Landscape Character Type - Limestone River Valley

The Limestone River Valley character type is associated with the sand and gravel drift deposits within the river valley bottoms that cut across the magnesium limestone plateau which runs in a continuous band from the south to north of the Borough. The relatively narrow valley bottoms are flat or gently sloping and their degree of enclosure varies from the gently sloping Went Valley to the dramatic River Don gorge at Sprotborough. Watercourses run along the valley bottoms as meandering streams or rivers with some straighter sections and flood embankments. There are varying proportions of small scale pasture, small to large arable fields and small woodland blocks. The River Don Gorge is very popular for recreation with a long distance route alongside the river but in the other river valleys there are only a few public rights of way. This undeveloped character type has a limited number of buildings which are mostly stone built and include infrequent small hamlets and farmsteads. There is limited road access although in places the areas are cut through by major transport corridors. Trees are mostly found in lines along watercourses, transport corridors and field boundary lines.

The Limestone River Valleys are physically separated from each other by areas of raised limestone plateau and are as follows:

- D1 – Don Limestone River Valley
- D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley
- D3 – Went Limestone River Valley
Key Characteristics

- Sand and gravel drifts underlain by limestone.
- Meandering river on a narrow valley floor.
- Enclosed by sloping valley sides of varying steepness.
- Some areas of flood defence embankments, weirs and canalisation.
- Some water bodies alongside the river.
- Popular area for recreation with long distance recreational route running along its length.
- Some small to medium pasture and arable fields.
- Numerous trees alongside the river.
- Single stone-built farmstead but no settlements.
- Infrequent traditionally built house or public house.
- Some urban influences from outside the LCA with views to urban edges and quarrying.
- Road access limited to a busy minor road crossing the valley floor.
- Major transport corridors including the A1M motorway crossing on an elevated bridge and a railway running along part of valley floor.
Landscape Description

This area is defined by the geology of sand and gravel drifts over magnesium limestone which lie in the valley bottom landform of the River Don. It is a small scale and picturesque landscape enclosed along its northern and southern boundaries by the moderately to steeply wooded valley sides, which direct views along the valley. The floor of the valley is flat and narrow, widening in places where the river meanders. There are also some water bodies alongside the river such as the large Sprotborough Flash. There are many embankments and weirs containing and controlling the river. The river is navigable and is frequented by many canal boats. It is popular for other recreational activities including fishing and walking along the riverside footpath. The Trans Pennine Trail runs along the length of the LCA. Overall there is a sense of slow movement of and tranquillity. With the exception of the far north east portion of the LCA, the river is lined with numerous deciduous trees including many riparian species such as willows which increase the sense of enclosure and naturalistic character. There are also some small to medium arable field and pasture with few fragmented hedges. There is a stone built farmstead at Newton Lane Bridge in the north east of the area, but there are no other settlements in the LCA. There are occasional buildings such as a sewage works and a public house built from stone. There are some urban influences from outside the LCA with views to Conisborough’s north-eastern urban edge and quarrying is also evident on these valley sides in the adjacent LCAs. To the north west of the LCA where the River Don approaches Doncaster town centre, the LCA is surrounded on three sides by urban development. The tranquility of the area is disturbed by the busy minor road that crosses the valley floor on a stone bridge which is the only road access into the area. It is also crossed by the busy A1M motorway which cuts across the LCA on an elevated flyover and a railway line runs along part of the LCA.

Recent Landscape Impacts

- Some elements of the infrastructure for recreational users such as car parks, over flowing litter bins are unsightly and reduce the quality of views and experience.
- Busy roads cutting across the valley floor reduces the tranquillity.
- Pressure for housing development on the edges of the existing settlements on the valley sides.
D1 - Don Limestone River Valley

Landscape Value and Quality
This is a highly valued and high quality landscape. It is a popular recreational landscape and is designated as an Area of Special Landscape Value. A large proportion of the LCA and its surroundings are designated as national and local nature sites, such as Sprotborough Flash. There are also some scheduled ancient monuments. It has a distinctive, naturalistic and tranquil character and the area is highly valued for recreation.

The landscape strategy for D1 – Don Limestone River Valley is to Conserve.

Viewers
There are many sensitive recreational viewers both on the waterside paths and on the waterways themselves. Other sensitive viewers may include residents of the farmstead and some residents on the edges of the adjacent settlements of Conisborough, Sprotborough, New Edlington and the south western suburbs of Doncaster. Road and rail travellers will have glimpses of views along this distinctive portion of the Don valley.
Doncaster Landscape Character & Capacity Study

D1 - Don Limestone River Valley

Broad Landscape Capacity for Housing Development

Large scale housing would not be in keeping with the character of the existing built development in this area which is very infrequent and small scale. It would be detrimental to the naturalistic and tranquil character of this small high value and high quality LCA. It would impact on the amenity value of the area and physically fragment the landscape and the experience of it from the recreational route that runs along it. Visual impacts are considered to be high despite the enclosure provided by trees and landform as the recreational users in the area are considered to be highly sensitive viewers.

The potential for mitigation is limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

• Development should be on a much smaller scale.
• Follow the contours of the landform and course of the river in the layout.
• Use characteristic local materials such as limestone.
• Avoid historic areas, scheduled monuments and features and designated nature sites.
• Visual impacts could be reduced by screening provided by planting trees and vegetation characteristic of the valley floor.
• Screening views along the watercourses should be avoided.

The landscape capacity for housing in D1 – Don Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.
Detailed Housing Survey for the area north west of Hexthorpe and east of Richmond Hill

The area as a whole forms an integral part of a green corridor running adjacent to the River Don right up to and almost through the centre of Doncaster. Despite its location with urban influences strongly apparent on three edges it has a distinctly rural character. The riparian trees and vegetation alongside the slow moving and tranquil river add to this character. There are small areas of nature sites local importance on both the western and eastern side of the River Don and two public rights of way to the west of the river. This area has two contrasting portions. To the west of the river, a small, intact rural pocket with a historic farmstead at Newton Lane Bridge which is constructed in limestone and is a Conservation Area. The landscape value and quality of this area is considered to be high. To the east of the river a partially derelict and overgrown area brownfield site appears to be under redevelopment and is considered to be of low landscape value and quality due to its degraded and indistinct character.

This relatively narrow area is under pressure from the surrounding urban areas. Large scale housing development is not characteristic of the LCA and development on the west of the river would be highly detrimental to the rural character and setting for the hamlet and remnant of farmland with some recreational value on the edge of Doncaster centre. Such a development would fit with the scale of types of the surrounding urban areas but would not fit with the scale of the small farmstead. It would detract from the simplicity of the small remaining area of arable land. There could be large negative visual impacts with the close proximity of many sensitive viewers including recreational users along the public rights of way, residents in the hamlet. Sensitive redevelopment of the area to the east of the river has potential to enhance the views for residents on the north west housing edge of Hexthorpe.

The potential for mitigation is considered low and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be partially achieved by the following:

- Locate away from existing designated farm hamlet.
- Avoid encroaching on nature sites.
- Locate away from public rights of way including the popular riverside walk and create a buffer zone with screening between this and the development.
- Avoid fragmenting the farmed landscape.
- Use of additional screening of mixed trees which are characteristic of the area.
- Locate on the disturbed areas east of the river and possibly in the north near Doncaster centre.
- Conserve key landscape features including the hamlet and its rural setting; the riverside walk and pedestrian links to Doncaster centre and the riparian vegetation.

The landscape capacity for housing development to the area north west of Hexthorpe and east of Richmond Hill is judged to be low to none.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Strategic Employment

This kind of development would not be in keeping with the character of the existing built development in this area which is very infrequent and small scale. This is a narrow LCA and there is very little space and limited road access. It would be highly detrimental to the naturalistic and tranquil character of this small high value and high quality LCA. Such a development would not fit with existing recreational uses, high quality historic and naturalistic character. It would have a major visual impact on many sensitive viewers.

The potential for mitigation is very limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Avoid fragmenting the rural landscape by locating on the edges of existing settlements.
- Locate away from public right of way and riverside.
- Build on a much smaller scale development which fits with the existing buildings in the LCA.
- Use local materials and conservational styles of building in keeping with the character of existing buildings.
- Use existing roads and bridges without widening.
- Plant more trees characteristic of the area to create additional screening for sensitive viewers.
- Avoid historic areas, scheduled monuments and features and designated nature sites.

The landscape capacity for strategic employment in D1 – Don Limestone River Valley is judged to be **low to none**.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Mineral Workings

This development would not physically fit into the area at many points thereby erasing the existing character and tranquil nature of the valley. There are however two large well screened quarries on either side of the valley floor at Cadeby and Warmsworth. The scale of such a development is not in keeping with the naturalistic character. It could also have a major impact on recreational use. It would be highly visible and increase levels of movement and noise for many sensitive viewers, mentioned above.

There is little potential for mitigation and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Screening by additional trees and hedges that are characteristic of the area.
- Retain public right of way.
- Use existing roads for access without upgrading or widening.

The landscape capacity for mineral workings in D1 – Don Limestone River Valley is judged to be **low to none**.
D1 - Don Limestone River Valley

**Broad Landscape Capacity for Compost facilities**

There is a single historic farmstead in this area at Newton Lane Bridge which is stone-built and designated as a Conservation Area and is accessed by a minor road. Such a development would be not be in keeping with the historic character of the farmstead.

The landscape capacity for compost facilities in *D1 – Don Limestone River Valley* is judged to be **low to none**.

**Broad Landscape Capacity for Windpower**

This kind of new development in this areas which would disrupt a narrow, undeveloped and relatively intact and historic landscape. The scale would be too imposing for such a small area and too close to the hilltop settlements of Conisborough and Warmsworth and the dominance of such a large feature in the form of the turbines would take the focus away from the natural features of this highly valued landscape. The simple form of the turbines may fit with the few natural elements of the simple landscape, but the movement could induce a loss of tranquillity. Visual impacts would also be high due to high visibility, and the presence of many sensitive viewers including the many recreational users.

There is little potential for mitigation and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be partially achieved by the following:

- Avoid historic areas, scheduled monuments and features and designated nature sites.
- Locate on the more disturbed and wider areas of the valley floor.
- Install fewer smaller scale turbines.
- Screen lower parts using existing vegetation and possibly plant additional vegetation of a similar character.

The landscape capacity for windpower in is judged to be **low to none**.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Biomass

Willow biomass is in keeping with the ecology of a river valley floor and willow is found within the vegetation of the area. However, it would not be in keeping with the character of this LCA as its form and texture as a monoculture would not fit with the naturalistic mixed trees growing alongside the valley and water courses and there are also practical issues of poor road access. The majority of the area is designated as a nature site and as a monoculture might not be suitable for conservation and biodiversity. Visually it would not affect long distance viewers from Conisborough edge, but it would affect other closer users by increasing enclosure on public rights of way and reducing the views across the river floor to the opposite sides. Introduction of incinerators and chimneys would not be appropriate in this small designated character area.

The potential for mitigation is moderate and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Avoid designated scheduled monuments or nature sites.
- Plant behind existing trees to reduce loss of views.
- Plant away from public rights of way to reduce the effects of enclosure where views presently exist.
- Smaller scale planting of a similar scale and pattern of existing landscape elements interspersed with existing carr woodland areas might add to the changing experience of a riverside journey.

The landscape capacity for willow biomass in D1 – Don Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Large scale Forestry

There are many deciduous trees in groups alongside the river including many riparian species such as willows. Large scale forestry would not be in keeping with the scale or naturalistic qualities of the LCA. There would not be space for a large amount of additional forestry planting without loss of existing naturalistic tree cover. The many recreational users of the area would be particularly affected by this change in character of tree cover.

The potential for mitigation is low and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Avoid designated scheduled monuments or nature sites.
- Plant mixed species planting characteristic of the valley floor especially around the edges to blend with existing tree and hedge cover.
- Locate away from existing public rights of way to limit visual impacts.
- Plant so that edges follow existing landscape elements such as the landform and watercourse.
- Reduce scale and plant in linear blocks of mixed species to follow land form and other landscape elements similar to existing patterns.

The landscape capacity for large scale forestry in D1 – Don Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.
D2 - Hampole Limestone River Valley

Key Characteristics

- Sand and gravel drifts underlain by limestone.
- Irregular pattern of small to large scale gently sloping arable fields.
- Some intact field boundary hedges with some hedgerow trees but other hedges are missing.
- Meandering and tree-lined streams with some straighter sections enclosed by closely mown grassy flood embankments.
- Major transport corridors including the A1 and railway line.
- More rural landscape to the west which is undeveloped with only the small settlement and a few farmsteads.
- To the east the landscape is also undeveloped and separates two large settlements, but is slightly more diverse with a restored spoil heap.
- Limited access with a single lane and only a few public rights of way.
- Tree cover is mostly linear following the watercourses and transport corridors.
- Gently sloping valley sides provide some enclosure but there are views to urban areas and to the Thorpe Marsh cooling towers.
Landscape Description

This area is defined by the valley bottom associated with the confluence of two small waterways which run over sand and gravel drifts underlain by magnesium limestone. The watercourses are bounded by an irregular pattern of small to large scale gently sloping arable fields. Some fields have intact hedges with some hedgerow trees and other hedges are missing. A railway line runs along the length of the LCA and the major A1 road crossed the valley on a flyover which physically and visually divides the more rural western section from the slightly more diverse eastern side. The eastern side of the LCA contains a restored spoil heap with regenerating vegetation which sits between the adjacent to the urban edges of Carcroft and Adwick/Woodlands and screens the industrial development just to the east of the LCA from view. To the west of the A1, Hampole Dike is a meandering tree-lined stream. To the east of the A1 the watercourses appear less naturalistic taking a more regular slightly curving or straight course with lines of trees along them and are enclosed by closely mown grassy flood embankments. A short distance to the east of the A1 Hampole Dike joins with the Skell from the north and flows east towards the Humber as the EA beck. To the south of the railway line there is also a tree-lined meandering stream. The area is undeveloped with only the small settlement of Hampole and a limited number of farmsteads towards the west of the LCA. On the eastern side the landscape serves as an undeveloped area between the larger mining settlements of Adwick-Le-Street and Carcroft. Despite the presence of the major transport corridors previously described, the areas is difficult to access with a single lane to Hampole and just a few public rights of way at the western extreme of the LCA. Tree cover is mostly linear following the watercourses and transport corridors. The gently sloping valley sides provide some degree of enclosure but there are views to the adjacent urban areas adjacent to the LCA and to the Thorpe Marsh cooling towers in the east.

Recent Landscape Impacts

- Busy main roads fragment and disturb the tranquillity of the area and may be the location for future pressure for development.
- Large settlements are located adjacent to the LCA on either side and there may be pressure for expansion and possible merging of the settlements of Carcroft and Adwick-Le-Street/Woodlands.
- Restoration of spoil heap which also screens adjacent industrial site from this area.
Landscape Value and Quality
This is fairly distinctive landscape due to its valley landform and it mainly rural character. Despite the urban influences adjacent to some of the LCA boundaries, it is still intact and in good condition and is considered a high quality landscape. Landscape value is considered moderate due to the small number of nature sites and the lack of remoteness and tranquillity due to the presence of major roads.

The landscape strategy for D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is to Conserve.

Viewers
There are a few sensitive residents in the hamlet of Hampole and more sensitive residents on the urban edges just outside the LCA of Carcroft which is partially screened and Adwick-le-Street. There may be a few sensitive viewers from the public rights of way on the western side of the LCA. There are many less sensitive viewers travelling along the major transport corridors that pass through the area.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Housing Development

Large scale built development is not a characteristic of this small LCA which is an undeveloped valley bottom separating settlements. Large scale housing development would not fit with the scale or style of the existing Hampole hamlet within the LCA and would stand out against the undeveloped, rural backdrop to the west. Visually such development would sit better in the eastern end of the LCA and would be more in keeping with the settlement edges of Adwick and Skellow and Carcroft bordering the LCA. However, housing development here could merge these settlements and result in fragmentation and a loss of landscape character in this narrow LCA.

Overall the potential for mitigation is moderate and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Reduce visual impacts by locating so that existing trees and the spoil heap provide screening to sensitive viewers.
- Housing development on a much smaller scale similar to the size of the existing hamlet.
- Do not encroach onto the valley floor and maintain an undeveloped buffer alongside the watercourses.
- Maintain the separation between settlements
- Use materials characteristic of the adjacent built elements, that is red brick in the east and stone in the west of the LCA.
- Avoid designated nature sites.

The landscape capacity for housing in D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Strategic Employment

Large scale built development is not found within the LCA although there is a large industrial area at Carcroft Common on the eastern boundary of the LCA which is screened from view by the restored spoil heap. This has fragmented the river valley and bring the adjacent settlements closer to merging. This is a narrow LCA with little space for large scale development. It would not be in keeping with the undeveloped character and could result in disruption of the field pattern, further fragmentation of the river valley and increased diversity by adding another element to the landscape. It may result in merging of settlements on the eastern side of the LCA. The visual impacts would be high with the large buildings causing major changes in views for many sensitive viewers to the east in the settlements of Skellow, Carcroft and Adwick-le-Street outside the LCA and also a few residents in the hamlet of Hampole within the LCA.

The potential for mitigation is moderate and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Locate in already disturbed area to far east of LCA.
- Smaller scale development to reduce visual impacts.
- Locate adjacent to existing major roads to limit impacts and do not use existing roads for access.
- Use existing trees hedging and spoil heap for screening.
- Use additional screen planting sensitively so as not to alter the character of the area.
- Avoid further merging of the settlements of Skellow and Carcroft with Adwick-le-Street.
- Use natural colours to assist integration into longer distance views.
- Use green roofs to integrate the development into the landscape and help to create a sustainable image for Doncaster Borough.
- Avoid designated nature sites.

The landscape capacity for strategic employment in D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.
Doncaster Landscape Character & Capacity Study

D2 - Hampole Limestone River Valley

Broad Landscape Capacity for Mineral Workings

Limestone quarries are historically found throughout the limestone areas of the Borough and there is a small quarry on the upper slopes of this LCA. However a new quarry would be detrimental to this narrow LCA and would not physically fit into the area at many points. It would fragment the existing landscape character and pattern further and result in a loss of amenity for users of the few public rights of way in the far western end. It would be highly visible on the valley sides but if located towards the eastern end where it could be partially screened by the existing flood embankments, restored spoil heap and watercourse trees, but there are many sensitive viewers here. Visual impacts towards the western end of the valley would be more apparent as it is more rural and intact landscape with less existing screening.

There is little potential for mitigation and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Screening by using existing trees and hedges
- Use additional screen planting but not in such away as to alter the overall landscape character
- Access using existing major roads not minor lanes.
- Site away from the historic hamlet of Hampole

The landscape capacity for mineral workings in D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Compost Facilities

The landscape capacity for compost facilities is largely driven by location relative to major roads and the character of the individual farm rather than by landscape character area. There are only a few farms in this small LCA, and some are well served by a main road which provide good access for the large vehicles without changing the existing road or built infrastructure. These are likely to result in little or no impacts on landscape character, aesthetics or changes in views. However if changes to many or long sections of minor roads or lanes were necessary, then there may be impacts on landscape character and some impacts on the scale, pattern and sense of movement in the landscape. Landscape capacity is likely to be higher where the landscape is already disturbed, diverse, larger scale and modern in character; where the agricultural barns and associated farm buildings are medium to large scale and modern not historic in character; and where the farm yard and access roads are well screened.

In addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document, mitigation could be achieved by the following:

- Use existing farms situated adjacent to the A638 main road.
- Use extra tree and hedge screening to reduce visual movement and possibly some noise.
- Screen yards to visual movement and some noise
- Replace any hedges trees and ditches removed for road widening
- Locate facilities on modern large scale farms.

The landscape capacity for compost facilities in D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be dependant on the factors described above. Each proposed facility should be judged individually against these criteria.
**Broad Landscape Capacity for Windpower**

Windpower is a new type of development in this LCA which would not fit well in a narrow, relatively undeveloped and intact landscape. The scale would be too imposing for such a small area, especially with the close proximity of the settlements of Hampole, Adwick-le Street, Skellow and Carkroft. It would add to manmade intrusions in the LCA particularly the cluttering the views down the valley towards the east. Visual impacts would be high with many sensitive viewers and is likely to be visible for long distances from the east.

The potential for mitigation is moderate and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Use smaller scale turbines to fit better with the scale of the landscape and to reduce visual impacts.
- Avoid locating near settlements.
- Make a feature or landmark of the development by locating next to A1.
- Screen lower parts using existing vegetation.
- Use existing landscape elements such as the landform to guide layout of turbines.

The landscape capacity for windpower in **D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley** is judged to be **low to none**.

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**Broad Landscape Capacity for Biomass**

Willow biomass is not a traditional crop on the limestone areas of the Borough and does not currently exist in this LCA. However it is in keeping with the ecology of a river valley floor. The form and texture of a biomass monoculture would not fit wholly with the naturalistic mixed trees growing alongside the water courses. Visually it would not impact much on long distance viewers but would affect other closer viewers, increasing enclosure on public rights of way and reducing the views across the river floor to the opposite sides. It would also result in a loss of pattern by obscuring the remaining field boundaries. The introduction of incinerators and chimneys would not be appropriate in this small and undeveloped landscape.

The potential for mitigation is moderate and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Plant on a scale and proportion to fit with existing field scale and crop patterns.
- Plant on a scale which fits with the existing field pattern, that is not in adjacent fields.
- Avoid designated nature sites.
- Plant behind existing trees to reduce loss of views.
- Plant away from public rights of way to reduce the effects of enclosure where views presently exist.

The landscape capacity for biomass in **D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley** is judged to be **moderate**.
**Broad Landscape Capacity for Large Scale Forestry**

Tree cover is mostly mixed deciduous with many riparian species including willow. They are in linear strips following the watercourses and transport corridors. The existing mixed woodland is deciduous including many riparian species such as willows. Large scale forestry would not fit with the existing pattern and scale of tree cover. It would significantly alter and block views creating enclosure along paths and roads where it does not already exist and obscuring the valley landform.

The potential for mitigation is low and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Avoid designated scheduled monuments or nature sites.
- Include mixed species planting characteristic of the valley floor especially around the edges to blend with existing tree and hedge cover.
- Locate away from existing public rights of way.
- Reduce scale and plant in linear blocks of mixed species to follow land form and or water course similar to existing patterns.

The landscape capacity for large scale forestry in D2 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.
Key Characteristics

- Sand and gravel drifts underlain by limestone.
- Bottom of a very gently sloping valley.
- Meandering River Went lined with riparian vegetation.
- Small to medium scale arable fields and small scale pasture with some horse grazing.
- Few hedges and some mature trees on field boundaries.
- Small historic stone built hamlet of Norton Priory and associated farmstead.
- Road access limited with public roads only on edge of LCA.
- Some public rights of way.
- Tree cover in linear strips following the river, some field boundaries and public rights of way.
- Views are slightly enclosed by valley form and lines of trees.
- Strongly rural and simple character.
D3 - Went Limestone River Valley

Landscape Description
This small area is defined by the gently sloping valley bottom associated with the River Went which runs over sand and gravel drifts underlain by magnesium limestone. It has a strongly rural and simple character with some historic stone buildings at Norton Priory. The narrow River Went meanders gently through the valley and is bounded by a strip of deciduous trees. The farmland adjacent to the river is very gently sloping and is not large enough to exhibit a repeating pattern of fields. There are small fields of pasture next to the river and beyond that are small to medium arable fields. There is also some horse grazing near to the settlement. There are few hedges but mature trees are found on some field boundary lines. The area is relatively undeveloped with one small hamlet, Norton Priory that is currently undergoing refurbishment. There is a single farmstead in the LCA adjacent to this hamlet. The only public roads are on the edge of the LCA as lanes. The area is served by a few public rights of way including one along the western section of the River Went. Tree cover is mostly linear strips following the river, some field boundaries and the public right of way along Norton Mill Lane. The views are slightly enclosed by valley form and trees lining watercourse.

Recent Landscape Impacts
• The hamlet of Norton Priory is currently being redeveloped which could result in an increase in size of the settlement and alterations to its character.
• Loss of hedges and trees as a result of ongoing intensification of farming practices.
• Use of electric, wire and ranch style fencing with horse grazing result in subtle alterations to landscape character.
D3 - Went Limestone River Valley

**Landscape Value and Quality**

This is a very rural and tranquil farmed area with negligible urban influences. There is a small locally designated nature site and the landscape is in good condition. Overall it is considered to be of high landscape quality and value.

The landscape strategy for D3 — Went Limestone River Valley is to **Conserve**.

**Viewers**

There are several sensitive viewers who include residents of the hamlet, the public rights of way users and also residents of settlements just outside the LCA including those on the northern edges of Norton and possibly Kirk Smeaton.
D3 - Went Limestone River Valley

Broad Landscape Capacity for Housing Development

This LCA is too small to accommodate a development of this type without losing its integrity. Large scale housing development is not in keeping with the historic and intact rural nature of the area and would be too large to fit with the existing scale of the settlement and the field sizes. It would disrupt and fragment the simple landscape. There would be a major change in views but these are likely to be mostly contained within the LCA but may also be visible on the edges of the settlements of Norton and Kirk Smeaton just outside the LCA.

The potential for mitigation is limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Development to be on a much smaller scale to fit with the size of the existing hamlet.
- Avoid merging the settlements of Norton and Norton Priory.
- Locate development so that existing landscape elements provide screening to reduce the visual impacts on sensitive viewers.
- Use traditional materials including old style bricks limestone and pantile tiles to conserve local built character.
- Allow existing hedges to grow and replace lost hedges to help reduce visual impacts.
- Additional screen planting should be similar to the existing tree cover which is found as lines alongside existing landscape elements.
- Retain or divert existing public rights of way.
- Avoid designated nature sites.

The landscape capacity for housing in D3—Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Strategic Employment

This LCA is not large enough to physically accommodate such a development it would obscure the valley bottom landform and the existing character would be erased. Such a development is not in keeping with the intact rural character of this LCA or its surroundings. It would be too large in scale to fit with the existing settlement and field sizes. Visual impacts would be high affecting moderate numbers of sensitive viewers within the LCA and also sensitive residents on the edges of the settlements of Norton and Kirk Smeaton outside the LCA.

The potential for mitigation is considered limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Build on a much smaller scale.
- Locate on lower ground and screen using landform.
- Allow existing hedges to grow and replace lost hedges to help reduce visual impacts.
- Use green roofs to integrate the development into the landscape and help to create a sustainable image for Doncaster Borough.
- Use a sustainable urban drainage scheme with wetland vegetation characteristic of the existing watercourse.
- Additional screen planting should be similar to the existing tree cover which is found as lines alongside existing landscape elements.
- Retain or divert existing public rights of way.
- Avoid designated nature sites.

The landscape capacity for strategic employment in D3—Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.
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Doncaster Landscape Character & Capacity Study

D3 - Went Limestone River Valley

Broad Landscape Capacity for Mineral Workings

This is a traditional and existing land use on the limestone areas of the Borough. However, this character area is not large enough to physically accommodate such a development and existing character would be erased. There would be other significant impacts including a loss of tranquillity due to quarry noise and increased traffic movement of large lorries. Any additional access roads or alteration to the existing lane would alter the character. The existing gently sloping landform and existing trees could help to screen such a development and it would only be visible to moderate numbers of sensitive viewers within the LCA and possibly to those sensitive residents just outside the LCA.

Overall the potential for mitigation is considered low and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Careful siting using existing screening and landform to reduce or eliminate some visual impacts.
- Allow existing hedges to grow and replace lost hedges to help reduce visual impacts.
- Additional screen planting should be similar to the existing tree cover which is found as lines alongside existing landscape elements.
- Retain or divert existing public rights of way.
- Avoid designated nature sites.

The landscape capacity for mineral workings in D3 – Went Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Compost facilities

There is just one existing farm in Norton Priory. It appears to be an integral part of a small hamlet and it is considered that a modern compost facility would not be in keeping with its scale or historic character. The existing minor road access is too narrow and would need to be upgraded which would alter the character of the landscape. There may be an increase in noise and movements of trucks both on the roads and in the yards. Visual impacts could be relatively high due to the close proximity of a few but very sensitive viewers in the hamlet of which the farm is an integral part.

The potential for mitigation is considered limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Retain stone walls and existing gateways.
- Use additional screening for the yard of hedges and lines of trees characteristic of the area.
- Use existing tree and hedge screening to reduce visual movement and possibly some noise.

The landscape capacity for compost facilities in D3 – Hampole Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.
**Broad Landscape Capacity for Windpower**

This type of development would not fit with the small size of the LCA or the scale of many of the fields and would dominate a highly valued and high quality landscape. It would be in close proximity to the Norton Priory hamlet within the LCA and the two small settlements of Norton and Kirk Smeaton just outside the LCA. It would add to the diversity in a simple rural landscape, and although the simple form of wind turbines may fit with the simple landscape, the movement of the blades would induce a loss of tranquillity. The visual impacts would be high and would extend to viewers beyond the LCA.

The potential for mitigation is considered limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Avoid locating near historic elements.
- Use smaller scale turbines to fit better with the scale of the landscape and to reduce visual impacts.
- Avoid locating near settlements.
- Screen lower parts using existing vegetation.
- Use existing landscape elements such as the valley landform and watercourses to guide layout of turbines.

The landscape capacity for wind farms in D3 – Went Limestone River Valley is judged to be **low to none**.

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**Broad Landscape Capacity for Biomass**

Willow biomass is not a traditional crop of this area. However, willow is ecologically suited to a river valley location and is found in the area within lines of trees and hedgerows. As the LCA is small, any change in land use would result in a relatively large impact on character. The eventual height of the crop would affect a large proportion of views for most of the sensitive viewers. Close viewers would be affected by increasing enclosure on the adjacent lane and public rights of way. Views across the fields and those of the course of the River Went may also be lost. Introduction of incinerators and chimneys would not be appropriate in this small sized and historic LCA.

The potential for mitigation is considered limited and in addition to the development guidance detailed in part 3 of this document it could be achieved by the following:

- Plant on a scale which fits the existing fields and not in adjacent fields.
- Avoid designated nature sites.
- Plant behind existing trees to reduce loss of views.
- Plant away from roads and public rights of way.

The landscape capacity for biomass in D3 – Went Limestone River Valley is judged to be **low to none**.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Large Scale Forestry

Woodland is not an element of this LCA with most trees found as lines along the River Went, field boundaries and public rights of way. Large scale forestry would be too large for this LCA and would not be in keeping with the character or scale of the existing tree cover. It would result in the loss or fragmentation of an intact, high quality landscape and would increase enclosure and result in loss of views for residents and public rights of way users.

There is no potential for mitigation as the LCA is too small.

The landscape capacity for large scale forestry in D3 – Went Limestone River Valley is judged to be low to none.