

Countryside Conservation and Enhancement

12.17 The landscape is an intrinsic part of the structure of North Lincolnshire and a major influence on development patterns. It is also a dynamic commodity which has been, and will continue to be, subject to change and it is the purpose of the Local Plan to control future changes to maintain and enhance the value of this important asset. An assessment of the landscape character of North Lincolnshire and the preparation of Guidelines and a Countryside Design Summary has been undertaken by landscape consultants.

LC7 - Landscape Protection

Where development is permitted within rural settlements or within the open countryside, special attention will be given to the protection of the scenic quality and distinctive local character of the landscape. Development which does not respect the character of the local landscape will not be permitted.

12.18 *Local landscape character areas and local landscape types have been defined for the whole of North Lincolnshire. All proposals for development will have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the district's landscape and its features, and will seek to maintain local variations in the landscape. Wherever possible, woodlands, grasslands, heathlands and other habitats of landscape importance together with valuable existing landscape features, such as hedgerows, trees, copses, ponds, watercourses, dykes, historical sites, estate features, enclosure landscapes, and other built heritage features will be protected and enhanced.*

12.19 *All proposals for development will have regard to the landscape assessment*

and guidelines and the Countryside Design Summary, which are to be used as supplementary planning guidance.

Areas of High Landscape Value

12.20 A review of Areas of High Landscape Value has been undertaken following the recent appraisal of the district's landscape character and in the light of guidance set out by the Countryside Commission in CCP 423 Landscape Assessment Guidance. In the light of this review it is proposed that a number of Areas of High Landscape Value should be retained. The Lincoln Edge Cliff, The Lincoln Edge Woodland and Heathland to the east of Scunthorpe and the Wold Villages Scarp Slope are already identified as being of special value. There are additional areas which should be designated for their special characteristics.

LC8 - Areas of High Landscape Value

The following Areas of High Landscape Value will be retained:

- 1) Lincoln Edge Cliff, between Whitton and Flixborough**
- 2) Lincoln Edge Woodland and Heathland areas, east of Scunthorpe and extending south to Kirton in Lindsey**
- 3) Wold Villages Scarp Slope**