Landscape Character Type - Settled Clay Farmlands

The Settled Clay Farmlands character type consists of the flat wide flood plains of the Rivers Went and Don located between the Limestone Plateau to the west and the Peat moorlands to the east. The geology consists of silts and clays over Sherwood sandstones. The historic small scale pastoral agricultural with its thick hedges is still evident in much of the landscape. However, there has been a higher level of intensification of arable farming with modern drainage schemes and fragmented hedge field boundaries towards the edges of the type. In many places the historic pattern of compact settlements, scattered farmsteads, minor roads and green lanes creates a distinctive, intimate and rural landscape. The scale and diversity of urban influences varies and is greatest towards the south of the character type where the settlements are larger, roads are less winding and busier and there are a greater diversity of more recent and larger scale of landscape elements. In all locations this historic pattern is overlain by the more recent introductions of mostly straight railways and canals which are raised and enclosed by the constructed embankments. Woodland cover is sparse throughout most of the type with mature hedgerow trees in the more intact areas and immature tree planting in the more disturbed areas.

The Settled Clay Farmlands character areas are adjacent to each other and the boundary between them is defined primarily by the scale and diversity of modern urban influences. They are as follows:

- F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands
- F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands
**F1 - Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands**

**Key Characteristics**

- Mainly flat landform with a large restored spoil heap.
- Geology of silts and clays underlain by Sherwood sandstone.
- Large to medium scale arable fields with missing or fragmented hedges.
- Some smaller fields and pasture around settlements.
- Network of ditches and drains sometimes forming field boundaries.
- Rail and watercourse corridors.
- Compact historic stone-built settlements and associated stone walls.
- Larger settlements which have merged with Doncaster urban area.
- Network of busy roads linking farmsteads and settlements.
- Network of public rights of way and green lanes.
- Restoration of spoil heap and disused railway to recreational land uses.
- Limited numbers of trees which are mainly along railway lines and watercourse and in recreational areas.
- Views generally very open.
Landscape Description

This LCA is mostly flat and is associated with the silts and clays of the Vale of York drift over Sherwood sandstones. The generally heavy nature of the soils together with the once seasonal flooding from the nearby River Don resulted in small scale pastoral agriculture. More recent lowering of the water table by drainage schemes including drains on field boundaries has led to intensification of farming; cultivation of fields for arable crops in medium to large fields; and subsequent removal of hedges creating a very open landscape. In the centre of the LCA is a large restored spoil heap from previous deep coal mining with deciduous trees on its lower slopes. It stands out from the surrounding flat landform and is now used as a country park. Other man-made elements include a landdraining site, railway lines and a dismantled railway which now has a recreational route along part of its length. There are also views to the large cooling towers in the adjacent LCA. Access to the area is on a main road, several busy minor roads connecting the settlements and also on a network of public rights of way and green lanes. The Tilts Drain, a watercourse contained on both sides by embankments runs across the northern part of the LCA with water bodies in many places alongside it. The compact settlements of Arksey, Almsholme and Tollbar consist mostly of stone buildings and stone walls are also a feature of the LCA. The larger settlements of Bentley and Rostholme have merged with the urban fringes of Doncaster town. There are a few scattered farmsteads. The limited numbers of trees in the area are concentrated along the railway lines, watercourse and in recreational areas such as the restored spoil heap and the dismantled railway line and are found occasionally on field boundaries.

Recent Landscape Impacts

- Busy roads create intrusion from vehicle movements and noise.
- Fly tipping in field entrances, lay-bys and on verges obstructs access and creates a degraded appearance.
- Amalgamation of fields into larger units and associated drainage has altered landscape character, resulted in the loss of landscape elements and created a larger scale field pattern and more open views.
- Loss of hedges and trees resulting in loss of enclosure and more open views.
- Restoration of spoil heap and dismantled railway for recreational uses.
- Settlements have expanded and merged.
Landscape Value and Quality

This is a moderately distinctive landscape which is slightly fragmented, with a mix of elements and some changing land use. The remaining arable and pasture land is reasonably intact and in good condition. There is a conservation area at Arksey, several large local nature sites and a few other smaller scattered ones. It is a moderately tranquil landscape with some noise from busy roads and visual intrusions of spoil heaps, pylons, and cooling towers. It is considered to have a high landscape value and moderate landscape quality.

The landscape strategy for F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is to Conserve and Strengthen.

Viewers

There are several sensitive viewers including residents of the farmsteads and the settlement edges of Arksey, Almholme, Toll Bar, Shaftholme, Bentley and Rostholme. Other sensitive viewers include users of the country park on the restored spoil heaps who would have good views across the whole LCA. Also users of the network of public access footpaths and tracks. There are many less sensitive viewers travelling through the area on the A19, minor roads and railways.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Housing Development

This is a rural area which has already lost some of its distinctiveness. Existing settlements have expanded and some such as Toll Bar and Stockbridge are close to merging. Further housing development could result in the loss of the remaining areas of smaller historic field patterns and an extension of the urban sprawl from Doncaster town. Housing development would not fit with the scale of the small historic settlements but may fit with the scale of the larger settlements. Overall it is considered that further housing development would result in significant negative landscape impacts. Visual impacts are considered moderate as housing development could be visible for some distance due to the loss of hedgerows in combination with the flatness of the landscape. The change in views would affect several sensitive viewers on settlement edges and recreational users of parks, footpaths and lanes.

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 the development adjacent to existing built up areas to prevent fragmentation of intact landscape.
- Build on a smaller scale to fit with the scale of the settlements adjacent to it.
- Avoid historic areas and settlements such as Arksey
- Use locally appropriate materials and styles characteristic of the smaller settlements such as stone and roof pantiles to conserve local built character.
- Locate where existing elements such as spoil heaps, hedges and trees screen the development.
- Add further screening by replacing lost trees and hedgerows.
- Locate away from the nature sites.
- Do not disrupt the network of public footpaths and tracks and retain or divert public rights of way.
- Avoid merging the settlements to prevent urban sprawl.
- Retain drains which are characteristic of the LCA.

The landscape capacity for housing in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.
Detailed Housing Survey for the Northern Edges of Bentley and Arksey

The landscape to the north of this housing edge encompasses the former Bentley Colliery spoil heap which has been restored as a country park with new tree and hedge planting. To the east of the spoil heap there are ponds and wetland areas which include a nature site. The small hamlet of Shaftholme is situated away from the settlement edge to the north east of the spoil heap on a minor lane and has traditional stone, old red brick and red tiled buildings. The area to the north of Shaftholme contains large arable fields with no distinct boundaries. The northern edges of Bentley and Arksey are screened by the raised landform and trees associated with the restored spoil heap.

This is a moderately tranquil and fairly remote area and is used for recreation. A new character is being created on the spoil heap by the new planting in combination with the wetland and pond areas. Its recent restoration gives it a moderately cared for appearance. The landscape value is considered high and landscape quality is moderate.

The landscape impacts of such a development are considered to be high. There are few urban influences currently and the addition of new housing would change the emerging new character associated with the restored spoil heap. Housing development could incur a loss of a large portion of the country park which would affect its recreational use. There may also be a loss of trees and footpaths and it may change the setting for the historic hamlet of Shaftholme. It would fit with the scale of large fields to the north of the spoil heap but if sited here would fragment the landscape and divide a remaining section of intact arable land. Visual impacts are considered to be moderate to low as existing landform and trees on and around the spoil heap could be used to screen it. However, if the development was situated on the higher ground of the spoil heap it would be visible for long distances both within and outside the LCA.

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

- Development edges to follow and blend into the underlying landform.
- Locate on the areas at the bottom of the spoil heap slopes to minimise visual impacts and retain the upper slopes of the spoil heap as a recreational area.
- Retain the setting of Shaftholme hamlet by separating any new development from the hamlet.
- Use locally appropriate materials, such as the old style red brick, stone and roof pantiles in a style characteristic of Shaftholme hamlet, to conserve local built character.
- Add further screening by replacing lost trees and hedgerows.
- Incorporate the existing wetland and nature sites to conserve biodiversity.
- Retain as many trees as possible to help blend the development into the surrounding countryside.
- Retain the Tilts Lane public right of way.
- Do not extend development to the east of the railway line to avoid merging of settlements.

The landscape capacity for housing development on the northern edges of Bentley and Arksey is judged to be moderate.
Detailed Housing Survey for Northern Edge of Rostholme.

This area is a small remaining pocket of rural land on the northern edge of Rostholme. It is bounded by used and disused railway embankments to the west, a large urban edge park to the south west and housing edges to the south and east. This land has a pattern of small to medium scale pasture and arable fields enclosed by ditches and mature mixed hedgerows creating a simple landscape with an intimate feel in many parts. The settlement edge to the south is defined by a road and forms a clear cut edge which includes some modern three storey apartments but has no screening. To the eastern edge is a mix of two storey red brick semi-detached houses and also terraced housing with a mix of red brick and rendered walls. Views beyond these housing edges extend to some industrial activity with cranes in the south and to cooling towers visible above the housing edge to the east. Views to the north and west are enclosed by the railway embankments. The Trans Pennine Trail runs through the middle of this area and another public right of way links Rostholme and Bentley to Adwick-le-Street.

This area has no designated nature sites, but the mix and maturity of vegetation in the ditches are an important landscape element. It is not representative of the LCA as a whole but rather an example of earlier farming and field patterns which have since been lost from many areas of the LCA. The area is slightly disturbed by noise from the road and industrial activity close by. This area is considered to have high landscape quality and moderate landscape value.

The impacts of housing development would be limited to the immediate landscape which is enclosed by the railway lines and existing urban edges. Any new development would not fit with the scale and disrupt the pattern of the existing fields, ditches or hedgerows. The character of this remaining pocket of rural landscape would be fragmented or erased. Several sensitive viewers in the immediate vicinity could be affected including residents of the adjacent housing edges of Rostholme and Bentley; the users of the Trans Pennine Trail and public right of way. The visual impacts of the development are likely to be low beyond the railway embankments.

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:

- Retain mature hedgerows trees and ditches to maintain some of the existing landscape pattern.
- Use ditches and hedges to guide the layout and scale of the development.
- Retain the Trans Pennine Trail and public right of way and create a screened corridor through the development to the open countryside.
- Use locally appropriate materials, such as a mix of red brick and rendered walls with a mix of grey and red roofs, similar to existing edge.
- Do not extend development beyond railway line.

The landscape capacity for housing development on the northern edge of Rostholme is judged to be moderate.
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F1 - Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands

Broad Landscape Capacity for Strategic Employment

Such a large built development is not in keeping with the rural nature of this LCA, although there is a small area of such development between Carcroft and Adwick-le-Street on the north western corner of the LCA where it may be more appropriate. It may fit with the scale of some of the large fields but would fragment any remaining patterns of the field and tracks. Visual impacts would be high in this flat and open landscape which has few hedges and trees, disrupting views and creating more enclosure.

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:

- Locate where the landscape pattern is already disturbed.
- Build on a much smaller scale to fit with existing settlements.
- Locate where existing spoil heaps, trees, and hedgerows can screen the most sensitive viewers.
- Use natural colours to integrate into longer distance views of wooded skylines.
- Locate near major roads so that these can be used for access without upgrading minor roads or tracks.
- 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 watercourses and water bodies.

The landscape capacity for strategic employment in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.
Detailed Strategic Employment Survey for Carcroft Common South West

Carcroft Common lies between Carcroft and Adwick-le-Street. It occupies the area to the south of the Tilts Drain and extends across from the eastern side of LCA D2 to the A19 in the west and Adwick Lane to the south. Much of this area is already developed with industrial units and scrapyards. An undevolved area remains to the south west of Carcroft between Tilts Drain and the A19. This is a diverse and fragmented landscape and includes several large arable fields in an irregular pattern, a traveller’s site, some horse pasture, areas of willow biomass, a small water body surrounded by woodland and a site used for recreational flying model aircraft. In general the views are fairly contained with the hedges and trees alongside the A19 to the east, willow biomass planting on Adwick Common to the south west and the embankments of the Tilts Drain and a land raising site just beyond that to the north. There are some longer views to the south east which include the Toll Bar north western housing edge.

With these diverse landscape elements, the area has lost most of its rural feel. For this reason such a development is considered to have a moderate impact on landscape character. It would fit well with the size of some of the fields where the pattern is already disappearing. There would be a major change in views, but this would only affect a few sensitive viewers on the edge of the settlement Toll Bar and the less sensitive travellers on the B road linking Adwick-le-Street to the A19.

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 the drains and ditches, the water body and surrounding scrub and incorporate them into the development and a sustainable urban drainage scheme.
- Use additional screen planting to the south east to contain views from the edge of Toll Bar.
- Do not extend the development to the east of the A19 road which is already well screened.
- Use green roofs to integrate the development into the landscape and help to create a sustainable image for Doncaster Borough.
- Use natural colours which blend in with the surrounding landscape.

The landscape capacity for strategic employment in Carcroft Common within this LCA is judged to be moderate.
**Broad Landscape Capacity for Mineral Workings**

Former deep coal mining is evident in the LCA with the restored spoil heaps, but surface mineral workings are not an obvious feature of this landscape. Such as development would increase the diversity of the landscape further. Altering the remaining flat landform would significantly alter the character but on restoration could create more water bodies which are an existing element in the LCA. Embankments to screen the works would also fit with the existing landraising site and embankments to waterways and railways. Although such a development would fit with the existing scale of the larger fields it would disrupt the remaining field, lane and ditch patterns. Visual impacts would be moderate due to the few local residents and several public rights of way users and possible screening by existing spoil heaps and mature hedgerows and trees along the lanes and track ways. Such development is likely to be more visible to some sensitive viewers from slightly higher areas such as the country park on the restored spoil heap in the centre of the LCA.

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

- Careful siting using the existing spoil heap, trees and hedges to reduce or eliminate visual impacts.
- Plant more trees characteristic of the area to help reduce visual impacts on sensitive viewers.
- Restore to wetland which could enhance the landscape by increasing recreational value and introducing more wildlife habitat.
- Retain or divert existing public rights of way.
- Retain existing roadside ditches, woodland and hedgerows and trees.
- Do not site on or near designated nature or historical sites.

The landscape capacity for mineral workings in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be **moderate**.

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**Broad Landscape Capacity for Landraising**

Landraising currently exists in this LCA just east of Adwick-le-Street. Some raised landforms such as the restored spoil heaps and the river and rail embankments are also a feature of the LCA. However the associated infrastructures of security fencing and tall chimneys would add to the diversity of the area and alter the character. Such a development would be highly visible due to the new height of the landform but would not incur such a significant change in views due to existing similar features. For these reasons the development is considered to have moderate visual impacts.

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

- Screen security fencing with planting characteristic of local roadsides and hedgerows.
- Locate next to major roads and avoid upgrading minor roads or creating additional roads which could alter the character.
- Development should be of a similar scale and to existing spoil heaps and landraising in the LCA.
- Consider visual impacts on adjacent LCAs.
- Plant more trees characteristic of the area to help reduce visual impacts on sensitive viewers.
- Outer slopes to be similar in character to the spoil heaps to help to incorporate the development into the landscape of this LCA.
- Retain or divert existing public rights of way.
- Retain existing ditches, hedgerows and trees.
- Do not site on or near designated nature or historic sites.

The landscape capacity for landraising in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be **moderate**.
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 the LCA. Where these are adjacent to major roads, landscape and visual impacts would be minimal. 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 it could be achieved by the following:

- Screen any roads with obviously increased levels of traffic.
- Screen yards to visual movement and some noise.
- Use existing roads for access to reduce loss of character area.
- Replace any hedges trees and ditches removed for road widening.
- Locate facilities on modern large scale farms.

The landscape capacity for compost facilities in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands 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 development would introduce a new landscape element and more movement into an already busy, diverse landscape with many existing manmade elements. It would fit with the large scale of the spoil heaps within the LCA and the views to groups of cooling towers. The creation of access roads may alter the nature and character of some existing lanes. Visual impacts will be high due to the size and number of turbines. The landform of the restored spoil heap, embankments and the few existing trees and hedges can aid screening of the lower parts of the structures. However, visibility further away would be high, with many potentially sensitive viewers both within and also outside the LCA, in potentially less diverse landscapes.

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 settlements.
- Use spoil heaps, existing trees hedges and embankments to screen lower built elements.
- Install smaller scale turbines to reduce visual impacts.
- Avoid locating in nature sites to avoid disruption of wildlife and their habitats.
- Use existing roads for installation and management access.
- Use as a ‘green’ landmark next to main drains or busy roads

The landscape capacity for windpower in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.
Doncaster Landscape Character & Capacity Study

**Broad Landscape Capacity for Biomass**

Willow biomass is grown in this LCA near Adwick-le Street. It is not a traditional crop of this area, but is ecologically suited to a floodplain and would fit with existing trees and vegetation along existing water courses. Its use would not affect long distance viewers but it may affect closer viewers by increasing enclosure on public rights of way and reducing the pattern of fields by hiding hedges. Introduction of incinerators and chimneys would not be appropriate in the more intact areas of this landscape but may be appropriate in areas with more urban influences to the western edges of the LCA.

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

- Plant behind existing tall hedgerows to reduce loss of views.
- Plant away from public rights of way and lanes to reduce the effects of enclosure where views presently exist.
- Plant on a smaller scale to the present larger fields to replace some of the lost field patterns in combination with existing crops.
- Retain the ditches which are a characteristic element of this area.

The landscape capacity for biomass in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be moderate.

**Broad Landscape Capacity for Large scale Forestry**

The numbers of trees currently found in this LCA are limited and blocks of trees are mainly the young mixed planting found on the restored spoil heaps and country park. Large scale forestry would increase enclosure, resulting in loss of views particularly along the lanes and public rights of way, although the restored spoil heap already encloses some views. Large scale forestry would also change views for sensitive viewers from slightly higher areas such as the country park on the restored spoil heap. Large scale forestry has some potential to enhance the landscape by screening existing intrusive elements.

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:

- Plant a mix of species especially around the edges to blend with existing tree and hedge cover.
- Avoid enclosing existing lanes track ways and public rights of way.
- Avoid designated nature sites.
- Plant on a scale and pattern to fit with the existing landscape elements.
- Consider potential to enhance views by screening intrusive elements.

The landscape capacity for large scale forestry in F1 – Tollbar Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be moderate.
Doncaster Landscape Character & Capacity Study

F2 - Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands

**Key Characteristics**

- Flat low lying landform.
- Geology of silts and clays underlain by Sherwood sandstone.
- Small scale arable and pasture fields including hay meadows.
- Thick field boundary hedges with frequent mature hedgerow trees.
- Some medium to large arable fields with fragmented hedges.
- Network of water-filled drains.
- Occasional small deciduous woodlands with larger and more frequent woodlands in the south west.
- Compact historic settlements and many scattered farmsteads.
- Historic network of lanes with sharp corners and roadside ditches.
- Rail corridor cuts through the area with manned and unmanned gated crossings.
- River Don and straight New Junction Canal with flood control embankments.
- Occasional windmills and moated properties.
- Network of green lanes and public rights of way.
Landscape Description

This area is located between the River Don to the east and the rising limestone plateau to the west. The flat, simple landscape has views of large skies and a feeling of openness although ground level views are curtailed by hedgerows and trees. It is underlain by the clays of the Vale of York drift over Sherwood sandstones. The heavy soils together with the once seasonal flooding with from the Rivers Went and Don has resulted in small scale pastoral agriculture with some hay fields and many thick species rich hedgerows which also contain frequent mature hedgerow trees. Some larger arable fields have been created by amalgamating fields which typically have more fragmented hedges, but the small scale landscape pattern is largely intact. The area contains a network of water-filled drains sometimes forming field boundaries. Woodland cover is fairly sparse with a few small woodlands but there are larger areas of trees in the south west of the LCA and some rows of Lombardy poplars. There are many compact historic settlements such as Sutton, Fishlake, Sykehouse, and Braithwaite which are built in stone or old red brick with red pantile roofs and red brick and stone walls. Many place names reflect the position of the settlements on the low lying land next to the river including Carr (boggy land), Fen (peaty pasture), Ing (riverside pasture) and Syke (water course). Farmsteads are scattered across the area. The winding network of narrow lanes affords no direct routes through the area. This contrasts with the straight lines of the used and disused railway lines, the New Junction canal with its associated swing bridges, lock keepers' cottages and straight grassy embankments, and the A19 main road cutting straight through the LCA. There are many gated railway crossings which slow the pace of travel for road users and adds to the tranquillity and remote nature of this landscape. Other occasional features of interest include red brick windmills and moated properties. There is an extensive public rights of way network including many green lanes. There are only a few intrusive elements including noise from the railway and views to the Thorpe Marsh cooling towers and spoil heaps outside the LCA.

Recent Landscape Impacts

- Fly tipping in field entrances, lay-bys and on verges obstructs access and creates a degraded appearance.
- Some amalgamation of fields into larger units and associated drainage has resulted in the loss landscape elements such as hedges and trees, changed the scale of the landscape and opened up views.
Landscape Value and Quality

This is a strongly distinctive landscape which is relatively intact and in good condition. There is a high concentration of locally designated nature sites and a large proportion of the LCA is currently designated as an Area of Special Landscape Value. In view of this both the landscape quality and value are considered to be high.

The landscape strategy for F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is to Conserve.

Viewers

There are a few sensitive viewers living in the settlements and farmsteads along with the many public rights of way users including the recreational users Trans Pennine Trail who will have elevated views from the New Junction Canal embankment. Viewers travelling on the minor roads are likely to be more sensitive than normal due to their slower speed of travel. Less sensitive viewers include those on the A19 main road and travellers on the railways.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Housing Development

This is a distinctive historic rural area and housing development is not considered to be appropriate here. It would not fit with the scale of the existing settlements or the small size of many of the fields around the settlements. It would disrupt the simplicity and tranquillity of views and experiences in this rural area. Any associated changes to the network of narrow roads and lanes could cause a significant change in landscape character. Visual impacts are considered moderate despite the numbers of potentially sensitive viewers due to the combination of the flat landform and existing mature hedgerows with trees screening is likely to curtail many close and long distance views.

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:

- Build on a smaller scale to fit with the scale of the settlements adjacent to it.
- Development to fit in with and not disrupt the pattern of landscape elements found in the existing landscape.
- Locate away from historic areas and designated nature sites.
- Use locally appropriate materials such as red brick and pantiles and styles characteristic of the smaller settlements to conserve local built character
- Locate development to make use of existing screening including hedges, trees and embankments.
- Add further screening by replacing lost trees and hedgerows.
- Avoid altering the network of public rights of way and green lanes.
- Retain roadside and field boundary ditches and hedgerows.
- Avoid upgrading or adding to the minor road network.

The landscape capacity for housing in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.
Detailed Housing Surveys for Instoneville South-west and Askern South.

Askern and Instoneville are the largest settlements in the LCA and are not typical of the smaller historic villages. They sit on the western side of the LCA on the edge of the limestone plateau. Askern became a Spa town in the 19th century and Instoneville was a philanthropically planned settlement for mine workers. They are almost merged, with Instoneville lying to the west of the A19 and Askern to the east. They are divided by a restored spoil heap and a retail zone located between the A19 and railway. There is a group of local and national nature sites, including the pools and woods of Rushey Moor and Shirley Wood, which are located to the south of this retail area. Alongside this group are two scheduled monuments marked on the map as earthworks.

Instoneville South-western Housing Edge:

This residential area is arranged in a grid pattern. The straight south-western edge is well contained and screened by trees and hedges and is difficult to view from roads with mainly the grey and red roofs being visible. The northern end of this edge abuts Campsall Country Park just outside the LCA where there are some designated nature sites. At the eastern end of this edge is a recreational ground with floodlighting. Adjacent to the edge there are some small to medium sized fields and a small well-vegetated watercourse running parallel to the edge but separated by a field. The secondary road linking Instoneville to the small historic settlement of Sutton is very busy and there is a risk of the larger settlement merging with and engulfing Sutton.

The landscape has some characteristics of the LCA as a whole including the small to medium arable and hay fields. However, the views are of the sloping sides to the limestone plateau instead of the characteristic flat landscape found in most of the LCA. Intrusive elements include the fast and busy A19 road which reduce the sense of tranquillity or remoteness. The existing settlement has cultural value due to it being a philanthropically planned estate for mine workers. The nearby hamlet of Sutton is designated as a Conservation Area. Landscape value and is considered to be moderate and landscape quality high.

Impacts of the development on the landscape would be significant, encroaching onto small historic fields and possibly the watercourse. It would fit with the scale, and straight edges of the existing settlement but may disrupt the grid pattern. Visual impacts would be low due to existing screening and lack of accessibility.

It may also incur a loss of setting for the historic village and Conservation Area of Sutton. There may be some sensitive viewers including the recreational users of the adjacent Campsall Country Park and the residents of the existing settlement edge. There are no public rights of way are marked in this area and views from the road at present are limited.

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:

- Develop on a smaller scale to fit with the size of the fields in the adjacent landscape.
- Retain existing watercourses and hedgerows.
- Retain the remaining separation between Instoneville and the historic hamlet of Sutton and maintain the landscape setting for the historic hamlet of Sutton.
- Screen the development from the sensitive recreational users of Campsall Country Park using species characteristic of the area and in a scale and layout that fits with the existing woodland in the vicinity.

The landscape capacity for housing on the south-western edge of Instoneville is judged to be low to none.
Askern Housing Edge South

This staggered housing edge is well screened and hardly visible from the road. Partially visible are some semi detached houses which are half rendered red brick with grey roofs and also some bungalows with red roofs. To the south of this edge are small mown playing fields and rougher unmown areas separating the edge from larger arable fields with thick hedge boundaries with ditches. A farmstead, Church Farm is set one field away from the settlement edge.

The landscape is moderately representative of the LCA with flat medium to large arable fields and hay fields with hedges and thickly vegetated and hedged ditches. The pattern and network of tracks and footpaths is similar to the LCA as a whole. There are several nature sites and scheduled monuments close by. Landscape value is considered to be moderate and landscape quality high.

Landscape impacts of the development would be significant and would incur a loss of rural setting for Church Farm and bring the settlement edge towards a large area of nature sites. It may also result in the merging of Instonville and its adjacent retail park with Askern. Such a development would fit with the scale of the existing settlements but not the scale of the smaller fields on the housing edge. Potential sensitive viewers include residents on the edge of the existing settlement, at Church Farm and on the nearby public rights of way. However, visual impacts are considered to be moderate due to the existing screening provided by hedges in the 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:

- Develop on a smaller scale.
- Maintain the landscape setting for Church Farm.
- Retain existing watercourses and hedgerows.
- Avoid encroaching on nature sites or scheduled ancient monuments.
- Avoid merging of Askern and Instonville including retaining the remaining separation between the housing edge and Askern retail zone.
- Do not increase the potential for merging of Askern with Instonville.
- Ensure that housing edges are screened from sensitive recreational users.

The landscape capacity for housing on the southern edge of Askern is judged to be low to none.
Instoneville Northern Housing Edge

This residential area is arranged in a grid pattern. The straight northern edge is short and abuts Campsall Country Park to the west outside this LCA. The landscape adjacent to the housing edge consists of a restored spoil heap. This part of the edge is barely visible from the road, as it is screened from view by the landform and immature planting of the spoil heap.

The landscape character of this area is fairly indistinct with the restored spoil heap and north of that irregularly shaped arable fields. Views are dominated by a large water tower. This landscape is not characteristic of the wider LCA as it is already somewhat disturbed and is also right on the edge of the limestone plateau. The existing settlement has cultural value due to it being a philanthropically planned estate for mine workers. Landscape value and quality is considered to be moderate.

Impacts of development would be moderate as this area is already disturbed. However it may be important to conserve the cultural value of the existing settlement. Housing development would fit with the scale of the existing settlement and spoil heap. Visual impacts would be moderate due to the limited numbers of sensitive viewers using the adjacent Campsall Country Park and existing screening afforded by the spoil heap.

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:

- Do not build on the north side of the spoil heap or extend beyond the lane to the north of the spoil heap.
- Incorporate existing planting on the spoil heap to soften development both within and on the edges.
- Any development edge to follow and blend into landform.
- Retain the remaining separation between Instoneville and Askern.
- Screen development from sensitive recreational users of Campsall Country Park.

The landscape capacity for housing on the northern edge of Instoneville is judged to be moderate.
Askern Northern Housing Edge

This staggered housing edge is partially softened and screened by trees and hedgerows forming a well contained and clean cut edge with the countryside. Partially visible on the edge are some bungalows with grey roofs. Adjacent to it are large scale arable fields bordered by fragmented hedges with low flailed hawthorn hedges and occasional mature trees.

The landscape is moderately characteristic of the LCA with intact, flat large arable fields. The pattern and network of tracks and footpaths is similar to the LCA as a whole. Intrusive elements include views to the water tower, spoil heap, and some fly-tipping. Landscape value and quality are considered to be moderate.

Landscape impacts of housing development would be significant as such as development would encroach into an intact rural landscape. However it would fit with the scale and straight lines of the existing settlement edge and also the large fields. Such a development would cause a major change in views for a moderate number of sensitive viewers who may include the residents of Norton Common and a few farmsteads and users of the lanes and track-ways. There would also be less sensitive travellers on the A19.

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:

- Retain existing drains.
- Do not extend edge further along the north side of Moss Road.
- Do not develop beyond the railway to the west to maintain the separation between Askern and Instoneville.
- Screen any development from public rights of way users by replacing lost trees and hedgerows.

The landscape capacity for housing on the northern edge of Askern is judged to be moderate.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Strategic Employment

Large scale built development is not in keeping with the strongly historic and rural character of this LCA. Some of the existing network of minor roads and lanes may need to be upgraded which would incur a further loss of character. The large scale of the development would not fit with the scale of existing settlements and fields. It would fragment the intimate patterns of the fields and lanes. Visual impacts would be high in this flat landscape, disrupting views, skylines and creating a sense of urban enclosure.

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:

- Locate development near major roads so that these can be used for access.
- Locate where the landscape pattern is already disturbed.
- Use local tradition materials such as red brick.
- Locate where existing trees and hedgerows screen the development from the sensitive viewers.
- Build on a much smaller scale to fit with existing built development.
- Use natural colours to integrate into longer distance views and skylines.
- Use green roofs to integrate the development into the landscape and help to create a sustainable image for Doncaster Borough.
- Retain existing watercours and use a sustainable urban drainage scheme with locally characteristic wetland vegetation.

The landscape capacity for strategic employment in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Mineral Workings

Quarries are not an obvious feature of this landscape and would increase the diversity in this rural area. Changing the flat landform would significantly alter the character, but on restoration could create more water bodies which are an existing element of the LCA. Embankments to screen the extraction site would also fit with existing embankments to waterways and railways. Such a development would not fit with the scale of the small to medium sized fields, would disrupt the landscape pattern of fields, lanes and ditches. Visual impacts are considered moderate as there are moderate numbers of sensitive viewers but existing mature hedgerows and trees along the lanes and track ways could provide screening to both the site and moving traffic. Such development is likely to be more visible to sensitive viewers from slightly raised areas, such as the Trans Pennine Trail which runs along the embankments to the New Junction Canal or Campsall Country Park just to the west of the LCA.

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

- Locate away from intact undisturbed rural landscapes.
- Careful choice of location to use existing trees and hedges to reduce or eliminate some visual impacts.
- Plant more trees characteristic of the area to help reduce visual impacts of more sensitive viewers but only on a scale and pattern similar to existing hedgerows with trees and scattered woodlands.
- Restoration to wetland could enhance the landscape by increasing recreational value and introducing more habitats for wildlife.
- Retain existing pattern and network of lanes track-ways and public rights of way.
- Retain existing roadside ditches, woodland and hedgerows and trees.
- Do not site on or near designated nature or historic sites.

The landscape capacity for mineral workings in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Landraising

Landraising is not in keeping with the very flat landform although similar landform in the form of river, and rail embankments which are also a feature of the LCA do exist. However, the associated infrastructures, including large vehicles, security fencing and tall chimneys, would significantly alter the character in a very distinctive intact and historic rural landscape. Visual impacts are considered moderate due to the high visibility of such a high landform profile which in combination with the flat landform and existing tree and hedgerow screening would restrict and alter views for local sensitive viewers unless viewed from higher viewpoint such as the Trans Pennine Trail.

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:

- Locate away from intact, undisturbed landscapes.
- Screen security fencing with planting characteristic of local roadsides and hedgerows
- Locate next to major roads and avoid alteration to the road network which could change the landscape character.
- Lower height to fit with height of existing embankments or lower.
- Consider intervisibility between LCAs especially to higher land to the West.
- Plant more trees characteristic of the area to help reduce visual impacts of more sensitive viewers but only on a scale and pattern similar to existing scattered woodlands.
- Restoration in a similar manner to spoil heaps to incorporate into the character of the LCA. (Could enhance the landscape by increasing recreational value and introducing more habitats for wildlife).
- Retain existing lanes track-ways and public rights of way.
- Retain existing roadside ditches, woodland and hedgerows and trees.
- Do not site on or near designated or scheduled sites.

The landscape capacity for landraising in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands 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 many scattered farms with existing barns in the LCA mostly located on a winding and intricate network of narrow lanes many of which may not be robust enough for heavy traffic. Any changes to minor roads or lanes may result in impacts on landscape character and some impacts on scale, pattern and sense of movement in the landscape. Another consideration is the scale and the size of the farm, some are very small scale and traditional in construction, and these may not be physically or aesthetically suited to large scale composting facility. Landscape capacity is likely to be higher where farms are readily accessible from existing main roads; 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 this document, mitigation could be achieved by the following:

- Screen any roads with obviously increased levels of traffic.
- Screen yards to visual movement and some noise.
- Use existing main roads for access to reduce loss of character.
- Replace any hedges trees and ditches removed for road widening.
- Locate facilities on modern large scale farms.

The landscape capacity for compost facilities in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands 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 development would introduce new vertical elements and more movement into a simple and historic rural landscape. Old red brick windmills are an occasional historic feature and reminder past use of wind as a small scale source of energy in this LCA. The simplicity of their form would fit with the simplicity of the landscape and their large scale and colour may fit with the large skies, but not the small scale landscape pattern. Access roads may change the nature and character of the existing narrow lanes and track ways. Visual impacts would be high due to the size and number of turbines. The flat landscape could aid screening of the lower parts where tree and hedges already exist, but visibility further away would be greater, and is likely to affect many potentially sensitive viewers within the LCA and beyond in other LCAs and Boroughs.

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:

- Do not locate in or near intact rural areas.
- Avoid placing near settlements.
- Use of existing trees hedges and embankments to screen lower built elements.
- Smaller scale turbines to reduce visual impacts especially for viewers outside of the LCA.
- Avoid locating in nature sites to avoid disruption of wildlife and their habitats.
- Use existing roads for installation and management access without upgrading.
- Use as a potential green landmark next to railway, canal or A19.
- Consider and avoid visual impacts to the internationally designated wild areas of Thorne and Hatfield Moors to the east in LCA G2.

The landscape capacity for windpower in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.
Broad Landscape Capacity for Biomass

Willow biomass is not a traditional crop of this area, but is ecologically suited to a floodplain and would fit with existing trees and vegetation along many existing water courses. Its use would not affect long distance viewers but it may affect closer viewers by increasing enclosure on public rights of way and reducing the pattern of fields by hiding hedges. The introduction of incinerators and chimneys would not be appropriate in this undeveloped intact and historic rural landscape.

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

• Plant behind existing tall hedgerows to reduce loss of views.
• Plant away from public rights of way and lanes to reduce the effects of enclosure where views presently exist.
• Plant on a smaller scale to the present larger fields and replace some of the lost field patterns in combination with existing crops.
• Retain the water-filled ditches to retain existing character.

The landscape capacity for biomass in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be moderate.

Broad Landscape Capacity for Large scale Forestry

Large scale forestry would not be in keeping with the existing woodlands in this LCA which is fairly sparse consisting of occasional small deciduous woodland with some more frequent larger deciduous woodland in the south west. It would not fit in with the historic and small scale pattern which is characteristic of this LCA. It would increase enclosure, result in loss of views particularly along the lanes and public rights of way, although existing roadside trees and hedges already break up views. Such planting would also be more visible to sensitive viewers from slightly higher areas, such as, the Trans Pennine Trail along the embankment of the New Junction Canal and Campsall Countryside Park immediately to the west of the LCA.

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 nature sites and scheduled monuments.
• Planting a mix of species especially around the edges to blend with existing tree and hedge cover.
• Avoid enclosing existing lanes track ways and public rights of way.
• Plant on a much smaller scale and pattern to fit with the existing woodland and small scale landscape pattern to reduce loss of landscape character.

The landscape capacity for large scale forestry in F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is judged to be low to none.