

The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order

Land at, and in the vicinity of, Drax Power Station, near Selby, North Yorkshire

Environmental Statement

Appendix 10.5 – Landscape Character



The Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 – Regulation 5(2)(a)

Drax Power Limited

Drax Repower Project

Applicant: DRAX POWER LIMITED
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1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

1.1 Landscape Character

Table 10.5.1 - Landscape Character (National, Regional and Local)

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
National Character Areas (NCA)				
Humberhead Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A low-lying, predominantly flat landscape, with large, regular and geometric arable fields without hedges but divided by ditches and dykes, many of which form important habitats and key corridors for species movement. • Much of the land is at or below mean high-water mark and maintained by drainage, with fertile soils giving rise to one of the most productive areas for root crops and cereals. • Variations in underlying deposits create differences within the overall flat farmed landscape, including lowland raised mires and lowland heathland, many of which are of international ecological and historical importance. • Sandy deposits give rise to lowland heath, which in places supports remnant birch and oak woodlands, with some conifer plantations. • Heavier soils around Fishlake and Sykehouse result in a smaller scale pastoral landscape, with small, thickly hedged fields, ditches and ponds, and a network of small lanes. • Important historic landscapes include the Isle of 	Low	Low	Low: The development is unlikely to change the overall NCA as it is a very large area. The view of the power station is also considered to be part of the key characteristics of the NCA

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	<p><i>Axholme, with evidence of mediaeval open fields, the warps (land enriched by regular silting) near Goole and cables (long thin strip fields) around Thorne.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Widespread evidence of drainage history, in particular the extensive drainage from the 17th century, revealed through canalised rivers, dykes, old river courses, canals, bridges and pumping stations.</i> • <i>Views to distant horizons are often long and unbroken, with big expansive skies, and vertical elements like water towers, power stations and wind turbines are very prominent.</i> • <i>Floodplains, washlands and traditionally grazed alluvial flood meadows (or ings) associated with the major rivers and canals that cross the Levels give rise to important wetland habitats, supporting large numbers of wetland birds and wildfowl, especially over winter.</i> • <i>The waterlogged soils hold internationally important archaeological and palaeo-archaeological deposits.</i> • <i>Despite settlements, motorways and main roads, there is still a sense of remoteness to be experienced on the Levels, in particular on Thorne and Hatfield Moors and along the Lower Derwent Valley.</i> 			

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safeguard, manage and expand the wetland habitats, including the internationally important lowland raised bogs, the floodplain grazing marsh, reedbeds, wet pastures and watercourses, to protect and enhance biodiversity, contribute to landscape character, address climate change and reduce flood risks.</i> • <i>Manage the agricultural landscape to retain its distinctive character and its productivity, while improving its contribution to biodiversity, the protection of vulnerable soils and palaeo-environmental evidence, and the water resource.</i> • <i>Manage the landscape features such as semi-natural habitats and historic field patterns that reveal local variations in landscape character, often arising from underlying soils and history of drainage, to enhance people’s understanding and enjoyment of the landscape.</i> • <i>Protect the open and expansive character of the landscape, its cultural features and sense of remoteness, by ensuring that new development is sensitively located, accommodates green infrastructure, retains long views and makes a positive contribution to biodiversity.</i> • <i>Additional Opportunity: Plan for the improved enjoyment and understanding of the landscape and its subtle variations, its inspirational qualities, its biodiversity, geodiversity and historic interest, its role in producing food and mitigating climate change.</i> 			
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation				
24 River Floodplain (includes the Site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A series of flat, low lying, relatively narrow river corridors which flow through the different types of Vale Farmland Landscape Character Types within the Study Area;</i> • <i>The ‘Ings’ - flood meadows maintained by traditional hay making activities;</i> • <i>Landscape pattern comprises a mixture of flood meadows, neutral grasslands and floodplain mires;</i> • <i>Halls and manor houses are key landscape features;</i> • <i>River engineering features such as Levees assert a human influence over the landscape;</i> 	Low	Medium Due to the presence of large scale industrial and transport features this LCT does have some capacity to absorb the	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Power stations, pylons and former collieries are present in parts of this Landscape Character Type;</i> • <i>The A1 (M) introduces a source of noise and visual intrusion in several places.</i> 		proposed scheme	
Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure effective catchment management to sustain water quality;</i> • <i>Encourage the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements the existing woodland pattern;</i> • <i>Conserve the natural form of the rivers by avoiding engineered solutions to water management, such as canalisation, bank hardening and river straightening;</i> • <i>Conserve natural river floodplain features, such as meanders, oxbows, old river channels, ponds and islands;</i> • <i>Conserve valuable floodplain habitats (such as Ings) by encouraging low intensity grazing in the remaining semi-natural habitats (which include mire, fen, flushes, marshy grassland and wetlands)</i> • <i>Restore and enhance wetland habitats;</i> • <i>Target agri-environment scheme support for management of broadleaved woodland, wetland pasture and meadow habitats;</i> • <i>Encourage conservation of existing key habitats and landscape features and expand the resource through habitat restoration and re-creation guided by ecological networks</i> • <i>Encourage use of local materials and vernacular styles in developments to strengthen local character, including limestone and gritstone;</i> • <i>Conserve and enhance the distinct pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries on order to maintain landscape structure;</i> • <i>Conserve historic and archaeological sites in the Valley Floodplains and consider the setting of historic and archaeological sites when planning and implementing all landscape management action;</i> • <i>Ensure that highway improvement schemes respect and reflect local character and encourage the use of traditional signage where possible;</i> • <i>Ensure the protection and setting of halls, manor houses and other landscape features.</i> • <i>Conserve open views along and across the river floodplains towards adjacent Landscape Character Types;</i> 			

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect and enhance public enjoyment of the landscape, including appreciation of the sense of escapism it provides, through identifying opportunities to create new circular routes or links to existing public rights of way.</i> 			
1 Urban Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contrasts in settlement size and pattern, encompassing a mixture of cities and principal towns;</i> • <i>Settlements often contain a historic core which encompasses a pattern of historic buildings and streetscapes, displaying a vernacular tradition of local building materials;</i> • <i>The historic core is often surrounded by Victorian residential expansion and more modern suburban housing areas;</i> • <i>Urban areas also contain a mixture of industrial and commercial areas, alongside town and city centres – containing wide range of shops;</i> • <i>Urban areas usually contain a patchwork of green spaces/corridors amongst the urban fabric, including parks, encapsulated countryside and river corridors;</i> • <i>Different ages of settlement are reflected by contrasting street patterns, densities and architectural styles, although there is often homogeneity within different areas of townscape (for example, Victorian suburbs and post 1960's suburbs);</i> • <i>The surrounding landscape provides a setting for the edges of each urban area, which is a</i> 	High to Negligible	High to Negligible.	High to Negligible: The overall townscape sensitivity of different areas within settlements would vary in accordance with the number of significant townscape qualities, including historic buildings and settlement pattern, distinctive architectural styles, leafy streetscapes, notable landmark buildings and street pattern

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	<i>determining factor in their distinctiveness and sense of place.</i>			
Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect the open character of greenspaces within urban areas as important elements of the overall townscape;</i> • <i>Maintain and, where possible, enhance access and visual linkages between urban areas, greenspaces and adjacent areas of landscape setting;</i> • <i>Consider additional/new planting within streetscapes to form a green setting to development;</i> • <i>Ensure that new large-scale development include a strong landscape framework;</i> • <i>Protect and manage existing ecological habitats within the urban form, including parks, nature reserves, woodland and other incidental open spaces.</i> • <i>Preserve high quality historic townscape elements that contribute to townscape character and are key landmarks;</i> • <i>Ensure that any new development responds to the existing scale and grain of the urban form, supporting the existing townscape elements rather than drawing attention away from them;</i> • <i>Carefully consider the local character of streetscapes and existing historic buildings, incorporating forms, materials and details which are appropriate to existing vernacular townscape character;</i> • <i>Preserve and incorporate industrial heritage elements within development and regeneration proposals.</i> 			
23 Levels Farmland (includes the Site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Predominantly flat, low-lying landscape which encompasses a patchwork of arable fields;</i> • <i>Large scale, open and rectilinear field pattern;</i> • <i>Dykes or ditches often form field boundaries, with an general absence of hedgerows;</i> • <i>Industrial scale farm buildings, large embankments and drains, and major energy and transport infrastructure contribute human elements;</i> • <i>Historical features, such as windmills, recording past attempts to drain the landscape are key</i> 	Medium	Medium Due to the presence of large scale industrial and transport features and the low lying	Medium Resulting from the presence of a patchwork of historic drainage features (ditches and dykes), moated sites and

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	<i>features.</i>		relatively flat landscape this LCT does have some capacity to absorb the proposed scheme.	grange sites.
Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Use existing hedgerows and biomass planting to integrate built development in the landscape;</i> • <i>Maintain high water tables to prevent the drying out of soils and damage to archaeological evidence;</i> • <i>Encourage the re-creation of a wider range of habitats in arable areas, including the introduction of permanent grassland field margins, grass buffers along water courses, and linking them where possible to create a grassland habitat network;</i> • <i>Introduce a wide range of arable options to enhance habitats for birds and insects;</i> • <i>Incorporate miscanthus and short rotation coppice into the landscape, with particular consideration to landscape character, avoiding peatland sites and areas of historic field patterns;</i> • <i>Manage watercourses to encourage emergent vegetation, including rare species and to improve habitats for water voles;</i> • <i>Extend natural washlands to increase areas of wetland habitats and assist in flood risk management.</i> • <i>Plan and site development carefully to maintain the predominantly open character;</i> • <i>Conserve drainage ditches and dykes which enable the landscape to be used for agriculture;</i> • <i>Conserve the scattered settlement pattern and enhance the local vernacular through restoration of traditional farmsteads, farm buildings and associated features;</i> • <i>Minimise disturbance and damage to archaeological sites resulting from cultivation and drainage;</i> • <i>Maintain high water tables to prevent the drying out of soils and damage to archaeological evidence.</i> • <i>Protect the predominantly open character of this low-lying landscape by maintaining long and unbroken views to distant horizons;</i> • <i>Protect and enhance public enjoyment of the landscape, including appreciation of the sense of escapism it provides through identifying opportunities to create new circular routes or links to existing public rights of</i> 			

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	<p>way;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Humberhead Peatland NNR as a flagship site for access and public enjoyment. 			
<p>28 Vale Farmland with Plantation Woodland and Heathland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A patchwork of low lying, predominantly arable fields, often delineated by a network of mature hedgerows and interspersed with patches of regular shaped mixed and coniferous plantation woodlands; Large heathlands are key features on sandy soils; Distant visual containment is provided by higher Landscape Character Types to the east and west; Strong sense of openness throughout much of this Landscape Character Type; Scattered settlement pattern of towns, villages and farmsteads within the landscape around the main historic City of York (which forms part of the Urban Landscapes Primary Landscape Unit); A network of trunk roads linking the larger settlements and towns. 	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium:</p> <p>In places, historic landscape patterns are compromised by modern developments and infrastructure and hedgerows are gappy.</p> <p>There are, however, numerous historic landscape features present, including parkland landscapes, historic villages and prehistoric earthworks.</p>
<p>Management Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage, restore and thicken hedgerows for landscape structure and biodiversity; Replace and plant new hedgerow trees; 			

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Retain and bring back into active management existing copses, shelterbelts and small woodlands to improve carbon storage levels and aid water infiltration;</i> • <i>Plan for the significant extension and enhancement of riparian and wetland habitats assisting the adaptation of biodiversity to climate change and aid flood management;</i> • <i>Seek opportunities for wetland creation and restoration.</i> • <i>Ensure effective catchment management to sustain water quality;</i> • <i>Encourage conservation of existing key habitats and landscape features and expand the resource through habitat restoration and re-creation guided by ecological networks;</i> • <i>Seek opportunities to revert arable farmland to permanent pasture, particularly in floodplains or areas of archaeological interest;</i> • <i>Introduce arable conservation headlands, pollen and nectar mixes, to encourage birds, invertebrates and rare arable plants;</i> • <i>Incorporate miscanthus and short rotation coppice into the landscape – keeping plantations relatively small, in scale with local woodland cover (and avoid planting on pasture or obscuring water courses or historic features);</i> • <i>Restore, extend and link existing fragmented areas of broadleaf woodland and actively manage these;</i> • <i>Protect, enhance and link existing areas of lowland heathland to increase habitat linkages.</i> • <i>Protect the scattered settlement pattern of towns, villages and farmsteads and avoid settlement on the floodplain;</i> • <i>Conserve and enhance local vernacular (mottled brick and pantile) through restoration of traditional farmsteads, farm buildings and associated features;</i> • <i>Minimise disturbance and damage to archaeological sites resulting from cultivation;</i> • <i>Strengthen historic field systems and patterns through hedgerow planting and management;</i> • <i>Protect and manage parklands, retaining veteran trees and reintroducing wood pasture</i> • <i>Ensure that highway improvement schemes respect and reflect local character and encourage the use of traditional signage where possible;</i> • <i>Protect the setting of historic buildings such as Rufforth, Beningborough and Bilton Halls;</i> • <i>Seek opportunities for educational access to historic farm buildings and to interpret the farmed environment.</i> 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conserve open views along and across the river floodplains towards adjacent Landscape Character Types;</i> • <i>Protect and enhance public enjoyment of the landscape, including appreciation of the sense of escapism it provides, through identifying opportunities to create new circular routes or links to existing public rights of way.</i> 			
Selby District Council Landscape Character Assessment				
The Wharfe-Ouse River Corridor (includes the Site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Open heavily drained arable farmland with occasional mixed farmland</i> • <i>Important areas of wetland, diverse marshy grasslands and unimproved neutral grassland</i> • <i>High grassy flood embankments, which visually isolate the river from the surrounding landscape</i> • <i>Large number of strategically sited historic villages</i> • <i>Prime highway for trade and communication</i> • <i>Influence of the Drax power station on the river landscape</i> • <i>Striking changes in the appearance of the river due to tidal variations</i> 	Medium	Medium As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of major energy and transport infrastructure this LCA does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed.	Medium
The Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low but distinctive ridge is characterised by two wooded hills</i> • <i>Gently undulating arable farmland</i> • <i>Parkland that provides the setting to Gateforth Hall</i> 	Medium	High As a result of the gently undulating	High

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			landscape with parkland and the presence of Locally Important Landscape Areas this LCA offers limited capacity to absorb this type of development.	
The River Aire Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Principal highway for trade and communication.</i> • <i>Strong influence of large scale industrial and infrastructure development, in particular power stations and the motorway on the river landscape.</i> • <i>Varied character combining flat open farmland and semi-enclosed arable farmland, and small areas of flat wooded farmland.</i> • <i>Open heavily drained arable farmland on valley floor, with high grassy flood embankments, and areas of smaller scale mixed farmland.</i> • <i>Strategically sited historical villages.</i> • <i>Historic parkland and country mansions.</i> • <i>Important wetlands, diverse marshy grasslands and unimproved neutral grasslands.</i> 	Medium	Medium As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of major energy and transport infrastructure this LCA does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development	Medium

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The Camblesforth Lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flat, semi-enclosed arable farmland with frequent lines of hedgerow trees, and patches of semi-natural scrub.</i> • <i>Scattered small broadleaf and mixed woodland plantations and shelterbelts on lighter arable farmland.</i> • <i>Ponds and scrub woodland on the edge of Selby.</i> • <i>Sparse pattern of settlement.</i> • <i>Influence of the visually prominent Drax power station on the local landscape.</i> 	Medium	<p>proposed.</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of major energy infrastructure this LCA offers some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed.</p>	Medium
Southern Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Varied character, predominantly flat semi-enclosed arable farmland, with an area of estate-managed wooded farmland, and an area of larger scale more open farmland.</i> • <i>Distinctive area of more traditional mixed farmland to the south of the Baine Moor, with pastures and orchards.</i> • <i>Small wetlands, some of which are medieval moats.</i> • <i>Network of minor roads and lanes linking scattered properties and settlements.</i> 	Medium	<p>Medium</p> <p>As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of the A19 corridor and the influence of major energy</p>	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Traditional farmhouses typically constructed in red brick.</i> • <i>Distinctive landform of the ash disposal site at Gale Common.</i> • <i>Generally quiet and tranquil character largely unaffected by urban and industrial development.</i> 		<p>infrastructure this LCA does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed.</p>	
The West Selby Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Extensive area of flat open low-lying farmland with arable crops intensively cultivated in large or very large fields with few trees or hedgerows.</i> • <i>Belt of semi-enclosed or lightly wooded landscape with frequent hedgerow trees and small woodlands.</i> • <i>Very sparse settlement, with only a few isolated properties.</i> • <i>Bishop's Wood, the largest woodland in Selby</i> • <i>Rural fringe character of farmland adjacent to Selby</i> • <i>Church Fenton airfield, still in use as a training centre by the RAF</i> 	Medium	<p>High</p> <p>As a result of the low lying, extensive landscape with a small amount of industrial development this LCA offers very limited capacity to absorb this type of development.</p>	Medium
The Skipwith Lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flat wooded arable farmland, visually enclosed and characteristically estate-managed.</i> • <i>Extensive area of semi-natural lowland heath of high conservation value.</i> • <i>Many scattered farmsteads and cottages have a</i> 	Medium	<p>High</p> <p>As a result of the low lying, extensive</p>	Medium

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	<p><i>unity of style, reflecting estate ownership.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unimproved pastoral scenery of the narrow river Derwent floodplain which is of high conservation value.</i> • <i>The Riccall mine developed on the former Riccall airfield.</i> • <i>Wide grassy verges.</i> 		<p>landscape with a small amount of industrial development this LCA offers very limited capacity to absorb this type of development.</p>	
<p>East Selby Farmland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Predominantly flat arable farmland, medium in scale and with frequent lines of hedgerow trees and strong pattern of enclosure.</i> • <i>Area of more traditional mixed farmland with small-medium scale pattern of fields, thick rich hedgerows and numerous hedgerow of trees.</i> • <i>Unimproved pastoral scenery of the narrow river Derwent floodplain which is of high conservation value.</i> • <i>Dispersed pattern of farmsteads and small nucleated villages.</i> 	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of major energy infrastructure this LCA offers some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment				
Landscape Character Type 4: River corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low lying flat floodplain of the river valleys on the western edge of the East Riding.</i> • <i>Combination of grassland pasture and meadow that are subject to seasonal flooding.</i> • <i>Man-made embankments formed as a result of dredging in the twentieth century.</i> • <i>Riparian woodland and trees in the corridor.</i> • <i>Areas of species rich alluvial flood meadow habitat.</i> • <i>Organic arrangement of medium sized fields combined with more regular boundaries of enclosed fields.</i> • <i>Cultural and historic associations include churches and river crossing points.</i> • <i>Several moated sites within the corridor.</i> • <i>Windmills are a particular feature on the Ouse east of Goole.</i> • <i>Intimate isolated corridor landscape that is a marked contrast from surrounding intensively farmed land.</i> • <i>Villages, hamlets and farmsteads line the river corridor just above the floodplain.</i> 	<p>Medium</p> <p>The landscape in these areas is sensitive to development that would result in a loss of the remoteness that can be experienced in parts of the corridor. This is due to the lack of roads adjacent to the river.</p> <p>Built development of any kind will impact upon the rural character and tranquillity of the river corridors which</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>As a result of the semi enclosed nature and presence of a number of detractors the LCA does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

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		is assessed to be highly sensitive to change.		
Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect and enhance distinctiveness of river corridors in the Humberhead Levels through appropriate management and development.</i> • <i>Promote continued traditional management practices and reintroduction of those practices to arable fields. The returning of selected arable fields to meadow would potentially widen the river corridor landscape character type and strengthen its contribution to the overall character of the East Riding.</i> • <i>Maintain and plant riverside vegetation to promote diversity and help manage bank erosion. Woodland and hedgerow planting will help to reinforce the corridor character type and should reflect species distribution found in the river corridor.</i> • <i>New flood defence development should seek to respect the character of the riparian landscape and avoid hard engineered structures. Flood storage areas along the river corridors offer the opportunity to widen the influence of the river on landscape character and further enhance landscape diversity in the area.</i> • <i>Avoid built structures that would impact upon remoteness. Vertical structure would potentially detract from the flat character and small scale intimate nature of the river corridors and detract from their distinctive characteristic features.</i> • <i>Liaison with neighbouring authorities will be key to protecting and enhancing the character of the river corridors. Liaison with the Environment Agency and English</i> • <i>Nature will also be important when implementing the landscape strategy for the river corridors.</i> 			
Landscape Character Type 5 Open Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low lying flat landscape below 10m AOD.</i> • <i>Relatively featureless intensively farmed arable landscape.</i> • <i>Large areas are in the riparian flood plain of the River Derwent.</i> • <i>Large scale fields with fragmented hedgerow</i> 	<p>Medium</p> <p>This is an ordinary landscape that contains several</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Cumulative: The landscape of this area is sparsely populated in</p>

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	<p><i>boundaries. Boundaries lost in places.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Open character with extensive views across the flat landscape.</i> • <i>Few woodland blocks and relatively little tree cover contributing to extensive views that include Drax Power Station to the southwest.</i> • <i>Howden in the largest settlement.</i> • <i>Howden Minster is an important landmark.</i> • <i>Small villages and Farmsteads are scattered throughout but overall settlement density is low. Many of these villages have Saxon origins.</i> 	<p>detractors including pylons and large scale agricultural buildings.</p>	<p>presence of major energy infrastructure this LCA offers some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed.</p>	<p>places and the flatness of the landscape would limit distant views of vertical elements.</p>
<p>Management Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conserve views of landmarks such as Howden Minster and Wressle Castle and enhance landscape character by restoring key characteristics such as hedgerows and woodland blocks. The reintroduction grassland in wetter areas would help to increase diversity and would benefit the River Corridor landscape where sites are adjacent to the river bank.</i> • <i>Where vertical structures are proposed e.g. wind farms, mitigation measures need to consider planting at distance from the turbines and closer to visual receptors. This would be a more effective screening method. Layout should respect landscape pattern and scale.</i> • <i>Where individual residential development is permitted the proposal should seek to minimise the potential cumulative impacts of development and ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are used. For example woodland planting to integrate the development, hedge planting to mark domestic boundaries and the use of materials and design to complement vernacular architecture.</i> • <i>Large scale commercial development outside existing development limits should be avoided as it would encroach on the character of the countryside.</i> • <i>Promote the planting of native woodland particularly in areas where existing development is detracting from landscape character, for example at Brighton Airfield. This would help to integrate the development with the surrounding landscape and enhance landscape pattern and biodiversity. Ash, field maple and oak are common woodland species. Carr woodland occupies wetter ground and includes grey willow, silver Birch</i> 			

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
Landscape Character Type 7 – Foulness Open Farmland	<p><i>and alder.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low lying flat landscape with open views stretching as far as the Wolds in the east.</i> • <i>Very few trees and woodland.</i> • <i>Sparse settlement consisting mainly of scattered farmsteads</i> • <i>Few roads or public rights of way.</i> • <i>Large and very large rectilinear fields surrounded by fragmented hedgerows.</i> • <i>Regular rectilinear drainage ditches feeding into the more sinuous River Foulness.</i> • <i>Important location of Iron Age settlement and iron working.</i> • <i>Roman and medieval archaeology is also present.</i> 	<p>Medium</p> <p>The area is very open and new built structures would impact on landscape character by introducing uncharacteristic features characteristic to this landscape.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Whilst the landscape is assessed to be of ordinary quality and therefore is less likely to be sensitive to detrimental change as a result of certain types of development it has a low capacity to access other features which would urbanise this rural landscape.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Cumulative impacts would need to be considered and detailed assessment of landscape and visual impacts is needed to determine the sensitivity of the landscape to individual proposals. It should be noted that the scale windfarms refers to the size (i.e. height) of turbines as well as the number. A small number of large turbines may be a large scale</p>

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To enhance landscape character in the character type by reinstating characteristics and key features.</i> • <i>Promote the replanting of hedgerow field boundaries with hedgerow trees where they have been lost and the gapping up of existing fragmented hedgerows.</i> • <i>Promote woodland planting particularly around new farm buildings and also to link in with the existing sparse woodland network. Woodland species in this area include Oak, Ash and Field Maple. In wetter areas and along water course Alder and goat willow are commonly found. Birch and cherry are also present.</i> • <i>Hedgerows are predominantly hawthorn, with blackthorn, dog rose, elder and hazel.</i> • <i>Encourage management of fields adjacent to the River Foulness to revert their margins adjacent to the river to semi natural wetland habitats. This will broaden the influence of the river in the character type, increase diversity while maintaining openness.</i> • <i>Ensure that development proposals for the area consider landscape character and respect the exiting openness and remoteness of the area.</i> 			development.
Landscape Character Type 8 M62 Corridor Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low lying flat agricultural landscape.</i> • <i>Open views particularly from the motorway which is slightly raised above the surrounding area.</i> • <i>Communication infrastructure is a prominent feature i.e. motorway, roads and canal.</i> • <i>Settlement pattern is linear along communications corridors.</i> • <i>Linear tree and woodland cover associated with roads and railway lines.</i> • <i>Hedgerows field boundaries in varying condition.</i> • <i>Varied field size and field pattern along the corridor.</i> • <i>Varying scales of commercial development is present along the corridor.</i> 	<p>Medium</p> <p>This is a fragmented landscape that retains elements of its rural character in many places. It is ordinary in quality with areas of poor quality where development</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>The fragmented character of the corridor and the diversity of activities going on in it means that the landscape is less sensitive to change as a result of wind</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Cumulative: High</p> <p>Additional development that will result in the fragmentation of characteristics and features e.g. loss of hedgerows and</p>

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The port of Goole is a major settlement in the East Riding located in this corridor.</i> • <i>Horticultural development is a feature of the corridor north east of Goole.</i> • <i>Railway lines and pylons are present.</i> • <i>Views of land mark structures e.g. Howden Minster and Boothferry Bridge and Goole Docks.</i> 	<p>does not fit with character</p>	<p>farms.</p>	<p>trees, change in settlement pattern and uncharacteristic use of materials and scale would adversely affect character further. The potential cumulative impact of development within this corridor around Goole and Howden is great.</p> <p>Development that would result in increased coalescence of the appearance of industrial development in the landscape is high.</p>
<p>Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhance landscape character by encouraging the reinstatement of features lost for example hedgerows and trees.</i> 			

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tree, woodland and hedgerow planting can be used to integrate new and old development with the landscape and well as screen it. Large scale development cannot be screened effectively from close quarters. Opportunities for planting at greater distance from development and closed to receptors should be considered as this could help to restrict views overall.</i> • <i>Field pattern is an important characteristic that has been affected by the linear constructions through the landscape as well as field amalgamation to accommodate modern farming practices. Ensure that fields are not enlarged further and where appropriate encourage the reintroduction of hedgerow boundaries to reinforce field pattern. Hawthorn is the dominant hedgerow species in this area but blackthorn and field maple are also appropriate.</i> • <i>New development should incorporate a scheme which demonstrates how the development will fit into the landscape. Tree and hedge planting, layout, design and materials will need to be considered.</i> • <i>Wind farm proposals should respect the scale and pattern of development in the landscape. Turbines seen in context with existing tall structures may be easier to incorporate without detrimental impact to character. However, turbines are moving structures and this should be taken into account. Detailed assessment will be required for individual proposals to determine the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape to specific proposals.</i> 			
Landscape Character Type 9 Drained, Open Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low lying flat intensively farmed arable landscape.</i> • <i>Sparse settlement concentrated along the river corridor.</i> • <i>Scattered farmsteads and villages.</i> • <i>Windmill towers are visible in several villages on the south bank of the River Ouse.</i> • <i>Open large scale landscape with very few trees and woodland.</i> • <i>Generally large fields south of the river.</i> • <i>Combination of fragmented hedgerow and ditch field boundaries.</i> • <i>Long linear field pattern unique to Goole Fields</i> 	<p>Medium</p> <p>A good quality landscape, often remote character though does not have any landscape designations and its scale is large apart from around villages</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Limited opportunities for accommodating the proposed scheme due to the open nature of the landscape and presence of numerous wind</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Cumulative impacts High</p> <p>The landscape in this area has a potentially high sensitivity to the cumulative impacts of wind farm and other</p>

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	<p><i>reflects past farming method.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Extensive views across the flat open landscape.</i> 	<p>where smaller scale field systems have survived and tree and hedge cover have remained good</p>	<p>farm developments</p>	<p>forms of industrial developments of a specific scale and mass due to its very open and remote characteristics.</p>
<p>Management Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Maintain the unique character of this open and remote landscape. Landscape pattern has historical significance regarding the drainage of land for agricultural use. The maintenance of this pattern would contribute to the retention of historic landscape character in the area.</i> <i>Field patterns make an important contribution to landscape character and have been amalgamated in places. Encourage existing field boundaries to be maintained and avoid the amalgamation of fields.</i> <i>Explore opportunities to reintroduce wetland habitat to the character type to improve biodiversity and visual diversity in this large scale arable landscape.</i> <i>New residential development should be located to respect the linear layout of villages and the scattered arrangement of farmsteads. It is important to consider location and materials where small scale development is being proposed as it will be visible in the open landscape and screen planting is not characteristic.</i> <i>New agricultural buildings should be located within existing farm complexes to limit potential impact of increasing scattered development in the countryside.</i> <i>Wind farm proposal need to consider landscape pattern and scale and the potential impact of associated infrastructure. While this area may have some capacity to accommodate a restricted amount of development without substantial adverse effects on landscape character in some locations the cumulative impacts of such developments are likely to be considerable in such an open landscape.</i> 			
<p>Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment</p>				
<p>G2 – Thorne and Hatfield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Large scale, open, flat and low-lying.</i> <i>Areas of dark peat exposed on Thorne and Hatfield</i> 	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
Peat Moorlands	<p><i>Moors where there has been former peat extraction along with regenerating heathland.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Empty and remote feeling landscape on the Moors.</i> • <i>Moors surrounded by area of scrubby woodland and a blocks of more mature deciduous trees which restrict views from the landscape beyond.</i> • <i>Limited access with no roads and few public footpaths onto the Moors.</i> • <i>Areas beyond the Moors are mainly arable farming with turf grown as a crop in some fields and occasional pasture.</i> • <i>Large geometric fields in a regular grid pattern bounded by straight ditches and occasional hedges and mature trees.</i> • <i>Scattered farmsteads surrounded by large sheds and shelterbelt trees.</i> • <i>Single built up area in the north west of the LCA at Thorne and Moorends.</i> • <i>Intrusive motorways, straight roads and a railway line on elevated embankments and a canal cut across the landscape beyond the Moors.</i> 	<p>This is a highly distinctive landscape which includes intact farmland with few manmade intrusions as well as the large lowland raised bog areas of Thorne and Hatfield Moors. Thorne and Hatfield Moors are internationally designated nature sites and Thorne Moors is currently designated as an Area of Special Landscape Value. LCA has a sense of remoteness and tranquillity</p>		

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
		<p>although the surrounding LCA is disturbed in the vicinity of major transport corridors. Overall this LCA is considered to be of high landscape value / quality.</p>		
<p>F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flat low lying landform.</i> • <i>Geology of silts and clays underlain by Sherwood sandstone.</i> • <i>Small scale arable and pasture fields including hay meadows.</i> • <i>Thick field boundary hedges with frequent mature hedgerow trees.</i> • <i>Some medium to large arable fields with fragmented hedges.</i> • <i>Network of water-filled drains.</i> • <i>Occasional small deciduous woodlands with larger and more frequent woodlands in the south west.</i> • <i>Compact historic settlements and many scattered farmsteads.</i> • <i>Historic network of lanes with sharp corners and roadside ditches.</i> • <i>Rail corridor cuts through the area with manned</i> 	<p>High</p> <p>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</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Limited detractors and development within the LCA.</p>	<p>High</p>

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	<p><i>and unmanned gated crossings.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>River Don and straight New Junction Canal with flood control embankments.</i> • <i>Occasional windmills and moated properties.</i> • <i>Network of green lanes and public rights of way.</i> 	<p>designated as an Area of Special Landscape Value. In view of this both the landscape quality and value are considered to be high.</p> <p>The landscape strategy for F2 – Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands is to Conserve.</p>		
Local Designations				
Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff	Locally Important Landscape Area	Medium	High Due to the enclosed and wooded nature of these landscapes there is the capacity for the resource to	High

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
			absorb some development	
River Derwent Corridor and Lower Derwent Valley	Important Landscape Area	High	High	High
Thorne, Crowe and Goole Moors	Important Landscape Area	High	High	High
Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmlands	Area of Special Landscape Value (as described above)	High	High	High
Thorne and Hatfield Peat Moorlands	Area of Special Landscape Value (as described above)	High	High	High
The Site and Immediate Surroundings				
Plantations, screen planting in the form of tree belts and groups of trees	Broadleaved woodland, tree belts and groups of trees and scrub were deliberately introduced as part of Weddle's original design and most form part of the original mitigation measures to integrate the Existing Drax Power Station into its surroundings. Their size and design is reflective of the scale of the power station.	High to Medium	High to Medium The woodland plantations particularly along the northern, north western and	Medium contribution to local landscape character

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
			<p>eastern boundary of the existing power station serve an important function in screening the power station.</p> <p>Trees break up the overall mass of the development particularly at a low level and within localised immediate views from New Road and roads to the east of the Site.</p> <p>Trees within the Site which have naturally regenerated are considered to be of medium susceptibility to</p>	

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
			change.	
Hedgerows	Hedgerows were deliberately introduced as part of Weddle’s original design and most form part of the original mitigation measures to integrate the Existing Drax Power Station into its surroundings, reducing visual clutter and achieving a “neat and tidy” edge to the Existing Drax Power Station Site.	Low to Medium	Low to Medium Hedgerows range in condition and quality from species rich intact to species poor and defunct. Hedgerows however serve an important screening function dividing large fields and often running alongside dry ditches	Medium contribution to local landscape character
Grassland	Some of the grassland areas contribute to a transition between the industrial landscape and surrounding countryside, form the setting of the cooling towers, add to the sense of scale, and given its uniform appearance and high maintenance regime reduces “visual clutter”, an aspiration in Weddle’s original design and presents a “neat and tidy” edge to the	Low to Medium	Low / Medium Mixed quality and condition grassland ranging from amenity, improved to	Medium contribution to local landscape character

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
	Existing Drax Power Station Site.		semi improved. Grassland can either be reinstated or resown within a relatively short timescale.	
Ornamental planting along New Road	Ornamental planting (a combination of trees, shrubs and hedgerows) was deliberately introduced as part of Weddle’s original design and most seek to reduce “visual clutter”, an aspiration in Weddle’s original design and present a “neat and tidy” edge to the Existing Drax Power Station Site.	Medium	Medium Varied timescales to achieve maturity and planting is mixed in terms of condition and quality.	Medium contribution to local landscape character
Topography	Levels vary throughout the site including existing sludge lagoons and coal storage areas and are part of its industrial character	Low	Low to Medium	Low contribution to local landscape character
Waterbodies / ditches	Linear watercourses in the form of shallow ditches with and without standing water run around the cooling towers, North Station Wood, within Development Parcel A and along the eastern side of New Road and are assumed to be flood attenuation measures.	Low	Low	Low contribution to local landscape character

The Gas Pipeline

Landscape Resource	Key Characteristics / Features	Landscape Value	Landscape (Susceptibility to Change)	Sensitivity to change
Vegetation including hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Native deciduous trees occasional edging ditches and scattered trees along field boundaries of varying condition and quality	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	Medium contribution to local landscape character
Hedgerows	Hedgerows affected by the gas pipeline are species poor and in mixed condition	Low	Low	Low
Arable farmland	Arable farmland of a low landscape function	Low	Low	Low

