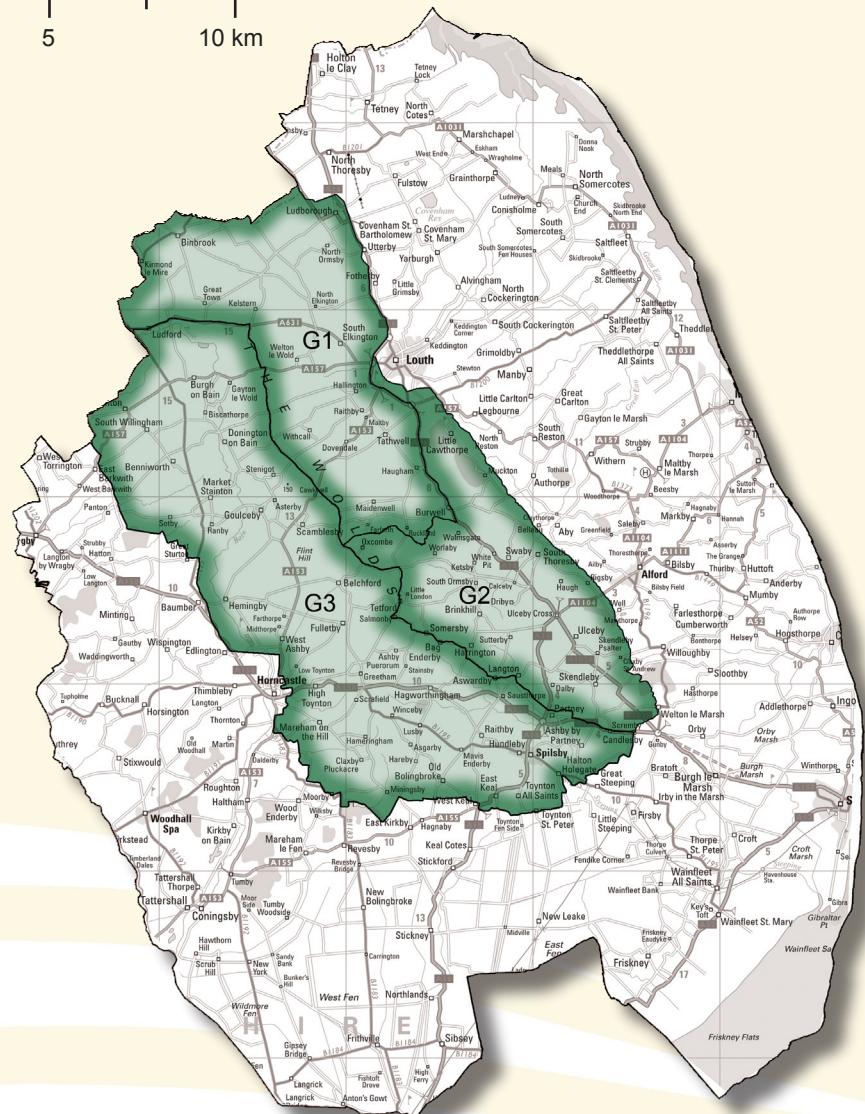
The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace* is considered to be **moderate to low**.

# G - Wolds Farmland

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## Landscape Character Type Description

The *Wolds Farmland* landscape character type is located towards the centre of the District in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is between the *Vale Woodland and Farmland* landscape character type to the west and the *Middle Marsh* landscape character type to the east. The District boundary is located to the north and the *Fenside Woodland and Farmland* character type to the south. This area's geology forms the backbone of East Lindsey and is very complex. In the eastern parts it comprises Jurassic and Cretaceous strata including sandstones, ironstones, mudstones and claystones topped by chalks. In the western parts it is underlain by Jurassic clay. All areas are in places overlain by fluvio-glacial deposits of clays sands and gravels, particularly in the river and stream valleys.

In the north of this area the landform comprises elevated chalk plateaux blanketed with extensive open rolling arable fields, escarpments that are often wooded, and deep dissected wooded valleys. To the south and west there are more rolling hills and valleys. There are extensive views within this character type and also beyond its boundaries.

Woodland is thinly scattered in the north and more frequent in the west and south, where there are also several estate parklands. Hedgerows with hedgerow trees and tree groups are commonplace throughout.

Small vernacular settlements are frequently tucked into the valleys. There is a good network of roads but it is still a relatively peaceful and tranquil area. Heritage features are frequent throughout and there is a high level of landscape and nature conservation protection.

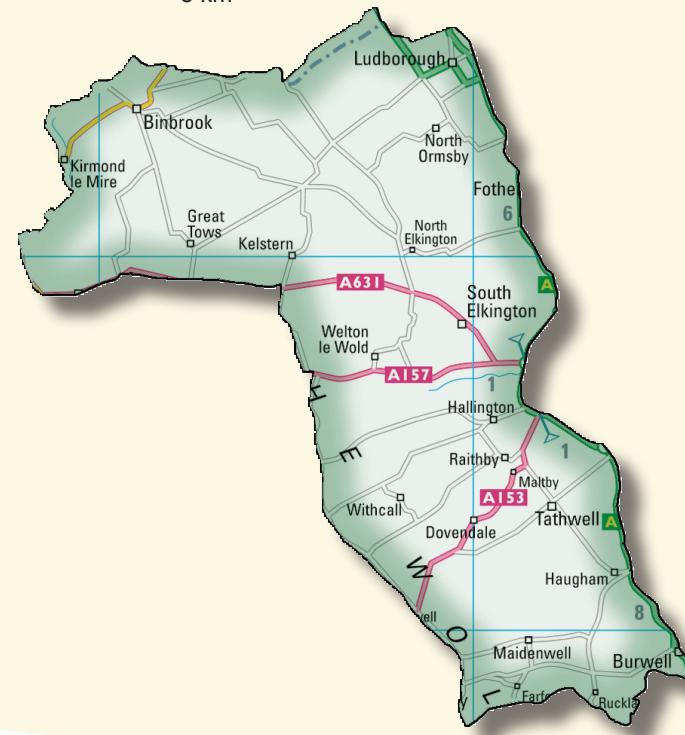
The following landscape character areas are found within this landscape type and are described further on the following pages.

- G1 - Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland
- G2 - Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland
- G3 - Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland

# G1 Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland

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## Key Characteristics

- Open elevated plateau with rolling hills and valleys.
- Series of steep sided north eastern facing cloughs.
- Long views to the east coast across the marshes and also closer views to rolling landscapes within the area.
- Views to big skies and dark night time skies.
- Large scale arable fields, containing mainly wheat with occasional hedgerows and large scale farmsteads with large sheds.
- Sparsely settled with occasional small villages and churches nestled in the deep wooded valleys.
- Many ancient roads run along ridge lines, converging on the market town of Louth.
- Former drove roads and lanes with wide verges, hedgerows and regularly spaced hedgerow trees.
- High level of landscape and nature conservation protection. It lies within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
- Many heritage features including archaeological remains of deserted medieval villages, prehistoric barrows and WWII and RAF artefacts.
- Communications masts.
- A very tranquil, distinctive and intact rural landscape.

# G1 Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland



## Landscape Character Description

*Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* is an elevated plateau bounded by North Lincolnshire District to the north, *Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland* to the south and *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* to the west beyond the Bluestone Heath Road. To the east lies *Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh*.

The majority of the plateau area is underlain by exposed Cretaceous white chalk with a wide band of glacial till across the Calcethorpe area, edged on the west with glacio-fluvial gravel deposits. The series of steep sided eastern facing cloughs have exposed Cretaceous white and grey chalk with their bases being overlain by glacial till.

This is an open and elevated landscape with far reaching views. It consists of open rolling plateaux and steep wooded dry cloughs. Chalk becks which emerge along spring lines at the base of the cloughs drain to the lowland marshes. There are extensive views to the east across the marshes to the coast, which include some views to wind farm developments, and also of St. Jame's Church spire in Louth. Views to the north, west and south extend across the rolling farmland. Throughout the area there are opportunities to enjoy these views from lay-bys, some of which have interpretation boards. Vegetation provides intermittent enclosure in the form of roadside hedgerows, hedgerow trees and clumps of mature deciduous trees which occur particularly in field corners. This peaceful, and relatively remote character area is within the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This is an intensively farmed agricultural landscape with widespread large scale intensive arable farms furnished with big sheds. Large fields of cereal crops predominate with some oil seed rape and maize. Occasional pastoral fields with grazing sheep and cattle are mainly confined to the steeper valleys.

## G1 Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland



Woodland cover on the plateau is sparse with only a scattering of small blocks of woodland. Woodland is more frequently confined to the steep cloughs. Field boundaries and roadsides have frequent hawthorn hedgerows that are mostly intact, but are occasionally degraded and gappy. These linear features emphasise the rolling hills and valleys. Very occasional swards of traditional grassland have survived in some steeper parts of the escarpment.

Settlements are widely dispersed as small nucleated vernacular villages. These are nestled into wooded valleys with landmark church towers and spires, and are built with a variety of vernacular building materials. There are also widespread large scale farms with large sheds and a few other scattered dwellings.

The area has many heritage features scattered throughout which are occasionally revealed by interpretation signage. These include the archaeological earthworks of deserted medieval villages at Maidenwell, North Elkington, and Kelstern, and a Bronze Age barrow at Tathwell. A disused sand and gravel pit at Welton le Wold has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Regionally Important Geological Site. Fossilised parts of pre-historic animals and stone age tools have been found here. Wartime airfields and communication masts are more recent examples of heritage features and can be found at Binbrook, Ludford and Kelstern. The Cadwell Racing Track was opened in 1934 and is still in use today.

There are also a number of historic roads, including the Bluestone Heath Road on the western boundary of the area, which runs along the central ridge of the Wolds. Broad former drove roads form a network of minor roads with wide grassy verges, where cattle were historically herded to and from the marshes. These roads still have the old style black and white road signage. There are also several major roads in the area. The A16 runs along the eastern boundary linking Grimsby to Boston. The A631, A157 and A153 radiate out from Louth to the west,

# G1 Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland



Views over the Middle Marsh

linking it with Market Rasen, Wragby and Horncastle respectively. Occasional public rights of way run between settlements and many of these radiate out from Louth. A short stretch of the Viking Way long distance route passes through the top north west corner of the area.

This area has a strongly distinctive landscape character with predominately rural elements and many clear references to the past.

## Landscape Forces For Change

- Intensification of agriculture and farm amalgamation with increased field sizes, loss of hedgerows hedgerow trees, and more large scale farm buildings and infrastructure.
- Some out-of-character small scale modern housing and bungalow developments have been built in villages.
- Occasional new tree and hedgerow planting along roadsides.
- Telecommunications masts.
- Windfarms visible in surrounding landscape character areas.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of hedgerows and field edges through changed farming and management practices.

# G1 Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland



## Landscape Sensitivity

*Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* is a distinctive and very intact rural landscape with very few detracting features and a high concentration of landscape designations and level of protection. There is a limited degree of intermittent enclosure within this landscape by occasional tree cover and undulating landform, but it is mostly open and exposed with middle to long range views. Trees, hedgerows, shelter belts and landform elements may help to restrict some views to the few sensitive viewers within this area. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

Any development in the area should take into account the rural characteristics of the area, appropriateness of new features, and the vernacular architecture, the scattered pattern of built elements and the scale and openness of the large agricultural fields. Positioning of any future developments should use existing screening elements, which are characteristic to the area such as the deep coombes. Their location should also be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent loss of the rural landscape. Development on hill tops and also along the skylines should also be avoided.

The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* is considered to be **moderate to high**.

# G2 Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland

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0 5 km



## Key Characteristics

- An elevated rolling agricultural landscape that descends to *Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh* and the *Lynn River Valley* in *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland*.
- Mix of arable farmland, pasture and woodland which frames views.
- Many hedgerows with hedgerow trees, and frequent woodland blocks including ancient and semi-natural and ancient replanted woodlands
- Streams and rivers draining eastwards into the marshes and south to the Lynn Valley.
- Valley bottoms that are sometimes marshy.
- Scattered villages are nestled into valleys and are often associated with small parkland estates.
- The A16 and A1028 roads provide a fast north to south transport route.
- A network of wide verged drove roads.
- Has a high level of landscape and nature conservation designations. It lies in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
- Many heritage features including historic parks and gardens, archaeological remains of deserted medieval villages and groups of pre-historic barrow groups.
- A peaceful and rural landscape.

## G2 Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland



### Landscape Character Description

*Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland* is located in the south of the Wolds stretching from the steep sided valley head of the Great Eau on the border with *Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* in the north down to *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland* in the south. It lies between *Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh* in the east and the edge of the Lynn River Valley and bordering to *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* in the west.

The higher areas are exposed Cretaceous white chalk. The series of steep sided eastern facing valleys have exposed Cretaceous white and grey chalk with their bottoms being overlain by clay deposits of glacial till.

This elevated landscape is generally rolling with some distinct landform changes, including the partially buried escarpment of the old marine cliff line along the southern and eastern edges, where the landscape descends to the coastal marshes and fenside. Views are partially enclosed due to landform and vegetation. There are some long distance and sometimes framed views extending across the fens to Boston Stump in the south, east across the marshes to the coast and west across *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland*.

It is a distinctly rural and peaceful landscape characterised by rolling farmland and wooded valleys with spring line settlements and parkland including those found in South Ormsby, Langton and Somersby. It lies within the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and an Area of Great Landscape Value straddles the border with *Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh* and *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland*.

## G2 Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland



Agriculture is mixed, with a regular pattern of medium and large scale fields. However around Tetford and on steep valley sides, fields are sometimes distinctly linear and smaller scale. Crops include wheat, oil seed rape and potatoes. Field boundaries are marked by thick hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. Several damp and wet ditches line the edges of fields and roadsides.

Woodland is a feature of this area and is mostly found in small blocks, except for some larger ancient and semi natural and ancient replanted woodland, including Maltby, Haugham and Burwell in the north and Welton High Wood in the south. Tree species typically include oak, ash, beech and hazel. Valley bottoms are often wooded and sometimes marshy encouraging carr vegetation with willow and alder. Strips of deciduous trees along roadsides and small blocks of trees at road and field corners are also common. The verges of rolling drove roads are partially mown leaving bands of wildflowers including species such as scabious, yarrow and knapweed in front of the hedgerows.

The area contains a number of small Sites of Special Scientific Interest that protect a variety of habitats including broad leaved woodland, marsh, and acid and calcareous grassland. There is a chalk pit nature reserve at Fir Hill Quarry with woodland and calcareous grassland vegetation. Small parklands are a feature of this area and Well Vale Hall and Harrington Hall are both registered historic parks and gardens.

Small, nucleated villages, scattered throughout the area, are often nestled into the valleys. There is also a row of springline villages where the chalk meets the clay, close to the border with *Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh*, including Little Cawthorpe, Muckton and South Thoresby. Building materials include a mix of yellow and red brick, painted brick, stone, pantile and slate roofs and occasionally mud and stud with thatch. Church styles also vary, with some made from stone and others from red brick.

## G2 Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland



Historic traces lie in the remnant earthworks of deserted medieval villages, a ruined church at Calceby built from chalk, moated sites which include Walmsgate and Brinkhill, and also the Giant Hills long barrows near the A16.

Villages are linked by former drove roads with wide verges enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Old style black and white signage is also found along these roads. The busy A16 and A1028 roads are both principal north to south routes that link Louth with Skegness with good views both to the east and west. Neat mown verges particularly around settlements are a feature as they are across East Lindsey as a whole. There is a good network of public rights of way between settlements and to adjacent landscape character areas.

This is a very intact rural landscape with a very distinctive character and with many clear references to the past.

### Landscape Forces For Change

- Intensified agriculture and farm amalgamation has resulted in increasing field sizes and loss of hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- Introduction of telephone mast such as at Claxby.
- Occasional new tree and hedgerow planting along roadsides and field boundaries and very occasional planting of new field trees.
- Chalk extraction at South Thoresby.

## G2 Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland



### Landscape Sensitivity

*Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland* is a very distinctive and very intact rural landscape with very few detracting features and a high level of landscape designations and protection. The undulating landform of the area and presence of woodland, trees and hedgerow provide some enclosure. These elements could potentially help screen future developments to the small number of sensitive viewers, and several less sensitive motorists travelling through the area. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

Any development within the area should be carefully designed to respect the small scale localised distinctiveness within this character area. It should also respect the rural character, the small scale of villages, the local architecture, the pattern of the agricultural fields and the trees within the woodland and valley features. Positioning of any future developments should use the existing screening elements, which are characteristic to the area and their location should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent loss of the rural landscape. Development on hill tops and along the skylines should also be avoided.

The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland* is considered to be **moderate to high**.

# G3 Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland

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## Key Characteristics

- Elevated undulating landscape of ridges, wide and narrow valleys, plateaux and scarp.
- Views to and from open hilltops and some uncluttered skylines. Longer views extending to Boston, the Vale of Lincoln and the Wash.
- Mixed agriculture which is mostly fields of wheat with some pasture around villages and on steeper slopes.
- Many streams draining to the Rivers Bain and Lynn in the south of the character area.
- Mature hedgerows with trees and occasional blocks of woodland scattered throughout.
- Sparsely populated with small villages nestled into valleys and a market town at Spilsby.
- Estates surrounded by parkland, and woodland with distinctive estate cottages and farmsteads.
- Has a high level of landscape designation and many nature conservation designations, with most of the area being within the Wolds AONB and parts being an AGLV.
- Many heritage features including archaeological earthworks, medieval ruins, and a battlefield.
- A network of winding lanes and drove roads with wide verges.
- The A158 provides a fast east-west route across the area.
- Several telecommunications masts including the prominent Belmont mast are prominent landmarks.
- A very tranquil rural landscape with few detractors.

## G3 Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland



### Landscape Character Description

*Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* stretches from the boundary with West Lindsey District and the A631 border with *Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* in the north to *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland* in the south. The Bluestone Heath Road, and western scarp of the Wolds forms part of the eastern border with both *Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland* and *Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland*. To the west it is bordered by *Wragby to Horsington Vale Woodland and Farmland*.

Complex surface geology and landform patterns are found in this area. The geology can be described as a system of Jurassic and Cretaceous strata which are exposed along some valley sides. The western slope of the River Lynn Valley in the south east of the area is underlain by a series of exposed layers of sandstones, ironstones, mudstones and claystones. These solid strata are overlain by glacial, clay and chalk-rich till deposits which extend northwards to *Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland*. The western scarp of the Wolds north and south of Stenigot exhibits a series of exposed layers of sandstones, ironstone, mudstones, claystones and limestones. These strata are overlain by sandstones and red, grey and white chalks. The base of the River Bain valley is underlain by Jurassic clays and the valley sides by Jurassic sandstone with outcrops of Cretaceous mudstone overlain by glacial till and river alluvium.

The landform pattern in this area is very variable reflecting the complex geology. Some parts are gently rolling, some are flat and elevated and others descend steeply. The area includes most of the wide and rolling River Lynn valley and also the upper reaches of the River Bain valley, both of which eventually drain into the Wash Basin. Views are partially enclosed by trees, hedgerow and landform, but can be open and distant extending over the fens towards both Boston and Lincoln. This landscape, characterised by ridges and both wide and narrow

## G3 Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland



valleys, is blanketed by a patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, and scattered with pockets of parkland and woodland. Small nucleated villages set within trees are tucked into the valleys with landmark church spires and towers standing tall. Some of the north eastern parts of the area are within the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to the south west most of the area lies within an Area of Great Landscape Value.

The agriculture is predominantly wheat production alongside other crops including; brassicas, sugar beet, potatoes and flax. This arable farmland forms a regular pattern of medium sized fields. Where the Wolds descend to the fenside in the south, the landform is filled with hummocks and the fields take on a more variable patchwork with rough grassland and pastoral fields of grazing cattle. Field boundaries are commonly hedgerows with hedgerow trees.

There are many scattered small blocks of deciduous, mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands, plantations and parkland. These are concentrated along the western scarp of the Wolds in the northern part of the area. Streams and river valleys are highlighted by riparian trees with the development of willow and alder carr in some valleys, as found at Keal Carr, Snipe Dales and Sow Dale Nature Reserves. Red Hill with its grassland has also become a local nature reserve. Mature tree shelter belts are also common around villages. There are a few small ancient and semi-natural woodlands within the area, such as Belchford Wood and Holme Wood. Roadside verges are generally wide and are part mown allowing wild flowers to flourish in front of the hedgerows. Many are designated as Protected Roadside Verges. These are also occasionally lined with damp ditches containing flowering species such as meadowsweet and great burnet.

The settlement pattern throughout the area is generally sparse with small nucleated villages settled into the small valleys or on the sides of the wider valleys. Traditional building materials include local

## G3 Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland



sandstone, red brick and pantile, yellow brick, some slate roofs and occasional thatched roofs. Many villages have some modern housing additions including Hagworthingham, and Fulletby. Market Stainton is a distinctive village with a large village green surrounded by traditional buildings and a mixed stone and brick church with a graveyard that is raised on a bank.

The rich heritage of this landscape is apparent when travelling through and includes Winceby Battle Field, moated earthworks at Withcall, mud and stud cottages at Old Bolingbroke and the ruins of the medieval Old Bolingbroke Castle. Old style black and white striped road signage is scattered throughout. Hainton Estate is a nationally registered historic park and garden, (originally designed by Capability Brown). It has unifying detailing of red painted guttering and fascia boards on the estate properties. In addition, there are prehistoric long and round barrows, a scattering of deserted medieval villages such as found at a site at West Wykeham, a historic water mill, Stockwith Mill, and WWII communication masts.

There is an irregular network of narrow rolling former drove roads which link settlements and farmsteads in the area. Some of the principal roads which radiate out from Horncastle, just outside this area, cross this area including the A153 to Louth. Lanes throughout the villages at the edge of the Wolds are often sunk into the landform. The Roman Caistor High Street, that runs through the countryside in the north west of the area, follows the route of a previous prehistoric track way. Neat mown verges particularly around settlements are a feature as they are across East Lindsey as a whole.

Some short public rights of way connect villages, and the Viking Way long distance route extends from Horncastle along the River Bain valley north to Donington on Bain and beyond.

## G3 Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland



Occasional large scale man made elements include the Belmont telecommunications mast and large scale poultry units such as those at Belchford.

This is a very intact and distinctive, very tranquil rural character area with many historic features and few detractors.

### Landscape Forces For Change

- Intensification of agriculture and farm amalgamation has resulted in increases in field size and loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Some small scale modern housing developments in villages.
- Occasional new tree and hedgerow planting along roadsides.
- Satellites and telecommunications masts.
- Introduction of chicken farms with large agricultural sheds especially at Belchford.
- Development of a small caravan site at Fulletby.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, affecting the vegetation and appearance of hedgerows and field edges through changed farming and management practices.

## G3 Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland



Views outside the landscape character area over *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland* to Boston Borough and Boston Stump

### Landscape Sensitivity

*Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* is a very distinctive and very intact rural landscape with very few detractors which has a high level of landscape designations and protection. The ridge and valley landform and the wooded elements of the valleys, parkland and shelter belts provide some enclosure and screening with some more open and longer views from higher parts. This may help to restrict the visibility of future changes in the landscape to the several sensitive viewers within this area. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

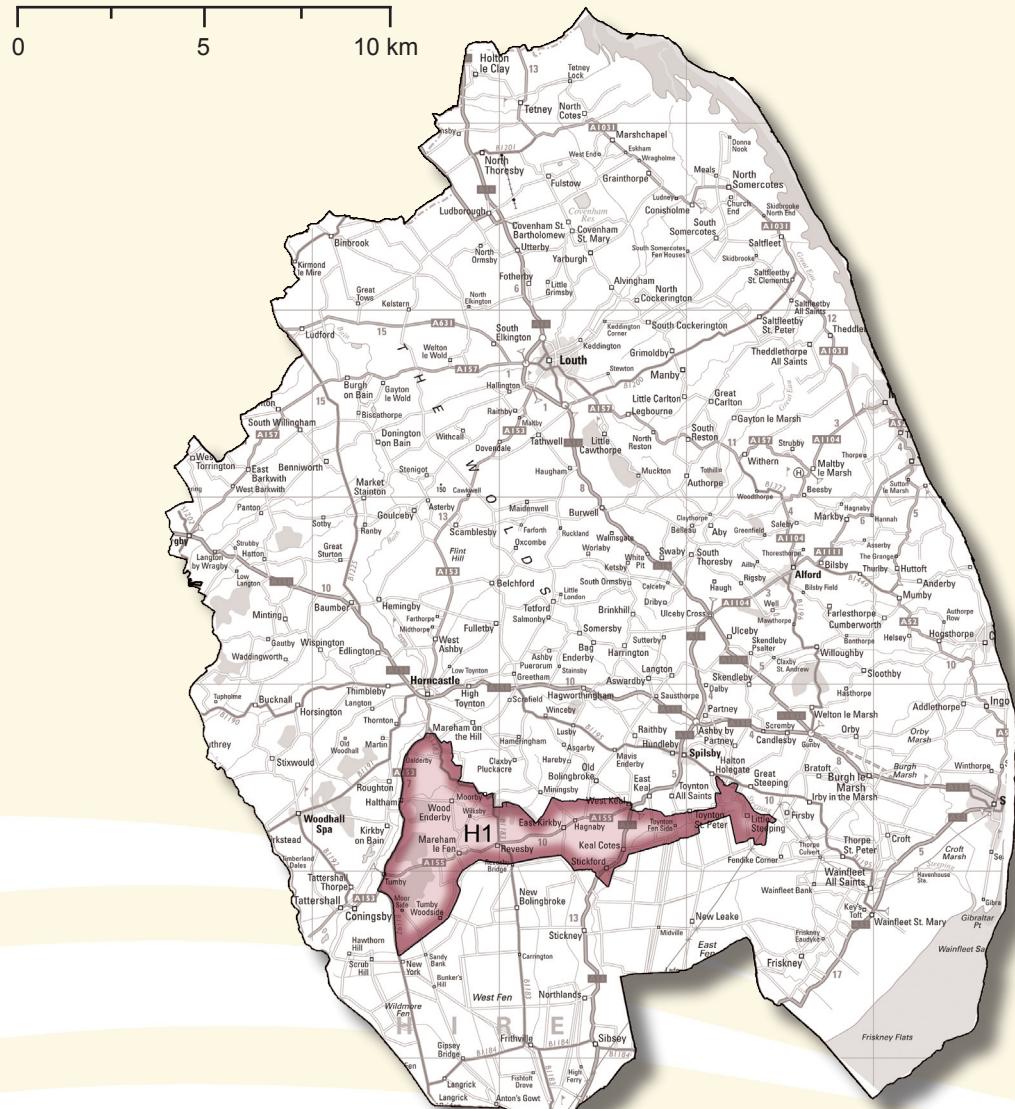
Any development should be carefully designed to fit in with the pattern, scale and rural character of existing landscape elements including the small scale and dispersed pattern of villages, the traditional materials, the wooded, agricultural, parkland and historic features of the landscape. Positioning of any future developments should use the existing screening elements, which are characteristic to the area and their location should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent loss of the rural landscape. Development on hill tops and also along the skylines should also be avoided.

The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* is considered to be **moderate to high**.

# H1 Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland

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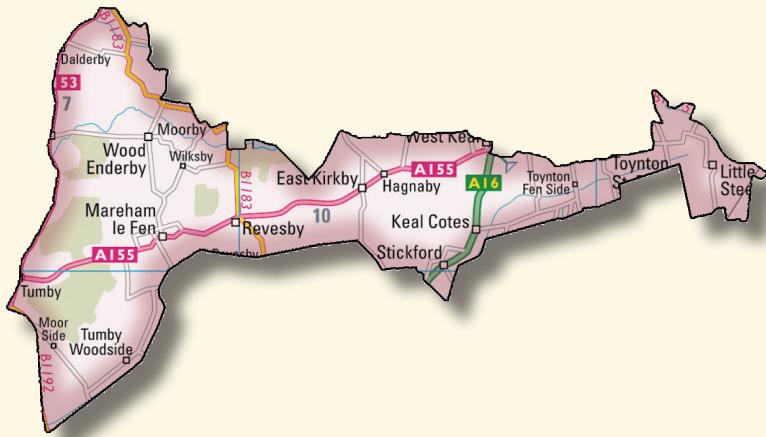
## Key Characteristics

- A rolling landscape at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds rising gently to the Wolds from *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen*.
- Views to the Borough of Boston and to Boston Stump to the south and to closer church spires and towers within settlements in and out of the area.
- Patchwork of arable fields with some ancient and semi natural and ancient replanted mixed woodland and grazed parkland.
- Streams, ditches and dykes drain towards the fens, becoming more geometric in layout towards the southern boundary.
- Settled with small traditional villages and estate farmsteads sheltered and set amongst mature trees.
- Heritage features include WWII Aircraft Museum, disused airfield and Scrivelsby and Revesby historic parks with an arcadian style parkland entrance avenue.
- It lies within an Area of Great Landscape Value.
- It has a busy transport corridor with the east-west A155 passing through, skirting both the lower wet fenlands and higher land of the Wolds and includes the crossroads with the southbound A16 Boston Road.
- In between is a sparse network of minor roads.
- Away from the busy A115 it is a very tranquil and idyllic rural landscape.

# H1 Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland

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## Landscape Character Description

*Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland* lies in a narrow band of land between *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* to the south and *Hainton to Toyton All Saints Wolds Farmland* and *Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland* to the north. It is bordered to the west by *Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace*, where the Central Lincolnshire Vale opens out towards the Wash Basin and *Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh* to the east.

This area is underlain by Jurassic clay and overlain by drift deposits of glacial till to the south of the Wolds with a strip of glacial sands and gravels stretching from East Kirby through to Coningsby in the *Woodhall Spa to Coningsby River Terrace* character area.

The landform rises gently from the flat fens to the higher, rolling and complex Wolds. Lines of hedgerows, trees, blocks of woodland, and landform provide some visual enclosure. Elsewhere open views extend to landmark churches and windmills within the character area and across the fens outside the area.

This is a rural agricultural landscape with ancient woodlands and stately deer parks. The busy A155 runs through linking the east of Lincolnshire to the west along a string of fenside villages. Some of the area to the north along the edge of the Wolds is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value.

The landscape is made up of a regular pattern of small to medium sized fields of mixed arable farmland, woodland and grazed parkland. Smaller scale narrow fields are found around villages such as Mareham le Fen. Towards the fenside the fields are flatter and more rectilinear, in keeping with the characteristics of *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen* and could be considered as a transitional zone between the two character areas.

# H1 Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland



Streams from the Wolds drain into a more geometric pattern of ditches and dykes which border and link into the fens drainage system.

Blocks of woodland are scattered throughout the area. Some of the larger blocks of woodland located in the west are ancient and semi-natural woodlands and some are ancient replanted, including Haltham Wood, Fulsby Wood and Little Birkwood. Fulsby Wood and Troy Wood are designated as Sites of Scientific Interest. Intact, mature and well managed parkland is located at Scrivelsby and Revesby Deer Parks which are both designated as Conservation Areas. Revesby in particular has a grand entrance with an arcadian style avenue of tall poplars. Some fields are bounded by intact hedgerows and others are degraded. Estate style metal rail fencing and red brick walls are also a feature.

Nucleated fenside village settlements are mostly located along the A155. However, the small linear settlements of Tumby Woodside and Keal Cotes are similar to those in *Stickney to Sibsey Reclaimed Fen*. Farmsteads and dwellings are sparsely scattered throughout the remainder of the rural landscape. Generally the traditional architecture is of red-brick and pantile with some variations such as yellow brick, rendered walls and occasional mud and stud cottages with thatched roofs. There are some more modern bungalows and some small scale new build developments such as those found at East Kirkby.

Heritage features are generally associated with the settlements and include mud and stud buildings at Wood Enderby and West Keal, and historic stone churches and windmills such as those found at Mareham le Fen. At East Kirkby there is a disused wartime airstrip where there is a WWII aviation museum. The remains of Revesby Abbey are evident in earthworks south of Revesby.

# H1 Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland



The A155 runs east to west through the area linking the coast to further inland and avoiding both hills and fens. It is crossed by the A16 road that links Spilsby to Boston. The remainder of the area is connected with a sparse network of minor roads throughout. Neat mown verges particularly around settlements are a feature as they are across East Lindsey as a whole. Some short public rights of way link settlements.

Away from the busy main roads this is a very tranquil and idyllic rural landscape.

## Landscape Forces For Change

- Intensification of agriculture and farm amalgamation has resulted in an increase in field size and loss of hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- Some new housing developments in villages along the A155.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes changing the vegetation and appearance of field edges, ditches, dykes and hedgerows with changes in farming management and practices.
- Occasional new tree and hedge planting alongside roads.

# H1 Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland



## Landscape Sensitivity

*Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland* is a moderately distinctive and intact rural landscape with some detracting features and some landscape designations. The rolling landform in the area and the presence of woodland, mature tree cover and hedgerows provide a medium level of enclosure, but there are also some longer views to the Fens. This partial enclosure would help to screen changes from the small number of viewers in this area and also from those viewers with more distant views from the Fens and the Wolds. There is some potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts as described below.

Any development should be sensitively designed to respect the small scale localised distinctiveness within this transitional character area and take into account the scale, pattern and rural characteristics including the local architecture, patterns of hedgerows and the wooded aspect of the area. The location of new developments should take advantage of the screening provided by existing landform and tree cover and should be concentrated around existing settlements to prevent further loss of the remaining rural landscape.

The overall landscape character sensitivities of the adjacent character areas should also be taken into account when deciding upon the appropriateness of development within this landscape character area as well as the potential effects on tranquillity and dark night skies.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Mareham to Little Steeping Fenside Woodland and Farmland* is considered to be **moderate**.