LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT FOR
PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background
In February 2006 Peterborough City Council commissioned The Landscape Partnership to undertake the preparation of a ‘local authority scale’ landscape character assessment in accordance with the most current version of national guidance. The characterisation work has derived a classification of the landscape types and character areas within the authority for the purposes of:

- Identifying, describing and mapping the different landscape character areas in Peterborough
- Providing guidance on the management of the landscape character areas
- Informing Peterborough’s Local Development Documents
- Ensuring that decisions about the location of new development take landscape character into account in line with national and regional guidance
- Assessing the landscape in terms of its sensitivity to change and its ability to accept development

• Figure 01
The Character of England
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.2 CONTEXT

The process of landscape characterisation and assessment has been promoted at a national scale in England by the work of the Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency). In tandem with English Nature, parallel approaches were formulated and tested by the Countryside Agency during 1995-97 to derive, on the one hand, a series of Natural Area profiles for the whole of England and, on the other, Countryside Character profiles. While the Natural Area profiles highlighted the distinctive ecology of rural areas, the Countryside Character profiles analysed landscape character in fairly broad-brush terms via the assessment of physical influences, historic and cultural influences, buildings and settlement, land cover and changes in the landscape.

Through this process 159 Character Areas were formulated and published, as ‘The Character of England: landscape, wildlife and natural features’ (see Figure 1). The detailed descriptions for the areas are included within eight separate volumes with ‘Volume 6: East of England’ being the relevant volume for Peterborough.

This national character map defines Peterborough City Council authority as lying within the five following Character Areas (See Fig 2 and Drawing 01):

- Area 45 The Fens
- Area 75 Kesteven Uplands
- Area 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands
- Area 89 Northamptonshire Vales
- Area 92 Rockingham Forest

*Figure 02
The Character of England
© Countryside Commission/English Nature
Current guidance on carrying out character work is provided in, ‘Landscape Character Assessment - Guidance for England and Scotland’ (2002). The approach is currently enshrined as a major planning tool in, ‘PPS7’ (2004). PPS 7 sets out some important overarching principles for raising the quality of life and the environment in rural areas, with the ‘continued protection of open countryside for the benefit of all.’ It sets out that sustainable patterns of development should focus development in or next to existing settlements, while also maximising the benefits of the urban fringe landscapes with leisure opportunities for the local population. In particular two of the Key Principles in PPS7 state:

iv) ‘New building in the open countryside away from settlements or outside areas allocated for development in development plans, should be strictly controlled; the Governments overall aim is to protect the countryside for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and so it may be enjoyed by all. (our emphasis)

vi) All development in rural areas should be well designed and inclusive, in keeping and scale with its location, and sensitive to the character of the countryside and the local distinctiveness. (our emphasis)’

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan (adopted in 2003) embraced the concept of landscape character assessment through Policy P7/4 and paragraphs 7.13- 7.14. The Structure Plan also refers to the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines, which are adopted as supplementary planning guidance and essentially defined the current county scale character areas. This document is therefore still of relevance to the unitary authority for Peterborough and is referred to in the guidelines sections for each character area. The Structure Plan identifies nine Landscape Character Areas, (see Fig 3) within the whole of Cambridgeshire of which Peterborough City falls within the following Landscape Character Areas:

• 3 Western Claylands
• 6 Nene Valley
• 7 North-west limestone
• 8 Fenlands
• 9 Peterborough gravels

This study builds on the work undertaken at both the national and county scale and further refines the boundaries and descriptions at the District scale.
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A number of Local Authorities surrounding Peterborough City Council have already undertaken Landscape Character Assessments of their own at a district scale. These include Northamptonshire County Council to the west of the authority, Huntingdonshire District Council to the south, and South Kesteven District Council to the north west. The character areas and boundaries proposed in these studies have been considered as part of this study in order that where possible there is cross authority consistency.

Northamptonshire County Council carried out a three-strand process in developing their Environmental Character Map based on separate studies of ecological character, historic environment and current landscape character. The Current Landscape Character Assessment theme (January 2006) identifies six character types and nine character areas adjacent to the Peterborough City Council boundary (see Drawing 02) which are:

Limestone Plateau
- 10b Collyweston Limestone Plateau
- 10c King’s Cliffe Plateau
- 11a King’s Cliffe Hills and Valleys
- 12c Thrapston to Warmington
- 12f Oundle to Nassington Farmed Scarp Slopes
- 15c Harringworth to Duddington

Wooded Limestone Hills and Valleys
- 11b King’s Cliffe Hills and Valleys

Limestone Valley Slopes
- 12c Thrapston to Warmington
- 12f Oundle to Nassington Farmed Scarp Slopes
- 15c Harringworth to Duddington

Broad River Valley Floodplain
- 18h The Nene-Warmington to Wansford
- 18k The Welland-Tixover to Wothorpe

The Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment (July 2003), identifies four Landscape Character Areas close or adjacent to the Peterborough City Council boundary (see Drawing 02). These are:

- Landscape Character Area 1 - The Fens
- Landscape Character Area 2 - Fen Margin
- Landscape Character Area 6 - Northern Wolds
- Landscape Character Area 9 - Nene Valley

South Kesteven District Council Landscape Character Assessment (January 2007), identifies seven areas (see Drawing 02). These are:

- Kesteven Uplands
- Trent and Belvoir Vale
- South Lincolnshire Edge
- Harlaxton Denton Bowl
- Grantham Scars and Valleys
- Fen Margin
- The Fens

Peterborough City Council produced an ‘Area of Best Landscape Review 1999: The Landscape Character of the Rural West Area.’ This document examined in detail aspects of the landscape character to the west of Peterborough. This document identified four ‘local landscape character areas’ as follows:

- Nassaburgh
- Nassaburgh Levels
- Welland Gravels
- Nene Valley

In addition to the characterization work the 1999 study also made recommendations on the merit of retaining the locally designated landscape identified as an ‘Area of Best Landscape’. However since this study was produced government guidance now states in PPS7 - ‘Sustainable Development in Rural Areas’ (2004) paragraph 24,

The Government recognizes and accepts that there are areas of landscape outside nationally designated areas that are particularly highly valued locally. The Government believes that carefully drafted, criteria-based policies in LDDs, utilizing tools such as landscape character assessment, should provide sufficient protection for these areas, without the need for rigid local designations that may unduly restrict acceptable, sustainable development and the economic activity that underpins the vitality of rural areas.'

In the light of the above it was decided to delete reference to Local Landscape Designations from the Cambridge and Peterborough County Structure Plan 2003. Although the ‘Area of Best Landscape’ was retained in Policy LNE5 of the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement), adopted July 2005 this was done based on the guidance in the 1989 County Structure plan. It is considered that to comply with both national and county guidance that the appropriate way forward is to use landscape character assessment supported by criteria based policies to both protect the countryside and guide appropriate development in the rural areas. This approach should be able to provide specific guidance for enhancing the character and distinctiveness of all the rural areas rather than being limited to those which were given a local landscape designation.
2.0 CONTEXT

2.0 LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

2.1 Physical Influences
The City of Peterborough lies at the junction of a number of contrasting landscape types. To the west lies the outer extension of the limestone geology which runs diagonally (north east/south west) across much of neighbouring Northamptonshire. The limestone creates a relatively elevated undulating plateau landscape which slowly dips in elevation towards the city. Much of the limestone is overlaid by free draining soils which historically supported areas of heath and provided part of the reason for the extensive areas woodland. Much of this woodland still remains and is a strong influence on the character of the landscape.

In contrast to the east of the city lie the expansive and level fens which have undergone successive and substantial changes over the centuries. At one time the area comprised an enlarged Wash forming at different times: forest, tidal deltas, marshes and swamp. From the Roman occupation onwards the fens have been progressively drained by man, most significantly from 17th century onwards when extensive engineering works created at first good pasture and then rich arable and cropping land sustained by a geometric network of artificial drainage channels. Soils include deep peats and alluviums but as these have been intensively farmed soil erosion and lowering land levels has occurred with some local areas now below sea level.

To the north and south the authority is marked by two major rivers that flow into the Wash. To the south the Nene meanders through a shallow valley to the west before passing through the city close to the historic centre and the cathedral. East of the city the Nene runs through the fens along a linear embanked and canalized course. The adjacent Nene Washes provide seasonal flood capacity and are designated as an internationally important habitat for wintering bird populations. To the north of the authority along the border with Lincolnshire the River Welland flows from Stamford eastwards through a gentle valley landscape that is rich in gravels deposited by Ice Age meltwater. The Maxey Cut now demotes the River Welland to a secondary watercourse along part of its route before combining again near Peakirk where it then flows eastwards across the fens.

To the south of the city the landscape is defined by the end of a zone of undulating claylands which forms the most north easterly extent of the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands. The clays have provided raw material for the brick industry which has now largely disappeared and is being replaced by major new development on the site of the former works and pits at Hampton. The majority of the urban area of Peterborough also lies on these claylands which mark the divide between the limestone to the west and the fens to the east.

2.2 Historic and Cultural Influences
The historic landscape and environment in and around Peterborough is diverse and valuable. There are some nationally important areas which include, prehistoric settlement and religious activity within the Welland Valley, the Bronze Age Flag Fen Causeway and the extensive areas of Roman settlement in the Nene Valley close to the town of Durobrivae. A number of these sites are Scheduled Monuments including the prominent Car Dyke which marks the western boundary of the fens and an Iron Age Ring Fort. The main archaeological periods referred to in this report are:

- Paleolithic: Old Stone Age before 10,000BC
- Mesolithic: Middle Stone Age 10,000-4,500 BC
- Neolithic: New Stone Age 4,500-2,300 BC
- Bronze Age: 2,300 - 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC - 43 AD
- Roman period: 43 - 410 AD
- Saxo period: 410-1066 AD
- Medieval: 1066-1485 AD
- Post Medieval: 1485 - 1900 AD
- Modern: After 1900 AD

2.3 Buildings and settlement
The warm coloured limestone from the quarries such as Barnack, have made an important contribution to the local vernacular architecture and sense of place particularly to the west of the city. This hard local stone has been used in many of the buildings in the authority including the ecclesiastical buildings of Peterborough Cathedral and Thorney Abbey as well as further a field e.g. Ely Cathedral. The country houses at Milton, Walcott and Burghley also utilise the local limestone. Many of the villages have a strong character and include a rich variety of traditional buildings and a number of fine churches, which provide local landmarks e.g. Clinton and Castor. Roofing materials include a mix of Collyweston slate from neighbouring Lincolnshire, thatch and pantile. Building materials to the east of the city tend to include more brick.

- Buildings on Abbey Place, Thorney (TLP)

The urban areas within the authority fall outside the scope of this study however they form a key part of the landscape context. The historic part of the city is centred on the cathedral, which dates back to 655AD. Significant growth in the 19th century followed the arrival of the east coast railway with areas of high density Victorian terraced housing many of which still remain. During the 20th century there was progressive residential and industrial growth particularly to
the south of the city with the development of the brick industry at Fletton. The New Town status created a series of Townships, which absorbed a number of the surrounding villages such as Longthorpe. Vehicular access was facilitated within the expanding city by various landscaped Parkways, which also visually screen a number of the residential areas from the adjacent rural landscape. Major industrial development over recent decades particularly to the east, south-west and north-west along the railway corridor has resulted in a number of large buildings. This process continues with new major distribution warehouses at the Hamptons where extensive regenerative of the redundant brick works and pits is creating a 21st century township to the south of the city including new areas of housing and open space.

2.4 Transport
The Great North Road, (A1) bypassed Peterborough favouring Stamford as a more important town up to the 19th century. However when the Earl of Exeter at Burghley declined the east coast line railway Peterborough benefited from the routing and resultant growth that initiated a major period of growth. The A1 continues to be the main arterial route from north to south but Peterborough provides a focus for routes from the west (A605 & A47) out to the Fens (A47) and north to Lincoln (A15). Within the city the dual carriageway Parkways are an important feature of the urban landscape. In contrast in the rural areas road patterns include minor roads to the west many of which have floristically rich verges while to the east the linear drove roads on the fens create a strong geometric pattern.

2.5 Land cover
The land cover and land use to the west of the city has been strongly influenced by the main estates including Milton and Burghley. These have created important parklands, which support rare breeds and deer around the house but also perhaps more significantly ensured the retention of a network of large woodland blocks, which were extended from the 18th century to improve the landscape for field sports. The surrounding landscape is mainly under arable cultivation however pockets of calcareous grassland and smaller areas of remnant heath are still to be found. The river valley slopes are more open in character with arable and root crops predominating and relatively little woodland apart from modern plantations originating from restoration of former mineral sites e.g. around Maxey in the Welland valley. The valley floor of the Nene Valley comprises a number of important flood meadows which still support traditional grazing however these are less prominent along the Welland. To the east the fens have been extensively drained and now support widespread arable and root crop agriculture. In this open landscape the minimal tree cover present relates to old mineral sites, historic streams e.g. Catswater, drove roads or farmsteads. South of the city the arable claylands have been partially disturbed by extensive excavation for the brick industry however widespread regeneration is taking place for residential, industrial, ecological and recreational uses.

- Landcover on Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau (TLP)
3.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology used is based on the national guidance found in ‘Landscape Character Assessment - Guidance for England and Scotland’ (2002) and the other associated Topic Papers. The precise approach was also determined to meet the requirements of Peterborough City Council in the development of their Local Development Documents.

3.1 Briefing
Following the award of the contract, an initial briefing meeting was held between the staff of Peterborough City Council and key members of the consultant’s project team to refine the project brief and programme.

3.2 Project Administration
The project was monitored throughout the contract period by officers of both Planning Services and the Environmental Services within Peterborough City Council. Monitoring included the use of the following:

• progress meetings
• liaison by phone
• work programme
• correspondence - by letter, fax and e-mail

3.3 Spatial Framework
The fundamental building blocks used in this landscape character assessment is the Landscape Description Unit (LDU). LDUs are distinct and relatively homogenous units of land, each defined by a series of definitive attributes, so called because they define the extent of each spatial unit. A number of spatial scales or ‘Levels’ were used during the study as summarised below in Fig 4.

3.4 Interim Study
The initial stage of the Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment involved the assessment of the study area using Level 1 scale LDUs. This is subdivision at a national/regional scale in accordance with the Joint Character Map of England combining both Landscape Character Regions and Natural Areas and is provided as a desk based analysis by the Countryside Agency as their National Typology. Level 1 LDUs provides a framework for analysis at a finer grain in levels 2 & 3.

Fieldwork was carried out during March 2006 to test the desk based Level 1 LDUs on the ground. This stage was also informed by the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and the National Countryside Character Areas (see section 2 above). The survey team consisted of a team of two and field survey record sheets were used to record data in a systematic manner. A sample of the two-page pro forma used is included as Appendix B. Additional notes and photographic records supplemented the use of the survey forms.

Text was then drafted for each of the Draft Landscape Character Areas identified which covered the key characteristics for each area and an initial landscape strategy based on the evaluation matrix for each area derived from the field work. The Draft Landscape Character Areas were defined as follows:

1  Nene Valley
2  Nassaburgh Undulating Limestone
3  Welland Gravels
4  The Fens
5  Fen Fringe
6  Peterborough Southern Claylands

The results of the Interim Study were included within the ‘Core Strategy Development Plan Document Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report’ - Section 7 Environmental Integrity (2006). This document was issued for Consultation between July and August 2006 as part of the Local Development Framework process.

*Fig 4  Spatial Framework for landscape character assessment*
3.5 Detailed Study - Desk Based Stage
The Landscape Character Assessment was taken to the next stage in May 2006. The desk study work was sub-contracted to The Living Landscapes Project. This process involved the development of Level 2 LDUs for the whole authority and in addition Level 3 Land Cover Parcels (LCPs) for the areas fringing urban Peterborough and larger villages as advised by Peterborough City Council.

3.6 Level 2 Landscape Description Units
Four attributes are used to define LDUs at Level 2 as follows,

• Physiography
• Ground type - which together with physiography encapsulate the underlying natural dimension of the landscape
• Landcover - reflecting surface vegetation; and
• Cultural pattern - which describes the structural component of the cultural landscape

The attributes for each LDU from the above groups are listed in Appendix F.

The natural dimension of the landscape (physiography and ground type) is mapped first, not only because it provides a context for analysing the historical evolution of the landscape, but also because the baseline attributes of relief, geology and soils have ‘real’ boundaries which can be readily defined. In practice this entails firstly defining the more immediately distinct areas, where the pattern of topography relates clearly to changes in geology and soil.

Cultural attributes do not usually have such clearly defined boundaries, but because of the constraints that have historically been imposed on land utilisation by slope, soil fertility and drainage it is often possible to map cultural patterns at the landscape scale using the emerging LDU framework.

Deriving LDUs is an iterative process requiring comparison of all the data to help define the less immediately visible distinctions in the landscape. For example, a break in slope which coincides with a change in soil type and tree cover to the plateau above will be easily identifiable as a sharp boundary, where a few steps takes you into a clearly different landscape, whereas the transition between a dispersed and a nucleated settlement pattern in a rolling landscape may be much wider or more blurred and is likely to require examination of Historic Landscape Characterization (HLC) and other information to help map a line of best fit.

Definitive attributes are derived through a process of overlay mapping, which is described in more detail below. This process was traditionally achieved by physically overlaying a number of acetate sheets one on top of the other. However for this study GIS has been used which not only overcomes the problems associated with enlarging/ reducing source maps at different scales, but it also allows far greater scope in the actual analysis of the data. The digital datasets used to help define LDUs vary with availability from the client but typically include: geology, 10m contours, soils, farm census data, settlements, woodland, ancient woodland, HLC, OS 1:50k, and the National Typology. Other datasets may be referred to where available. Each aspect of the analysis, and the attributes defined is outlined below.
3.7 Physiographic analysis
Physiography is an expression of the shape and structure of the land surface as influenced both by the nature of the underlying geology and the effect of subsequent geomorphological processes. Two definitive attributes are used at Level 2, one defining the geological structure (and relative relief) of the unit and the other to describe the form (and relative relief) of the land surface. This is derived from interpretation of the relationship between geological and contour data. Physiographic boundaries should ideally follow clear ‘breaks in slope’ that are related to geological boundaries. Where there is no obvious break in slope (e.g. the transition between the dip slope of an escarpment and an adjoining vale) a ‘best fit’ line (i.e. a line that has been adjusted to match the surface landform) should be defined that reflects the geological boundary. The physiographic character of the LDUs within the Peterborough authority is denoted as one of the following categories:

- Marine levels - extensive areas of flat land formed by the recent deposition of waterborne drift, mainly of marine origin, in low-lying coastal areas - land usually at or below sea level and may include inter-tidal flats covered by water at high tide.
- River valleys - flat, low-lying land formed by the recent deposition of waterborne drift in larger river valleys, but also including other low-lying areas formed from lacustrine (lake) drift.
- Soft rock lowlands - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography.
- Soft rock plateau - uniformly elevated tracts of gently rolling relief, usually bounded on one or more sides by steeper ground which drops to lower land - often dissected by narrow, steep sided valleys at a greater level of detail.
- Soft rock uplands - elevated tracts of land with a pronounced undulating, in places steeply sloping relief, comprising hilltops, ridges and narrow, often steep sided valleys.
- Scarp slopes & ridges - distinct, often steep sided tracts of elevated/undulating relief, generally well defined by clear breaks in slope - may be in the form of discrete hills/ridges, valley sides, or as rising ground (e.g. scarp slopes) on the edge of higher land.

3.8 Ground type analysis
Ground type is an expression of the soil forming environment and its influence in determining the surface pattern of vegetation and land use. Two definitive attributes are used at Level 2, one describing the nature of the underlying bedrock/drift, the other to reflect variations in the process of soil formation related to drainage and soil fertility. This is derived from interpretation of geological (rock type), soils and land use data. The ground type character of the LDUs within the Peterborough authority is denoted as one of the following categories:

- Fenland - marginal land associated with organic soils derived from partially decomposed plant remains - perennially wet where undrained, but in many places (e.g. The Fens) groundwater controlled by ditches and pumps.
  - Wet meadowland - slowly permeable mineral soils developed on alluvial drift and supporting wetland, or relic wetland (lines of willow, reeds in ditches) vegetation. Seasonal or perennial waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production.
  - Dry meadowland - free-draining mineral soils developed on alluvial drift. Seasonal waterlogging may be a constraint to agricultural production but in most places groundwater is controlled by ditches and pumps.
  - Wet claylands - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.
  - Claylands - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Although at risk in wetter areas to seasonal waterlogging, this ground type is utilised extensively for cereal growing in Eastern England.
  - Sandy Brown soils - light, free-draining sandy and coarse loamy soils developed on soft sandstones and sandy drift. In places can include localised patches of wetland (denoted by Bw), or nutrient poor/podzolic (denoted by Bd) soils.
  - Calcareous Brown soils - free draining base rich loamy soils developed on soft limestone and chalky drift at elevations below about 180m (600ft). Often includes localised patches of shallow (denoted by Br) soils.
  - Shallow soils - free draining loamy soils developed directly over chalk or limestone at elevations below about 300m (1000ft) - frequently distinguished by stony soils and/or rock outcrops with relic calcareous grassland on steeper slopes.
3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.9 Landcover analysis
Landcover is an expression of the type of vegetation (natural and man made) covering the land surface. Two definitive attributes are used at Level 2, one describing the predominant land use/type of farming, the other reflecting the contribution that trees and woodlands make to the character of the landscape. The broad pattern of primary land use and associated tree cover at the farm type level as related to the inherent physical (slope, drainage, fertility) and economic constraints within a particular area. The ground type of the LDUs within the Peterborough authority is denoted as one of the following categories:

- Ancient wooded farmlands - landscapes characterised by extensive areas of broadleaved woodlands, mainly of ancient origin (as defined on the ancient woodland inventory), which pre-date the surrounding enclosure pattern. This pattern typically displays clear signs of piecemeal woodland clearance, including irregular woodland outlines and frequent woodland place names ending in terms such as 'ley' and 'hurst'.
- Ancient farmlands - arable landscapes characterised by individual blocks, or clusters of ancient woods which are often significantly larger than the surrounding enclosure pattern.
- Estate farmlands - arable landscapes characterised by an ordered pattern of discrete field sized, or larger, estate plantations/coverts which were planted at the same time, or which post date the surrounding enclosure pattern.
- Arable farmlands - unwooded arable landscapes characterised by scattered trees (usually in hedgerows and/or along ditches) and small patches of scrub.
- Pastoral farmlands - unwooded pastoral landscapes characterised by scattered trees (usually in hedgerows and/or along ditches) and small patches of scrub.
- Wooded disturbed land - tracts of disturbed land where naturally regenerated woodland/secondary tree cover have been allowed to develop.
- Open disturbed land - treeless tracts of disturbed land where the existing land use (e.g. mineral extraction, etc.) generally precludes the establishment of tree cover.
- Enclosed fenland - a sparsely settled rural landscape of large (>65 ha) estate farms, characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads.
- Settled fenland - an often densely settled rural landscape characterised by loose clusters of dwellings and small (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms within a surveyor enclosed pattern of small-medium sized rectilinear fields.
- Meadowland - on large estates - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes often characterized by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields on river floodplains.
- Meadowland - small sized farms - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes associated with small, mainly owner occupied farms on river floodplains.

3.10 Cultural pattern analysis
Cultural pattern is an expression of the structural component of the cultural landscape as reflected in the historic pattern of enclosure and rural settlement. Two definitive attributes are derived, one describing the broad pattern of village formation and settlement dispersion, the other reflecting the structure (size/tenure) of agricultural holdings. The cultural pattern of the LDUs within the Peterborough authority is denoted as one of the following categories:

- Villages and estate farms - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).
- Villages and small farms - rural landscapes characterised by discrete villages and small to medium sized (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms.
- Enclosed fenland - a sparsely settled rural landscape of large (>65 ha) estate farms, characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads.
- Settled fenland - an often densely settled rural landscape characterised by loose clusters of dwellings and small (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms within a surveyor enclosed pattern of small-medium sized rectilinear fields.
- Meadowland - on large estates - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes often characterized by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields on river floodplains.
- Meadowland - small sized farms - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes associated with small, mainly owner occupied farms on river floodplains.

3.11 Definitive and descriptive information
The definition of discrete LDUs provides units, which are the building blocks of the landscape. The four definitive attributes (physiography, ground type, land cover and cultural pattern) tell us much about each LDU, but not the complete picture. Descriptive information, such as the visual and perceptual aspects of landscape, must also be collected and this coverage of LDUs provides the meaningful and structured spatial framework for gathering this descriptive information about the landscape. Descriptive attributes include both character-based information (e.g. species associations, building styles, etc.), as well as qualitative information relating to the significance of particular attributes, their condition and their vulnerability to change.

The process of LDU mapping and subsequent characterisation with other descriptive data also enables broad patterns to be distinguished, which in turn makes it possible to begin to understand the relationship between the many factors that contribute to landscape character. The iterative nature of this process greatly assists in the understanding of how a particular landscape has developed and is the key to assessing the character of that landscape.
Once the inherent character of the land has been described through the desk based study it is then much easier to understand and describe the more aesthetic aspects of the landscape, such as scale, form and enclosure. Although these are the qualities which are often the most apparent to viewers on the ground, the fact that they are almost invariably controlled by either relief, or the surface pattern of vegetation and land use, explains why the LDUs defined by the process of overlay mapping can be used as a basis for defining Landscape Character Types and/or Character Areas. Similarly, it is much easier to evaluate the condition of a particular landscape, or its sensitivity to accept change, where this is underpinned by a working knowledge of how that landscape has evolved.

3.12 Detailed Study - Field Survey
The field survey provides the opportunity to undertake a number of key tasks, including:

- incorporating the visual/aesthetic/perceptual dimension
- recording the condition of the landscape, including both the ecological and cultural aspects
- verifying LDUs and identifying any refinements to LDU and Character Areas boundaries
- assessing any particular qualities, and/or problems in areas of particular pressure or sensitivity
- note distinctive features, local materials, plant species etc.

The survey form was developed and designed to ensure that a structured, consistent recording of information was possible. Character and condition information is collected in distinct sections, in a mixture of guided responses as well in sections of free text to provide greater descriptive colour. As for the Interim Stage an evaluation matrix was completed to inform the most appropriate landscape strategy and guidelines. The form used is found in Appendix B.

Urban areas were not surveyed but within the rural areas the contribution of the villages was included. The field survey was carried out in June to July 2006 visiting each LDU. As for the Interim Study a team of two was used at all times.

3.13 Literature Review
In parallel with the desk study and fieldwork a literature review was carried out. This provided background information and informed the process of defining character areas. A list of References is provided in Appendix H.

3.14 The characterisation process
Following on from the desk study and field work the coherent Character Areas were identified using and in certain cases aggregating LDUs as the building blocks of the landscape. This process involved creating both Landscape Character Types and Character Areas. The former is a generic term and usually a particular type of landscape, which can occur in many different places while the latter refer to a geographically discrete area. The reason for making a distinction between Landscape Character Types and Character Areas is largely a practical one. Landscape Character Types show common areas which can guide countryside planning and land management activity at a county and regional scale. On this basis it is likely that management methods will be similar within the same landscape character types.

However, for most people landscape is strongly associated with place and Character Areas can provide a more appropriate vehicle for presenting countryside information to a public audience. These Character Areas are at a scale, which equate with broader perceptions of landscapes and each has associated aims and priorities appropriate to its scale. In this study the six Character Areas form the main units of the landscape, however in order to provide more specific guidelines that will help to reinforce and enhance the local diversity of the landscapes in the authority a number of ‘sub areas’ have also been defined within the six overall character areas. In most cases the sub areas relate to LDUs however exceptionally it may involve splitting LDUs e.g. Nene Valley Ailsworth & Castor valley slopes. A full schedule of the Landscape Character Types, Sub Types, Character Areas and Sub Areas is found in Appendix E and illustrated by Drawings 04-06. Aspects of each sub area are also reflected in the detailed character areas statements in section 4.
### 3.15 Boundaries
The definition of boundaries between character areas and sub areas has been largely based on the LDUs derived in the desk study and supplemented by testing in the field. As a result the boundary lines are defined primarily on the basis of geology, soils, and landform and to a lesser extent reflect breaks in cultural pattern and landcover. Therefore in many locations the boundaries do not follow fixed features on the ground, such as the edge of woodland, field boundary, road or track. It is possible to adjust character boundaries to find the 'line of best fit' to a fixed feature but these are often unsatisfactory and can imply a level of detail that is in excess of the assessment. In parallel it should be understood that although the drawing of boundary lines on a plan is an inevitable part of the process, this does not always mean that landscape character is dramatically different to either side of each and every line. Landscape character can suddenly change, e.g. at the interface of an historic parkland, at the foot of a steep scarp slope or at a settlement edge, but generally there is often a more gradual transition. In such cases the boundary line marks more a watershed of character, where the balance of the defining elements has shifted from one landscape type to another. As a result when considering an individual site near to a boundary it will be necessary to consider the character and guidelines for both areas to ensure the full context of the site is correctly understood.

### 3.16 Stakeholder involvement
An important part of the process of landscape character assessment is the involvement of local stakeholders and this was carried out through various means. Firstly a Stakeholder Event was held on 20th July 2006 to which a wide range of consultees were invited including: those with a professional interest, environmental organisations, landowners, developers and all parish councils. The workshop was attended by 34 people who are listed in Appendix D. At the meeting attendees received a presentation on the background to the principles of Landscape Character Assessment and details of the process underway within Peterborough. Attendees were then given the opportunity to discuss their views and to make suggestions on the draft character areas and key characteristics within smaller groups. Questionnaires were also provided both in electronic and hard copy form (see Appendix C) to enable fuller more detailed contributions from the stakeholders. Parish Councils who did not attend were given further opportunity to contribute to the character statements by being individually approached. All the returns and comments were carefully considered and where appropriate included into the Character Area Statements.

In addition a number of individual interviews were held with key stakeholders. These included officers of the City Council, English Nature, Wildlife Trust, PECT, Local Access Forum, Nene Park Trust and Milton Estates. Following the production of the draft report a number or key stakeholders were again consulted on the full text for the character areas and their comments reflected in the final edit.

### 3.17 Report Format
Following the receipt of inputs from the stakeholders and continuing literature review, the landscape character descriptions were developed into a final form. A consistent pattern was used to describe each of the character areas that emerged as follows:

**Summary Page**
- Location - brief geographical description and map of the area
- Landscape character - summary statement of the area and any sub areas
- Key characteristics - main elements defining the character
- Distinctive features - individual features of note

**Assessment Page**
- Physical influences
- Geology and soils
- Topography - including degree of slope and altitude range
- Hydrology
- Land cover and land use
- Biodiversity

**Historic and cultural influences**
- Field pattern and field size
- Transport pattern.
- Settlement and built form.
- Other sources of area specific information

**Evaluation Page**
- Visual and sensory perception
- Recreational Opportunities
- Landscape Strategy matrices and text - for each sub area
- Landscape Strategy for each sub area to inform the guidelines
- Overview of sensitivity
- Landscape and ecological designations e.g. Registered Parks and Gardens, SSSIs

**Guidelines Page**
- Countryside Management - generally and specifically for each sub area
- Development Guidelines - general. NB These will need to be subsequently extended for specific types of development
3.0 METHODOLOGY

As part of the Evaluation Page, a ‘Condition and Strength of Character Matrix’ is provided for each sub area. In order to assess any landscape’s potential ability to adapt to change without losing its intrinsic character, it is necessary to analyse the functional integrity or ‘condition’ of the landscape and balance this against the strength of character as demonstrated by the more permanent or robust elements of the landscape. Landscape condition is determined from an evaluation of the relative state (poor/moderate/good) of elements within the landscape, which are subject to change, such as survival of hedgerows, extent and impact of built development. Strength of character is determined from an evaluation of the impact of relatively stable factors, such as landform and land cover, the apparent continuity of an historic pattern, the degree of visibility of the area and its rarity.

Seven factors were considered for both condition and strength of character for each area (see evaluation matrix for any area). Each was evaluated in the field and an entry made on the survey sheet against a three-point scale. Values for the factors on each axis were then aggregated and a majority total applied. The resulting intersection on the matrix was used to determine the general strategy for each Landscape Character Area.

This evaluation via the matrix enables a general landscape strategy to be determined. For example where a landscape area is in good condition but only moderate robustness the strategy will be to ‘conserve and strengthen’, see Fig 5. below. Once this primary strategy was established, specific guidelines were then developed to address issues within the particular area, with a view to improving both condition and strength of character as necessary to reinforce local distinctiveness.

• Figure 5 Landscape Strategy Matrix
3.0 METHODOLOGY

The Landscape Character Areas are identified on a series of maps both as hard copy plans and digitally using GIS (ArcView 9.1). The text for the report was also provided in a desk top published format (Quark express). The data described above was delivered to the client in both hard copy and on CD-ROM.

3.18 Sensitivity

Part of the study included an assessment of sensitivity. The approach used is based on the approach employed by The Living Landscapes for the Countryside Agency in Shropshire to map landscape sensitivity which is described as follows. The approach uses the same Level 2 Landscape Description Units (LDUs) that form the units for the development of the landscape character types and areas. It is important to clarify the difference between sensitivity and capacity. Sensitivity has now become accepted as a landscape-related concept - i.e. it is related to the nature of the landscape, rather than to any proposed agent of change, and therefore does not vary for different proposed changes. The approach uses the physical and cultural attributes of each LDU to derive maps of 'inherent' landscape sensitivity that take into account differences in the ecological, cultural and visual characteristics of the unit. The technique is as objective as possible, transparent, and provides a consistent assessment and evaluation across the LDUs. It also uses a method that can be applied equally across all part of the UK. In contrast ‘capacity’ is more related to a particular type and quantity of change. Thus, while a landscape may be highly sensitive to change, it may have a moderate capacity to accommodate, for example, bio-fuel planting, but only a low capacity to accommodate housing development. For the purpose of this Landscape Character Assessment an analysis of overall sensitivity of the LDUs and character areas is provided. However the assessment of landscape capacity is not considered at this scale and stage. Sensitivity has been evaluated under three headings:

- Ecological Sensitivity
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Visual Sensitivity

3.19 Sensitivity - Ecological Sensitivity

The oldest (and by implication most sensitive) landscapes are those that still survive in a semi-natural state (e.g. moorland). Most landscapes in the lowlands, however, have been settled and improved for agricultural production and as a result, any surviving semi-natural habitat is almost invariably associated with the cultural pattern (i.e. woodlands, field boundaries and other 'man made' features). Where such patches still survive they will increase overall sensitivity. Analysis of patch survival is largely a predictive exercise which looks at the current pattern of land use within the context of 'productive' and more 'marginal' ground types - the assumption being that a settled arable landscape associated with good (brown/gleyed) soils is likely to have fewer patches of semi-natural habitat than a pastoral landscape associated with marginal (wetland, heathland, chalk & limestone or moorland) soils. The desk based sensitivity evaluation establishes where the landscape character implies that there will be ecologically significant habitats, likely to be at risk from impact. It does not refer to designations (e.g. SSSI's etc.) as these do not relate to a broader landscape scale but deal with the site specifics and as such offer protection and/or information at that scale. However designations are indicated on Drawing 07 to show correlation between the landscape scale and individual sites. Three components are examined, using LDU data sources, as outlined in the table below.

The analysis makes three main assumptions:

- agriculturally marginal land is more likely to be of ecological interest than good agricultural land
- pastoral land is more likely to support ecological interest as a result of less intensive use than arable
- landscapes with woodland of ancient character are the more ecologically valuable than other woodland character, and of these those characterised by fragmented woods and hedgerow remnants are more sensitive than larger woodland blocks (largely due to lack of protection/awareness).

The relationship between these elements helps to define the relative likelihood of ecological value, and therefore ecological sensitivity to impacts. The matrix below illustrates how these components have been analysed and sensitivity grouped on a 5 point scale.

NB. The woodland category 'other' includes pastoral or arable landscapes characterised by thinly scattered/groups of trees; 'wildland' refers to semi-natural landscapes, typically associated with marginal, usually unenclosed mountain, lowland heath or coastal dune/marshland.
3.20 Sensitivity - Cultural Sensitivity

Cultural sensitivity largely reflects the relative time depth (or continuity) of a landscape, and the degree to which its characteristics are exhibited in the landscape (consistency). A similar approach is adopted as for ecological sensitivity, based on a clear conceptual framework based on matrices and drawing on consistent, robust data.

The measure of landscape continuity is derived by examining the scale and age of the landscape scale (small at the bottom to large at the top) - the assumption being that small scale agricultural landscapes tend to be more sensitive to change than their larger scale counterparts. On the horizontal axis the attributes are ranked by landcover pattern (pastoral landscapes with ancient woods on the left to arable landscapes with secondary tree cover on the right) - the assumption being that heritage (natural and cultural) features representing visible relics of an older pattern, are more likely to have survived in pastoral landscapes.

The continuity analysis has two main assumptions:

- smaller scale, more organic landscapes are an indication of age, and therefore likely to be of higher cultural interest and sensitivity
- organic landscapes are more culturally sensitive than planned as their time depth and very nature implies nonrecreatability.

Farm type and tree cover are particularly influential in controlling the consistency of the cultural pattern at this level. Settlement pattern tends to vary at a much broader scale, whilst land use is more suited as an indicator of condition. Relatively good baseline digital data for both farm type and tree cover is also available, which makes it possible to rigorously define each of the different farm/tree cover types that underpin the LDU analysis. Thus an 'ancient wooded' character will be stronger in an LDU where there is widespread woodland cover that is consistently ancient (as defined in the Ancient Woodland Inventory) than in another LDU where the woodland cover is localised and/or comprises a mixture of ancient woods and more recent plantations. The same applies to farm type. The most distinctive agricultural landscapes are those dominated by small owner occupied farms on the one hand and those characterised by large estates on the other. LDUs that are wholly one or the other will have a strongly unified character.

The relationship between continuity and consistency indicates the likelihood of the landscape providing elements of cultural value, and therefore cultural sensitivity to change. The continuity matrix shows a distinct 'time depth' continuum ranging from the older unsettled and small scale, ancient wooded landscapes in the bottom left hand corner to the more recent larger scale 'planned' landscapes at the top right. The slight subdivisions (e.g. in medium scale/pastoral landscapes) into 'Moderate' and 'Low' reflect where landscapes approach the larger end of the medium scale, and the continuity is lower.
Consistency is a measure of the uniformity of pattern for farm type and tree cover for each LDU. This is used to derive an indication of consistency from ‘unified’ to ‘variable’.

The combination of the continuity and consistency values in the matrix above provides a measure of the sensitivity of each LDU. The landscapes that are most sensitive to change are those that occur in the bottom left hand corner (i.e. those that are considered to be ‘ancient’ and/or strongly unified) whilst those that are variable in character and/or more recent in origin are likely to be less sensitive. This approach derives a 5 point scale to evaluate Cultural sensitivity the results of which are shown on drawing 08. For comparative purpose a number of historic designations are also indicated on the drawing.

3.21 Sensitivity - Visual Sensitivity
Visual sensitivity or ‘visibility’ is the third component of landscape sensitivity, and is a measure of the degree to which change is likely to cause a visual impact within a particular landscape. A visibility measure can be defined, as outlined in Topic Paper 6, as “a function particularly of the landform of a particular type of landscape and of the presence of potentially screening land cover, especially trees and woodland”: thus, an upland landscape with little tree cover would have a high visibility score whereas a well-wooded lowland landscape would have a low score. The matrix below illustrates these relationships and how they affect visual sensitivity on a 5 point scale and drawing 09 shows the results for the study area together with the contours and major woodland blocks.
3.22 Overall Sensitivity

By combining the three measures of ecological, cultural and visual sensitivity it is possible to provide an overall measure of ‘inherent landscape sensitivity’. The sensitivity ratings for each aspect of ecology, culture and visibility are provided for individual LDUs and are listed in Appendix F. To derive a measure of sensitivity for a whole Character Area or sub area it is necessary to allocate a rating (low, moderate, high etc) based on the predominant rating for all the LDUs in the character area or sub area. However in reality the values are invariably the same, which reinforces their common character. In the case of the Nene Valley one of the LDUs was sub divided at the LCP stage to reflect an important variation in character that had been identified at the Sub Area scale. A numerical ‘score’ was also been given to the three aspects of sensitivity for each Landscape Character Sub Area based on the following definitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Description</th>
<th>Numeric score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To derive an Overall Landscape Sensitivity the scores were totalled and given a value description as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Description</th>
<th>Total Numeric score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate/Low</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate/High</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>13-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Moderate values were divided into Moderate/Low. The Moderate values were divided into Moderate/Low, Moderate and Moderate/High since the majority of the scores were in this range and it helped to provide a finer grain of analysis. The individual and overall sensitivity of the Landscape Character sub areas are recorded in Appendix G.
LOCATION
This area runs from Wansford in the west into the heart of Peterborough City Centre. The A47 runs close to northern boundary while the River Nene marks the boundary with Huntingdonshire to the south.

CHARACTER SUMMARY
This stretch of the Nene Valley comprises a broad gently sloping valley. The area can be divided into three sub areas as follows:

a. Nene Valley Floodplain - with its meandering river as the central feature

b. Ferry Meadows Corridor - where there is more emphasis on recreational uses closer to the urban area

c. Ailsworth and Castor Valley Slopes - dominated by arable cropping on the gentle northern slopes

The three sub areas combine to create a distinctive river valley landscape to the west of the city with the meandering River Nene as the visual focus of the area. There are contrasting land uses within the corridor with floodplain meadows to the west and a mosaic of wildlife habitats and recreational activities to the east within Ferry Meadows Country Park. The historic villages of Castor, Ailsworth and Sutton are mainly built from the local warm limestone and create important foci on the valley sides between areas of open arable cropping.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
• Broad valley of River Nene
• River Nene gently meanders through area
• Pasture and flood meadows along banks of river
• Large arable fields further from the river
• Villages with distinctive stone buildings and generally sympathetic infill development
• Major centre of Roman archaeology in association with the Ermine Street crossing of the River Nene
• Areas of former gravel extraction within floodplain
• Widespread recreational land uses

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES
• Nene Park/Ferry Meadows Country Park
• Nene Valley Railway
• Castor Church
• Dismantled railway from Nene Valley Railway to Stamford
• Guillotine Locks on the Nene
• Cricket bat willows/pollards
• Ferry Bridge
GEODESY AND SOILS
The geology of the River Nene floodplain is formed on river alluvium with the overlying soils being stoneless clays and in places calcareous in nature with seasonally high groundwater (Fladbury 1 Association). On the valley slopes the soils are well drained fine and coarse loamy soils again locally calcareous in nature and overlying river terrace limestone gravels (Suton 1 Association).

TOPOGRAPHY
The meandering and essentially flat river Nene floodplain flows through a broad and gently sloping valley feature west of Peterborough. There are locally steeper areas of ground adjacent to the floodplain e.g. above Ferry Bridge where there are some wider views of the valley.

DEGREE OF SLOPE
Valley slopes are typically c. 1 in 200 with some locally steeper areas up to 1 in 10 on the outside ‘cliffs’ facing the river beds. Along the river the fall is minimal.

ALTITUDE RANGE
The River Nene falls from below the 10m contour to below the 5m contour in the City centre. The valley slopes rise to approximately the 20m contour.

HYDROLOGY
The main feature of the area is the slow flowing and meandering River Nene which has a number of weirs and guillotine locks to aid navigation along its course. There are also a variety of hydrological features within and close to the floodplain which include a number of braided channels, dikes and springs. The relationship between the management of land and water to the east of Peterborough including the Nene Washes also has an impact on the river corridor to the west and vice versa. The Ferry Meadows Country Park contains a number of large water bodies created following mineral extraction e.g. Gunwade Lake, Overton Lake and Orton Water. These features along with a number of smaller scrapes and ponds provide an important diversity of semi natural habitats and also areas for recreation. The soils of the valley slopes are generally well drained but there are a few surface streams that run down to the Nene.

LAND COVER AND LAND USE
The land cover patterns vary between the sub areas. The floodplain comprises predominantly pasture for both sheep and cattle, some of which is unimproved. In contrast the majority of the adjacent valley slopes to the north are under arable and vegetable cropping including some organic farms with localised irrigation. Fields are large to medium in size and open in character with generally clipped hedges and few hedgerow trees. The Ferry Meadows sub area comprises a mosaic of recreational and semi native wildlife features including water bodies, amenity and informal grassland areas and golf courses.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
The Nene Valley has retained three main natural habitat types, which include the river and its margins, alluvial grassland, and pollard willows and osier beds. More recently, man-made habitats have also been created following the extraction of gravel and the subsequent development of lakes and water features within the Nene Park/Ferry Meadows. The river itself supports nationally rare plants such as Flat-stalked Pondweed and Great Dodder, and generally has diverse aquatic and marginal flora. It is also a nationally important flyway for migratory birds and supports large numbers of invertebrates and mammals. Locally and nationally rare or protected species present include kingfishers, otters and water voles, with other species such as swans, geese and cormorants being characteristic of the more man-made habitats.

Castor Flood Meadows SSSI, as well as containing valuable areas of wetland habitat, is an example of the type of floristically rich grassland that was once common in the floodplains of southern England, but has now become rare, particularly in Cambridgeshire. Although there are other considerable areas of grassland still within the floodplain of the river, much of this has been agriculturally improved and has limited ecological value. Continued grazing and hay cutting have helped to retain many of these areas in a semi-natural state.

Pollarded willows and osier beds along the floodplain have declined in numbers, with over 90% of osier beds having been lost within the district. Lack of management has also led to degradation of many of the remaining sites, although those within Nene Park have undergone restoration in recent years. River and waterside species are typically willow poplar and alder with oak and lime being more common on the higher better drained slopes. Hawthorn predominates along the flood meadows to ditches and hedgerows.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
Palaeolithic worked flint tools have been found within the river terrace deposits, attesting to a human presence in the Nene Valley over tens of thousands of years. Scatters of Mesolithic and Neolithic tools and worked stone indicate that the river margins were well-used by later hunter-gatherers. The remains of later Neolithic and Bronze Age monumental features, such as henge-like structures and round barrows manifest themselves as crop marks throughout the area. Iron Age tools and weapons have been recovered from an old course of the River Nene in Ferry Meadows corridor (Area 1b). The objects are characteristic of the special significance prehistoric people ascribed to some select watery places.

The Lower Nene valley became one of the most intensively developed areas of Roman Britain. The fort at Longthorpe has been associated with the Ninth legion and the Boucicat Revolt. A smaller fort near Water Newton guarded an important road crossing of the River Nene. The town of Durobrivae extended both sides of the River Nene along Ermine Street. It is often described as a small town, but the suburbs surrounding its walled centre made it a sizeable conurbation for
the period. Much of the land south of Castor and Ailsworth (Area 1c), the northern suburb, is Scheduled. It is here that one of Roman Britain’s most important pottery industries was located. ‘Nene Valley’ or ‘Castor Ware’ pottery was used throughout Roman Britain and beyond. The remains of rural villas and farmsteads are abundant in this part of the Nene Valley and there is also an extensive settlement complex at Ferry Meadows (Area 1b). The palatial building complex that occupies the centre of Castor village however, is exceptional and two surviving sections of exposed limestone foundation wall in Stocks Hill hint at its scale.

There are two small standing stones close to the Nene near Ferry Bridge named Robin Hood and Little John. They are thought to mark the track along which stone from the medieval quarries at Barnack was hauled to the river on the way to use in many of the fine buildings in East Anglia.

FIELD PATTERN
The arable fields around Castor, Ailsworth and Sutton are unusual in that they substantially retained their open medieval character until the very end of the 19th century. The earthwork remains of medieval field divisions can be seen north of Castor village. Some present boundaries associated with ancient enclosures surround the core of the three villages. Enclosed meadow follows the course of the river Nene in Area 1a.

TRANSPORT PATTERN
The Roman road later named ‘Ermine Street’ was the principal north-south route of eastern Roman Britain, linking London, Lincoln and York. Its route is now marked by a green lane and a short length of modern road in Area 1c. ‘King Street’, another important north-south route towards Lincolnshire, originates at a junction with Ermine Street southwest of Ailsworth in Area 1c. The alignment of King Street is also picked up by a modern road in Area 2 and Area 3. The modern A1 and former turnpike road deviated from Ermine Street east of Water Newton to run to the west of the area crossing the Nene at Wansford. The A47 runs to the north joining the A1 at Wansford. To the east the A1260, Nene Parkway crosses the valley on embankment, while the A1179, Longthorpe Parkway runs parallel to the rowing lake in the Area 1b.

SETTLEMENT AND BUILT FORM
Castor, Ailsworth and Sutton are medieval or earlier settlements. Castor, named from the Roman remains in the locality, has also yielded evidence of its early Saxon origins. The church of St Kyneburgha, reflects the establishment of a religious house by the Mercian royal family during the 7th century and is a unique dedication. The present church, the finest in the area, dates to early 12th century, but houses much earlier carved stone items. All the villages have a strong vernacular character and include designated conservation areas however some modern infill has weakened the character in part. The villages are essentially nucleated in layout with Sutton arranged around a distinctive square road pattern. Castor and Ailsworth, which all but conjoin, have a number of attractive open spaces and minor lanes. Many of the traditional local buildings and some boundaries are constructed from locally quarried limestone and typically roofed in thatch or Collyweston slate - a hard micaceous limestone that splits into tiles.

Outside the villages on the valley slopes there is no significant settlement however, within the flood plain the water mill at Water Newton and Ferry Bridge at Ferry Meadows Country Park are important landmarks. Further to the west at the fine old coaching village of Wansford the River Nene is crossed by a multi arched stone bridge dated from 1577 over the line of the old Great North Road. To the east Thorpe Hall set in its own parkland and associated ancient springs and fishponds known as the ‘Holy Well’ is one of the finest Commonwealth period mansions in the country. Although located just north Longthorpe Parkway (outside Area 1b) it is an important landmark when entering the city from the west.
VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION
Although bounded by major roads in the A1 and A47 much of the valley has a relatively tranquil character, particularly closer to the river corridor, where the small scale of fields, riverside willows and backwaters creates a restful ambiance. The occasional steam train on the Nene Valley Railway that follows the valley creates welcome animation to the otherwise tranquil environment. The spires of the village churches e.g. at Castor provide important landmarks, but the villages are largely screened by fringing vegetation including some poplar belts and evergreens. Apart from the main roads, electricity pylons are the main visual detractors. Adjacent to some of the urban areas the corridor provides a number of contrasting semi natural habitats. Generally there is limited adverse visual impact from built development including sections to the east closer to the city where there is a stronger influence of screen planting however the presence of a number of parkways produces noise intrusion. The valley slopes are relatively open and featureless with wider views across the valley to the south.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The area is a major recreational resource for the local population of Peterborough. The Nene Park Trust, which manages much of the land, was established in 1988 following the development of the park by Peterborough Development Corporation in 1980s as part of the then New Town status. The original concept was for the Park to start close to the city centre where there would be more formal facilities and extend westwards for some five miles towards more informal and passive activities along the rural floodplain. Ferry Meadows Country Park opened in 1978 provides the centre piece with a wide range of publicly accessible opportunities for recreation including water sports on Gunwade Lake, caravanning and camping and a café and information centre. To the east there is a competition standard rowing lake used by Peterborough City Rowing Club at Thorpe Meadows. In addition there are two golf courses, a sculpture trail and a range of special events held in Ferry Meadows that draw local and visiting populations.

- Ferry Bridge (TLP)

The Nene Valley Way and Hereward Way footpaths follow the river corridor and there are good connections from adjacent villages across the meadows and footbridges over the river. The River itself provides a visual and navigation focus for boats and barges. The Nene Valley Railway, which runs a variety of steam engines throughout the year from Peterborough to Wansford, is a popular attraction.
1a NENE VALLEY FLOODPLAIN

Strength of Character = Moderate
The floodplain corridor is not a very prominent feature within the wider valley landscape setting however close to the river extensive pasture creates a locally stronger character where the landscape is smaller in scale and more organic in form while retaining an open aspect along the river. The navigable nature of the river with the associated locks and traffic adds to the scenic character.

Condition = Good
The river valley includes extensive areas of semi-improved flood meadows that are largely managed by grazing. The riverside vegetation is an important component to the good condition and linkage of semi natural habitats. Intermittent hawthorn and willows follow parts of the river and secondary ditches and the railway. A few areas have been ploughed but this is limited in extent. The Nene Park Trust actively manages many of the riparian willows pollards including younger specimens.

Landscape Strategy = Conserve and strengthen
The meandering linear character of the floodplain should be strengthened. Cultivated areas should be reverted back to pasture and the riverbanks sensitively managed for biodiversity. Wider and improved recreational access should also be encouraged to draw more people further from Peterborough and enjoy the river corridor.

Sensitivity
The quality of the water environment and the associated flood meadows is vital for the associated flora and fauna to flourish. These areas should be managed by sympathetic and traditional methods. Although the sub-area is unlikely to face significant building pressures due to the low lying nature of the ground the remaining meadows are potentially under threat from mineral extraction. Further loss of flood meadows should be resisted together with any built development on adjacent land, which would affect the tranquil setting of the river corridor.

River Nene Floodplain near Water Newton (TLP)
1b FERRY MEADOWS CORRIDOR

Strength of Character = Strong
The land cover pattern is highly varied but also considered very strong creating a unique character to the authority combining high levels of recreational use and a variety of wildlife habitats. Although the original flood meadows landscape is largely removed a new landscape has been created following the extensive mineral extraction and the creation of the country park and other recreational facilities concurrent with the expansion of Peterborough as a new town in the later part of the 20th century.

Condition = Good
The establishment of the Nene Park Trust has ensured that much of the sub-area is proactively managed for the benefit of the local population and the wildlife interests. The presence of extensive plantations helps to create relatively contained cells of landscape and in combination with the original woodland areas screen much of the built development flanking the river valley.

Landscape Strategy = Safeguard and manage
The varied mosaic of habitats along the river corridor is a major asset to the city and its population. This resource should be protected and managed by the ongoing work of the Nene Park Trust. The scope to upgrade and improve facilities should be closely monitored by those responsible for all aspects of the sub-area.

Sensitivity
The area is a relatively young landscape and has been created through a variety of activities. There is a need to maintain a balance of management throughout the area to retain the relatively small scale of units however due to the relative containment some sympathetic changes could be accommodated without widespread impacts. However any built development should be restricted to recreational focussed activity.

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER
Impact of landform: apparent
Impact of land cover: prominent
Impact of historic pattern: insignificant
Visibility from outside: locally visible
Sense of enclosure: contained
Tranquillity: moderate
Distinctiveness/rarity: unique

CONDITION
Land cover change: widespread
Age structure of tree cover: mixed
Extent of semi-natural habitat survival: linked
Management of semi-natural habitat: good
Survival of cultural pattern: relic
Impact of built development: moderate
Visual unity: coherent

CONSERVATION
POOR
- Reconstruct
- Improve and restore

MILD
- Improve and reinforce
- Conserve and restore

GOOD
- Strengthen and reinforce
- Conserve and strengthen

Safeguard and manage

WEAK: MODERATE: STRONG

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER
1c AILSWORTH AND CASTOR VALLEY SLOPES

Strength of Character = Moderate
Extensive arable fields dominate the gently sloping valley sides. There is an open but largely undistinguished character with minimal vegetation and low and gappy hedges that enable the area to be seen from a wide area. The villages are the strongest features in terms of character which contain a number of fine vernacular buildings and local landmarks. However the settlements are mainly inward looking and do not significantly influence the wider landscape character.

Condition = Moderate
The area has few areas of wildlife habitat with the majority being closer to the village fringes. There are extensive fields under cultivation.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
The predominant arable land use is likely to be retained for the foreseeable future however there is scope to improve the biodiversity value and connectivity within the area by for example upgrading hedgerows and introducing hedgerow trees and wider field margins. Additional links for wildlife and access should also be sought to connect the floodplain and the wooded limestone plateau to the north.

Sensitivity
The sub-area contains a number of scheduled monuments dating from the pottery kilns associated with the major Roman settlement nearby at Durobrivae. The open slopes mean that development would be visually prominent in the valley setting and this should therefore be minimised. The ecological sensitivity is relatively low.
COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Generally

- Promote the continued and extended use of the area for quiet recreation
- Maintain the distinction between the valley slopes and the central floodplain
- Identify, retain and manage key viewpoints to appreciate the valley setting and its component parts
- Support and make connections with the River Nene Regional Park and the realization of its objectives for green infrastructure in the area
- Promote a review of the views and vistas from the Nene Valley Railway into the valley landscape. Consider selective planting or management to open up, frame or screen views
- Promote plant species in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and use of local provenance wherever possible
- Ensure right of way signage is clear but appropriate to the location using local materials where possible

1a Nene Valley Floodplain

- Protect existing flood meadows from ploughing, improvement or further mineral extraction
- Encourage continued management of flood meadows by grazing but balance with providing suitable Otter habitat adjacent to the riverbank
- Improve the management of old meadows and pastures by ceasing fertiliser and herbicide application and introducing sensitive grassland management such as late hay cutting or low density livestock grazing
- Promote improvements to the river, water edge and pond habitats to encourage increased biodiversity value through marginal planting and localised bank profiling and sympathetic maintenance of drainage ditches
- Continue to manage the floodplain pollards and promote the planting of new specimens
- Identify appropriate locations for wet woodland plantations or copses
- Encourage reversion of areas of arable to pasture within floodplain
- Promote the use of ditches and hedges in place of post and wire as a means of stock enclosure
- Promote surfaced routes for cyclist and equestrians along valley, potentially using either the Nene Valley Way or the Nene Railway corridor to facilitate increased accessibility
- Consider additional crossing points of Nene at Railway bridges
- Improve access between Wansford village and Wansford railway station
- Promote the wider use of the disused railway through Sutton for access to extend existing permissive sections
- In conjunction with the length of the Nene in Northamptonshire review the conversion of guillotine locks to traditional locks to facilitate increased river navigation
- Consider addition stop on Nene Valley Railway at Water Newton Meadows to encourage return trips to city.

1b Ferry Meadows Corridor

- Manage existing ancient and semi natural woodland by coppicing and under-planting to the valley sides which form part of the setting of the valley e.g. Bluebell Plantation
- Promote continued management of planting within Ferry Meadows corridor to develop a diverse mixed age woodland community that retains a balance between screening or roads and development, wildlife and public safety
- encourage the eradication of invasive non-native species
- Identify facilities to upgrade in Ferry Meadows Country Park to maintain its position as a major facility for local and visiting populations
- Encourage accessibility to both banks of river corridor through the City Centre and to the Fens to the east

- Overton Lake, Ferry Meadows (TLP)
1c Ailsworth and Castor Valley Slopes

• Extend interpretation of the historic heritage of the area including Ermine Street, the Roman Pottery kilns and the links to Castor and Ailsworth
• Promote retention, restoration and planting of hedges and the addition of hedgerow trees within open landscape to provide additional structure while still retaining vistas across the valley. Pattern to follow historic field boundaries where possible
• Promote extension of uncropped or grass field margins to enhance biodiversity linkage and/or follow existing and proposed rights of way
• Protect and improve natural springs and associated grass-land areas and the spring sites
• Promote both the creation of new ponds and the retention/enhancement for wildlife of existing ponds
• Review planting strategy to A47 and promote additional planting to aid visual integration
• Identify and promote planting to mitigate existing visually intrusive development the edge of settlements

Guidelines in relation to development

• Restrict built development in the area retaining the primary role as recreational resource to the east and rural river valley to the west
• Protect the historic setting and structure of the villages including views to the villages and the retained open spaces within them
• Where built development or restoration is considered appropriate indigenous materials or equally visually acceptable alternatives should be used to maintain and enhance the character of the existing villages
• Prevent development that could detract from local landmarks including village churches

• Wansford Bridge, Wansford. (TLP)
LOCATION
This area extends from Wittering in the west up to the boundary with Peterborough City in the east. The A47 approximately follows the southern boundary adjacent with the Nene Valley character areas.

CHARACTER SUMMARY
The area represents the most easterly section of the Rockingham Forest, which is largely located in neighbouring Northamptonshire. The name Nassaburgh comes the Hundred of Nassaburgh and derives from the old English word for ‘neck’, which relates to the extension of limestone upland, which pushes east towards the Fens. This relatively elevated and undulating plateau landscape can be divided into three sub-areas as follows:

a. Castor Hanglands Wooded Plateau - with a widespread number of medium and large scale woodlands set in an open arable landscape

b. Burghley & Walcot Slopes - where the topography is more marked in forming a series of narrow enclosed valleys and more prominent slopes occupied by some large estates

c. Wittering Limestone Plateau - the highest and more level section of the plateau with a number of contrasting large scale individual land uses including woodlands, estates and an airfield

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
• Gently undulating limestone landscape
• Large blocks of woodland, many ancient or semi-natural providing structure
• Large arable fields with low hedgerows or dry stone walls
• Large areas of parkland intact and well managed
• Largely unspoilt nucleated stone villages comprising vernacular buildings constructed of local stone with local slate roofs
• Remnant pre-enclosure field systems, with ridge and furrow near villages and isolated settlements
• Remnant unimproved calcareous grassland, limestone heath and fragments of acidic bog
• Wide verges to minor roads
• Many areas of high nature conservation interest
• Several active and disused and limestone quarries
• Generally a quiet rural ambiance

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES
• Milton, Walcot & Burghley Estates
• RAF Wittering
• Castor Hanglands
• Barnack Hills and Holes
• Bedford Purlieus
• Wansford Bridge
• Local churches
GEOLOGY AND SOILS
The broad limestone plateau, which determines many of the characteristics of the character area, can be divided into two main parts. To the west the underlying geology of Jurassic limestone is overlaid by shallow well drained brashy calcareous loams (Elmton 1 Association) while to the east the geology is a mix of Jurassic limestone and clay where the brashy limestone soils are also mixed with some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Sherborne Association). As a consequence woodland clearance to the east has been more limited. The limestone is often quite apparent on the surface of cultivated ground. Within both areas there are also pockets of seasonally waterlogged clayey soils (Denchworth Association) which are locally related to some of the steeper valley slopes e.g. at Thornhaugh. In addition there are small areas of well drained soils (Banbury Association) over ironstone e.g. at Burghley and Wittering.

A further feature is the presence of the Marholm Tinwell geological fault, which runs from Marholm to Bainton which creates the steepness on the Welland Valley side. North of this line the landform is lower but still contains some of the soil characteristics of the higher ground and is hence more heavily wooded that the surrounding ground in the Welland Valley.

The limestone geology has provided an important source for local building materials. The Hills and Holes at Barnack was a quarry from Roman times until the 18th century. The quarry produced highly durable limestone for many fine ecclesiastical buildings including Peterborough and Ely cathedrals.

TOPOGRAPHY
The character area comprises a gently sloping and undulating limestone plateau located between the river valleys of the Nene to the south and the Welland to the north. The central sub area of the Burghley & Walcot Slopes contains a more marked topography with number of steeper gradients on which the houses at Burghley and Walcott are located and also an associated pattern of local narrow valleys at Thornhaugh.

DEGREE OF SLOPE
The plateau falls at an average of c. 1 in 25 from west to east. To the north and south towards the river valleys and also locally within the plateau there are changes in slope which are typically 1 in 10.

ALTITUDE RANGE
The plateau falls from approximately 75m in the west around Bedford Purlieus down to 25m at Milton Park. The local valleys e.g. Thornhaugh can more locally fall between 55- 20m.

HYDROLOGY
The plateau landscape was formed as the adjacent land was eroded by the strong glacial melt waters that flowed to the north and south along what are now the Nene and Welland Valleys. The permeable nature of the limestone geology means that much of the surface water filters down to the underlying aquifers. However the plateau is also now drained by a number of streams most of which flow into the Nene catchments. The largest is the Whitewater Brook that flows through the Burghley & Walcot Slopes sub area. To the edge of the limestone plateau a number of springs rise creating some interesting grassland habitats e.g. Wansford Pasture. On the plateau there are a number of ponds associated with farms, villages, old mineral workings and woodlands. The clay soils to the east support more ditches and dew ponds. Artificial water bodies are associated with the parks at Milton, Walcot and most impressively at Burghley. Here the lake was created by Capability Brown in 1775-80 on a seam of ‘blue’ Clay within a natural fault in the limestone thereby enlarging the original 9-acre pond to the existing 26 acre lake.

LAND COVER AND LAND USE
The area contains a mix of land use. The majority of the landscape comprises large arable fields growing a mix of wheat, oil seed rape, peas and linseed. Fields are contained by low hedges with a number of large mature hedgerow trees most notably oak along some of the minor roads. The arable landscape is interspersed with woodland blocks many of which are ancient woodland and substantial in size and are a notable feature of the landscape. The woodlands combine a mix of semi- natural deciduous and more recent conifer and poplar infill. Closer to the villages some pasture remains on remnant ridge and furrow and further pasture is found in the steeper valley settings and slopes in sub area 2b. The parklands associated with the estates such as at Milton and Burghley which support deer and rare breed cattle and sheep present another significant land use. The areas contains a number of limestone quarries many of which now form valuable habitats while others e.g. Thornhaugh are still active.

BIODIVERSITY
Nassaburgh Undulating Limestone has retained three main natural habitats with two additional less common habitats. These consist of ancient woodland & hedgerows, limestone grassland and parkland & old trees, with some limestone...
marsh and some neutral grassland. There is considerable ancient woodland, much of which has retained a semi-natural mix of oak, ash and field maple. The woodland occurs on a range of soil types, from calcareous clay to acid sand, which is reflected in the make up of different woodland blocks. Some blocks include Small Leaved Lime, which has a restricted distribution nationally. Bedford Purlieus and Castor Hanglands are both areas of ancient woodland that are designated as SSISs and NNRs not only for their woodland value but also for their varied ground flora including remnant heath habitat and their populations of birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, which include Adders and Great Crested Newts.

Unimproved limestone grassland is generally found in three types of areas within the district. These tend to be long abandoned limestone quarries as in the case of Barnack Hills and Holes SAC/SSSI/NNR; road verges/disused railways as in the case of the A47/A1 Interchange Road Verges CVS or Southorpe Disused Railway CWS; or unimproved meadows such as Southorpe Paddock SSSI and Bonevills Hollow SSSI. Where these areas are grazed they retain good flora, including nationally rare plant species such as the Pasque Flower and Man Orchids, but where they are unmanaged or occasionally mowed, such as road verges, some species have been lost. The grasslands on Wittering Airfield also contain some biodiversity interest.

Both Burghley Park and Milton Park are designated as County Wildlife Sites. This is partly due to the mature and veteran trees in these parklands, including formerly pollarded oaks, some over 400 years old, and partly due to the populations of invertebrates supported by the mature trees. Other old oak pollards survive e.g. Woodcroft Lodge Parkland.

There are also a number of steep sided valleys with limestone grassland and marshy/swampy vegetation, including Whitewater Valley SSSI. These areas also contain springs and flushes and support a range of wetland communities, which do not occur in surrounding counties.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The remains of prehistoric and Roman activity are not quite so intense on the limestone plateau that separates the Nene and Welland as they are in the respective valleys. Nevertheless, there is ample evidence of hunter-gatherer activity and important Roman villa and farmstead sites are scattered throughout Area 2. The ironstone in the Bedford Purlieus area was exploited both during Roman times, and during the Middle Saxon period. Slag scatters, charcoal dumps and buried furnace remains survive in the locality. This is one of a very few areas of early iron working in the country.

The quarries that produced Barnack Rag limestone also originated in the Roman period. The quarries and associated monumental masonry industry became especially important during the early medieval period. Barnack limestone has provided the durable dressed features that adorn medieval churches and other important buildings throughout East Anglia e.g. Ely and Peterborough Cathedrals. The ‘Hills and Holes’ at Barnack, now a nature reserve, is the best preserved of the medieval quarries.

The family home of John Clare (1795-1864), the so-called ‘peasant poet’, can be seen in Woodgate, Helpston. The surrounding landscape and its fauna and flora (Areas 2 and 3) provide the inspiration for much of his work, which contains some of the most evocative and important natural history observations achieved by an English poet. Other literary associations are Charles Kingsley who lived at Barnack Rectory as a child and the Elizabethan poet Gascoigne who is buried in the church.

FIELD PATTERN

There was also much ancient pre-parliamentary enclosure in the area and many old limestone walls and hedges that indicate its extent still survives. John Clare was an observer and critic of the effects of common land enclosure in the vicinity. The ridge and furrow remains of medieval open fields survive in small patches of pasture at several locations. There is also much former heathland, which formed on the sandy soils that eroded from the limestone. The large estates and the owners of Burghley and Milton in particular have had a profound effect on shaping and managing the local landscape and influencing the pattern that exists today. Many of the current arable fields are large to medium in size and are a mix of geometric and regular forms with areas having been subject to relatively late enclosure in the 19th century. Closer to the villages fields are typically smaller and more enclosed by hedging.

TRANSPORT PATTERN

‘King Street’ an important north south route in the Roman Road network, passes through Area 2. Its line is marked by the west edge of Moore Wood and Ailsworth Heath, but becomes a modern road north of Ailsworth Heath. The line of Ermine Street runs north-west through Area 2, broadly parallel to the A1. The line of the Roman road is marked by a track and footpath between Southorpe and Barnack Hills and Holes. In contrast the modern A1 (T) dual carriageway is a major built feature which runs through the western part of the plateau from Wansford to Stamford and the A47, which is also partially dualled running from west to east through the south of the area. Otherwise the existing roads comprise a network of quiet minor roads, which runs through the area linking the villages and some following the boundaries of the estate parks. A number of these lanes have wide verges that are important for flora.

SETTLEMENT AND BUILT FORM

The majority of the plateau is sparsely settled with only a few isolated farms and barns. However there are a number of nucleated villages including Castor, Ailsworth, Barnack, Ufford, Marholm and Helpston, which lie to the edge of the character area with views over the adjacent river valleys. All the villages have medieval or earlier origins and there are traces of a shrunken medieval village at Upton, and docu-
mented evidence for settlements that have disappeared at Walcot Hall, Belsize and Milton Park. The quality of the built environment and vernacular buildings in the local villages is a key feature of the area. Many of the buildings are constructed from the warm coloured locally quarried limestone and roofed in Collyweston slate - a hard micaceous limestone that splits into tiles. Other properties are constructed from brick and tile and roofed in a mix of thatch and pantile. Stone is also used locally in the villages for stone walling to field and garden boundaries e.g. Barnack and Ufford. The parish church of St Kyneburgha at Castor with its prominent Norman tower with tiers of double arches is built close to the site of a major Roman Palace and commands fine views over the Nene Valley to the south. Barnack parish church built from local stone has a Saxon tower with 'long and short' work and one of the oldest towers in England. Wittering Church also has important Anglo -Saxon features. Marholm village lies close to Peterborough but is visually separated by mature woodland and its distinctive church is set amongst mature cedars and approached across meadows. Ufford hamlet contains fine rows of cottages and Ufford Hall. The Victorian Model farm at Upton contains some dramatic barns with the appearance of railway engine sheds. There is an isolated 18th century windmill outside Barnack. The mature and spacious suburban area of Wothorpe is located to the north west of the area and looks across the Welland towards Stamford. West of the A1 lies the striking ruins of Wothorpe House.

Another major feature of the settlement pattern are the local estates and associated houses. Walcot Hall is a grand 17th century house set amongst mature woods and trees. To the east lies Milton Hall home to the Fitzwilliams. The house has two contrasting elevations, Elizabethan to the north and 18th century Palladian to the south. The extensive parkland laid out by Repton is essentially inward facing and contain a number of interesting buildings including a 18th century folly built like a medieval gatehouse and home to the Fitzwilliam hounds since 1769. Rare breed sheep and long horn cattle graze the parkland. Burghley House is one of the largest and grandest houses of the first Elizabethan Age, built by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, between 1555 and 1587. The historic parkland was laid out by Capability Brown and still occupied by a herd of fallow deer. There are fine gatehouses and limestone walls around the perimeter of the park.

The exception to the traditional settlement pattern is at Wittering where the original village is now surrounded by RAF housing estates and the adjacent airfield, which dates from 1916 and is now home to the RAF Harrier Squadrons. The predominantly red brick structures, hangers and other structures including the spherical radar balls make the airfield development a prominent and unsympathetic feature in the landscape.
VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION
Although containing major roads in the A1 and A47 which provide both visual and audible local disturbance most of the plateau has a relatively tranquil and deeply rural character particularly in the central core. Much of the plateau comprises undulating fields bounded by substantial woodlands that provide enclosure and a sense of separation from the adjacent character areas and Peterborough City. However within the arable landscape there are some open and panoramic views over the gently undulating plateau. Closer to the villages there is often a more intimate character with smaller scale hedged fields, pasture and attractive stone villages. The exception to this pattern is impact of RAF Wittering where the various industrial scale buildings on the airfield represents an abrupt and significant adverse visual impact on the open plateau. In addition the impact of the Harrier flights both in the day and night creates intermittent but prominent audible intrusion. There is overall limited adverse impact from built development within Peterborough due to the presence of intervening woodland, shelterbelts and hedgerows. Pylons provide another of the few visual detractors in the area and in particular between Ashton and Helpston.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The area is predominately an agricultural area but also provides a number of informal recreational opportunities. In contrast to other parts of the authority there is a good network of public rights of way and published routes. The Hereward Way long distance footpath runs form near Sutton in the south through to Burghley and the Torpel Way provides an important east-west connection from Bretton Township in Peterborough to Stamford. There are also visitor attractions such a Sacrewell Farm and equestrian and riding centres e.g. Wittering Grange.

The gardens and parkland at Burghley, designed by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown in the eighteenth century provide an attractive resource. The grounds contain many fine veteran specimen trees including the first introduced horse chestnut to England. The grounds have subsequently been developed most recently for demonstrations of modern sculpture and in 2007 a ‘Garden of Surprises’ inspired by the early Tudor gardens. The Burghley Horse Trials are held in the park date back to the 1960’s and they have hosted an unprecedented number of international and European events. Burghley Park and Milton Park both contain a golf course.

The historic hunting and shooting sports originating from the estates have helped to shape the wider landscape. These activities have served to retain many of the larger ancient woodlands and led to the planting of secondary woodland from the 18th century to provide appropriate cover and habitat linkage. Deer and fox hunting have now given way to trail hunting.
2a CASTOR HANGLANDS WOODED PLATEAU

Strength of Character = Strong
The character of the majority of the area is relatively simple but strong. The undulating landform and large scale fields and woodland blocks create a distinctive character although there is a smaller scale and intimate character closer to and within the villages which are an integral aspect of the overall quality of the area. These features, in combination with the intact Milton estate parkland make this a rare landscape. There are few detractors in the sub area and the area’s relative separation both physically and visually from the surrounding areas adds to the remote and tranquil character.

Condition = Good
The presence of large scale and widespread semi natural habitats that are actively managed to enhance the landscape quality. Local areas of concern are the lack of young trees in the hedgerows to replace the mature and in some cases over mature stock. There has been some land cover change over the last century both in the removal of pasture and in field enlargement however the overall structure remains largely intact.

Landscape Strategy = Safeguard and manage
The sub area has a number of strong characteristics and overall the landscape needs protection from adverse development. There is scope to further enhance the landscape structure by providing more linkage of woodlands, hedgerows and roadside verges. The area stands within ‘Clare Country’ and maintaining and enhancing the character is an important objective. The role of the estates remain critical to the management of the landscape. Partnership links between a range of environmental partners including those who manage the protected sites should be explored for mutual benefit. In particular a careful balance between encouraging wider public access and maintaining the biodiversity value and tranquil character of the area should be a priority. The villages should retain their generally high quality structure and composition and great care should be taken with any additions, infill or conversions.

Sensitivity
The landscape is sensitive both from both ecological and cultural landscape perspective. The combination of good character and condition also indicates the quality of the landscape is high. Built development in the open sweeping landscapes would be highly visible and interrupt the landscape pattern. Within the more intimate village landscape the quality is a function of the buildings and the spaces and materials between them and for this reason they are also considered of high sensitivity. Any development here should be limited and be of the highest standard, sympathetic with local and traditional patterns.
2b BURGHLEY AND WALCOT SLOPES

Strength of Character = Strong
The character of the Burghley and Walcot Slopes sub area is strongly influenced by landform as reflected by both narrow contained valleys and the prominent eastward facing slopes. These slopes have been selected for the establishing various estates to maximise the setting of the topographical variation. The associated parklands and associated estate landscapes are prominent elements in the landscape. In addition the large scale fields and woodland blocks sweep up the slopes to emphasise the landform. There are also a number of smaller scale field units with pasture and hedged enclosure that add to the character. The area feels remote with many tranquil.

Condition = Good
There are a number of large and medium scale semi natural habitats many of which are actively managed. There is good age diversity in the tree population with a number of the estates having created new planting and woodland areas. There are few detractors in the sub area, although the A1 provides local visual disruption and continuous noise to adjacent areas.

Landscape Strategy = Conserve and restore
The combination of strong character and moderate condition indicates the need to conserve the best of the existing situation and then to restore the structure that has become eroded. This will in particular involve the identification of locations for further tree planting blocks to provide linkage and a strategy for screening the adverse elements both within the sub area and on adjacent land. There is scope to further enhance the landscape structure by restoring hedgerows in key locations and to promote habitat linkage through grassland field margins and roadside verges. Again the role of the estates remains critical to the management of the landscape and links between a range of environmental partners including those who manage the protected sites should be explored for mutual benefit. A careful balance between encouraging wider public access and maintaining the biodiversity value and tranquil character of the area should also be a priority. The villages should also retain their generally high quality structure and vernacular composition with considerable great care taken with proposed additions, infill or conversions.

Sensitivity
The landscape is sensitive both from and ecological and cultural landscape perspective. The combination of good character and moderate condition indicates the quality of the landscape is medium/high. The relatively steeper slopes also indicate that the sub area is visually highly sensitive and any changes are likely to be highly prominent for the valley slopes and more widely for the east facing slopes. A number of villages clothe the valley slopes any further development here should be undertaken with the greatest of care and attention to local patterns and details.

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2c WITTERING LIMESTONE PLATEAU

Strength of Character = Moderate
The westerly sub area of the plateau has a relatively less undulating form. While there are also some prominent land uses the overall character of the sub area is more disjointed. This arises from the presence of RAF Wittering in the centre of the area, the A1 corridor and to a lesser extent the A47.

Condition = Moderate
Despite the presence of a number of large individual features such as Bedford Purleius and Burghley Park some parts have only scattered habitats e.g. south west of RAF Wittering. There has been some loss of parkland to arable at Burghley. The corridor along the A1 could be improved for both road user and from the adjacent landscape

Landscape Strategy = Improve and conserve
There should be a target to conserve the best of the landscape in the historic estates and large woodland blocks. However there should be a target to substantially increase the woodland linkage between existing areas to aid the development of ecological corridors and to provide enhanced visual containment but within the context of a large to moderate scale landscape.

Sensitivity
Although the landscape has a reasonable structure the imposition of built development through the A1 and RAF Wittering adversely affects the quality and overall sensitivity of the area. Adverse development would be relatively less harmful in certain parts of the sub area than in the sub areas to the east. However there is need to improve the structure of the area largely through new woodland planting to provide stronger strategic linkages between the east and Rockingham Forest to the west.

CONDITION
Land cover change: localised
Age structure of tree cover: mixed
Extent of semi-natural habitat survival: scattered
Management of semi-natural habitat: good
Survival of cultural pattern: interrupted
Impact of built development: high
Visual unity: coherent

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER
Impact of landform: apparent
Impact of land cover: prominent
Impact of historic pattern: apparent
Visibility from outside: locally visible
Sense of enclosure: open
Tranquillity: moderate
Distinctiveness/rarity: unusual
Countryside Management

Generally

- Promote plant species in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and use of local provenance wherever possible
- Encourage progressive conversion of conifer plantations within existing woodlands to indigenous native broadleaved tree and shrub species and local provenance stock
- Protect and seek to extend the network of medium to large scale woodlands in the arable landscape providing enhanced linkage of woodland habitats utilizing ancient hedge and field boundaries to locate the most appropriate location for wood restoration and expansion. New woods should also frame important views and emphasise landform patterns
- Manage existing broadleaved woodland to maximise diversity and continuity through a range of measures including high forest, coppice, coppice with standards and wood pasture
- Support the management of key biodiversity sites e.g. Castor Hanglands, Bedford Purlieus and Barnack Hills and Holes
- Encourage the protection and restoration of boundary hedges by coppicing, laying and gapping up to improve the network of linkages between habitats
- Promote the introduction of new hedges following either roads, rights of way, historic boundaries and/or routes that visually emphasise the character of the landscape
- Encourage the planting of individual hedgerow trees to provide replacement for mature and over mature stock
- Promote both the creation of new ponds and the retention / enhancement for wildlife of existing ponds
- Encourage the provision of uncropped or grass field margins to link areas of wildlife importance and /or existing and proposed rights of way
- Protect and develop the biodiversity value of species rich grasslands including road verges promoting traditional grazing or management measures that maintain and improve their value
- Identify locations on more marginal arable land where reversion from arable to species rich grassland can be encouraged and potential for recreation of limestone heath habitats particularly where adjacent to similar existing habitats
- Promote the retention and repair of dry stone walls in the traditional style
- Promote the continued use of the area for quiet, informal recreation
- Identify improved public access arrangements by foot and horse into and between woodlands to enable enhanced links and circular routes through the area to provide connections between Torpel Way and Hereward Way. Ensure the routes provide a range of experiences including vistas, viewpoints and enclosure
- Evaluate and promote extensions to the Green Wheel network westwards consider inclusion of disused railways and other historic routes
- Review and improve the access arrangements to key visitor sites e.g. Castor Hanglands, Southey Woods and Bedford Purlieus updating car parks and links to rights of way network
- Ensure right of way signage is clear but appropriate to the location using local materials where possible
- Support the conservation and protection of the historic parklands and their traditional management measures including the veteran trees. Recognise the contrasting access restrictions/ arrangements to each estate
- Promote and support the continued management of former quarry sites for biodiversity and promote measures to visually integrate them into the landscape
- Ensure that boundaries in equestrian establishments use traditional walls, metal fences or hedges to provide paddock enclosure
- Retain the strong identity of the villages and their vernacular character and supporting intimate environment. Promote sympathetic improvement to village entrances and fringes screening local eyesores and framing local landmarks e.g. churches
- Encourage the dissemination of information about the historic importance and appropriate management of landscape features including woodland, ridge and furrow and heath
- Extend interpretation of the historic heritage of the area including Ermine Street, King Street, Castor and the estates and parklands
- Develop a strategy to visually integrate the A1 and A47 into the landscape through additional woodland planting offsite and the management of the onsite highway planting

2a Castor Hanglands Wooded Plateau

- Identify and screen the impact of built development at the edge of Peterborough to maintain the visual separation and distinct rural character. To include management of existing woodland features and creation of new planting belts
- Protect and reinforce the distinctive and legible pattern combining woodland with arable, parklands and villages with pasture

2b Buryghley & Walcot Slopes

- Conserve and reinforce the intimate character of the narrow valleys, extending grassland habitats where possible
- Identify and retain key viewpoints from slopes into adjacent landscapes and protect from adverse development

2c Wittering Limestone Plateau

- Develop a strategy to visually integrate Wittering Airfield into the plateau landscape by screening some of the buildings and boundary features
Area 2

Guidelines in relation to development

- Restrict built development in the area retaining the primary role for agriculture and as a informal recreational resource
- Protect the historic setting and structure of the villages including views to the villages and the retained open spaces within them
- Where built development or restoration is considered appropriate indigenous materials or equally visually acceptable alternatives should be used to maintain and enhance the character of the existing villages
- Prevent development that could detract from local landmarks including village churches
- Conserve the rural character of secondary roads and limit urbanising influences such as widening, kerbing and lighting
- Protect the plateau from development that would impinge on or disrupt the existing wooded skyline from within or outside the area
- Provide comprehensive strategies including sensitive earthworks, woodland and hedgerow planting and management of calcareous flora opportunities to visually and ecologically integrate existing and potential minerals sites

- St John the Baptist Church, Barnack (TLP)
LOCATION
This area follows the course of the River Welland eastwards from Stamford in the west to Peakirk north of Peterborough.

CHARACTER SUMMARY
The stretch of the broad river valley can be divided into four sub areas within Peterborough as follows:

a. Welland Valley Fringe - a very gently sloping open and low lying arable landscape with some transitional characteristics close to the boundary with the Nassaburgh Wooded Plateau.

b. Maxey Cut and North Fen - a landscape of more recent origins following the creation of the artificial Maxey Cut and the draining of the North Fen area between Northborough and Market Deeping

c. Maxey Island - a narrow band of slightly elevated ground on gravel soils

d. Welland Floodplain - a narrow meandering floodplain which extends northwards across the Lincolnshire border. Pasture is fragmented by larger arable fields that run down to the river in many places

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
• Flat open farmland with gappy and fragmented hedgerows
• Ditches forming field boundaries within the largely arable landscape
• Extensive areas of gravel extraction, mainly restored to lakes with fringing vegetation
• Villages generally with an historic core and some attractive stone buildings yet modern development is more prominent to the fringes
• Vegetation generally in linear belts, particularly along rivers, railways and drainage cuts/ditches
• The meandering River Welland forming the northern boundary
• Rich Neolithic landscape evident in crop marks on the Maxey Island

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES
• 3 major railway lines, including the east coast mainline
• Maxey Cut
• Glinton Church
• Lolham Bridges
GEOLOGY AND SOILS
The geology of the River Welland floodplain and the Maxey Cut and North Fen sub areas is similar to the River Nene. It is formed on river alluvium with the overlying soils being stoneless clays and in places calcareous in nature with seasonally high groundwater (Fladbury 1 Association). In contrast the valley slopes and Maxey Island soils are well drained fine calcareous loamy soils (Badsey 2 Association) overlying river terrace limestone and lacustrine gravels. On the upper fringes of the valley towards Marholm there is a transitional area of seasonally waterlogged clayey soils (Denchworth Association).

TOPOGRAPHY
The topographical character of the valley changes from the west where it is more contained by modest slopes whereas to the east where the valley becomes much wider spreading and a very shallow valley feature.

DEGREE OF SLOPE
Along the Welland there is a very slack fall of c 1 in 800. Valley slopes may be as much as 1 in 50 but are more typically 1 in 100.

ALTITUDE RANGE
The valley falls from approximately the 20m contour east of Stamford to 5m at Peakirk in the east. Along the southern boundary with the Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau the land rises up to between the 25- 15m contour travelling from west to east. Within the wider and flatter valley bottom some of the older settlements e.g. Maxey may lie just 1-2m above the more open a drained farmland.

HYDROLOGY
To the west the Welland takes the form of a typical meandering river valley while the eastern section formed part of the delta system where the water course split into a number of channels divide by gravel islands. Market Deeping was protected from flooding by the creation of the embanked Maxey Cut after WWII. The associated cuts and drains have also opened up the wider cultivation of the area. The course of the original Welland now forms the boundary with Lincolnshire to the north along part of its length and also splits into a couple of channels along this length with the other within Lincolnshire. The original watercourse is now much smaller along this section and unlike the Nene is not navigable. The extraction of extensive areas of gravel particularly around Maxey, (and Tallington in neighbouring Lincolnshire), has led to the creation of a number of large water bodies as part of the restoration of the sites due to the high water table. Further restoration to extensive areas of water is not favoured by RAF Wittering due to the attraction of large flocks of birds which might conflict with aircraft flight paths.

LAND COVER AND LAND USE
The major land use is a mix of arable with potatoes and sugar beet, some of which is supported by irrigation. Hedges are mainly clipped and gappy with few hedgerow trees. A number of other boundaries are marked by ditches many of which are permanently wet. Flood meadows are comparatively fewer along the Welland compared to the Nene. Other areas of grassland and pasture are generally located closer to the villages, in particular around Bainton, Ashton and north of Peakirk. More fragmented stretches of pasture remain adjacent to the River Welland and the Maxey Cut. There is minimal ancient and semi natural woodland cover in the valley. The main trees cover is provided around the fringes of the restored mineral sites, consisting mainly of willow and poplars. Other lines of vegetation follow the streams and rivers including meandering River Nene, railways or wrap around parts of the village perimeters. As a result of sand and gravel extraction there are substantial areas of open water near Lolham and Maxey. These support wildfowl that unfortunately are viewed as a hazard by RAF Wittering to the flight path of aircraft. As a result further areas of extensive open water are not favoured.

BIODIVERSITY
The Welland Valley does not appear to be as varied in its habitat composition as the River Nene, as it runs mostly through arable land. There are no nationally designated sites within this LCA, although there are 12 County Wildlife Sites that fall wholly or partially within the area. Pollarded willows and gravel pits are a feature of the area however, and are important habitat types.

The gravel pits are a relatively recent habitat type, but support many typical wetland species and are particularly notable for birds and invertebrates. Bainton Pits and Maxey Quarry CWSs are the largest complexes of gravel pits, and each former pit within these areas has developed its own
habitat composition, mainly through natural colonisation. Pollarded willows can be found at Ashton Meadows and Hedges, Hermitage Field and Paradise Willows CWSs but are declining in number. Paradise Willows CWS has the largest number of mature willow pollards in this LCA. Old oak pollards survive also in association with grasslands e.g. Woodcroft Lodge Parkland in the transitional area closer to the Nasssurugh Limestone Plateau.

Otters, Water Voles and Barn Owls are all likely to occur in this character area with a large number of invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians also having been recorded, particularly along the routes of railway lines such as the East Coast Mainline which is a CWS.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
There are extensive buried remains of prehistoric settlement and religious activity throughout this area, including nationally rare categories of monument such as Neolithic causeways enclosures and cursus monuments. Large areas are blanketed by alluvial silts that have ensured exceptional archaeological preservation. Though not usually easily visible on the ground without excavation, the remains are often reflected in spectacular crop mark patterns that are visible from the air. There are many Roman farmstead and villa sites throughout the area. They are linked by a network of ditched trackways and field systems that cover the Welland terraces. Car Dyke Roman canal runs through Peakirk and to the east of Northborough towards the Welland. It is in-filled in Area 3, but its line is marked by earthworks (Scheduled) and crop marks. The original purpose of Car Dyke is not known. It may have been excavated as a transport canal, a catchwater drain, or an administrative boundary, and could have combined of all these purposes. It is an exceptional Roman engineering work, a striking component of the local landscape, and nationally unique.

There is a moated manorial site at Maxey and impressive fortified medieval residences survive south-east of Helpston (Woodcroft Castle) and at Northborough. Northborough Manor, built by the De La Mare’s in the 14th century, was later owned by John Claypole who married Oliver Cromwell’s daughter Elizabeth. It became the home of Oliver Cromwell’s widow in her final years. The cottage given to John Clare the poet on his return to the area still stands in Church Street Northborough. The countryside, wildlife, and people of the locality (Area 2 and Area 3) provided the inspiration for much of his work.

FIELD PATTERN
The ancient drainage pattern of the Welland River, which comprised a network of shifting and meandering channels, was confined to a single meandering channel, and a series of straight drainage ditches during late medieval and post-medieval times. This allowed the creation of the rectilinear field pattern that characterises much of the area.

Areas of ancient (pre-parliamentary act) enclosure surround each of the villages, the largest of which are at Bainton and Maxey. Many old field boundaries survive in the area. Earthwork remains of medieval field systems (ridge and furrow) survive at several places, notably at Bainton and in smaller pockets of pasture at Etton and Glinton.

TRANSPORT PATTERN
The A15 runs through the eastern section of the area along a modern road bypassing the original alignment of the Lincoln Turnpike which ran through Glinton, Northborough and Market Deeping. The B1443 skirts to the south of the character area on the valley slopes linking Peterborough to Stamford otherwise other roads are relatively minor and run north south forming crossing points of the River Welland. One of these routes ‘King Street’, originally a Roman road, is carried over the Welland channels and surrounding low-lying land by Lolham Bridges, a series of low arches that form part of a long causeway that runs north from Helpston to West Deeping. Lolham Bridges are mostly 17th and 18th century in date, and are protected as a single Scheduled Monument. There is another historic crossing point into the Deepings and Lincolnshire at Deeping Gate, where a fine 17th century stone bridge carries the present minor road. The area contains three railway routes with the most significant being the east coast mainline and other routes to Lincoln and Leicester. The level landscape means that a number of signal boxes and level crossings are retained. The Welland was used as a navigable river by the Vikings who sailed inland to sack the monastery at Peterborough and also reach Stamford.

SETTLEMENT AND BUILT FORM
There are a number of nucleated villages within the Welland Valley occupying slightly higher ground above the floodplain however there are few isolated farms in the otherwise open landscape. All of the villages are medieval or earlier in origin and are centred around a single nucleus. Maxey sits on a low

- Manor House, Northborough (TLP)
gravel island that was formerly surrounded by stream courses and marshy land. Historically, Maxey has been unusually poly-focal. The Norman church, now detached, evidently was one focus. The High Street and Castle End form other foci, and there were detached medieval settlements at Lolham and Nunton. Deeping Gate, located south of Market Deeping is strung out along the south bank of the Welland and historic houses front the river, within long narrow plots that run southwards. Bainton developed as market point between Ufford and Tallington in Lincolnshire and the Market Cross is still present. Peakirk’s layout has been similarly dependent on a watercourse. The name Peakirk derives from ‘Pega’s Kirk’ after St Pega the sister of the founder of nearby Crowland Abbey who had a cell. The site of a hermitage lies to the north of the village while its main street follows the course of Car Dyke a Roman canal. Two of the settlements, Glinton and Northborough have experienced more residential growth in the 20th century than the remainder that have remained tighter to the historic core. There are a number of good vernacular buildings reflected many built from the local warm coloured limestone and roofed in a mix of Collyweston slate and some thatch. The church at Glinton was noted as a landmark by John Clare who wrote, ‘Glinton thy taper spire predominates, Over the landscape and the mind’.
VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION
The valley landscape has an open character where woodland cover is sparse. Strong linear features in the form of roads, railways and the associated overhead cables, electricity pylons and artificial embanked drains traverse the area. The number of level crossings and few bridges means the railway is a major barrier to movement. There are pockets of more enclosed landscape around some of the villages and water bodies but otherwise the aspect is exposed and at times bleak giving the feeling of a transitional area or one in need of improvement and a stronger identity. Visual and audible impact arises from the A15 and the railways including the fast moving east coast mainline. There are some modern landmarks such as the gas works south of Clifton and there are a few locations where large scale built development to the fringes of the character areas is prominent both during the day and night due to lighting e.g. the industrial areas along Lincoln Road in Peterborough. There are more isolated detractors e.g. the poultry farm at Lolham and the perimeter of the active gravel extraction site south east of Maxey. Elsewhere the impact of 20th century development is generally restricted to the fringes of the villages. The residential edges of Peterborough and Market Deeping are visually contained from the Welland Valley landscape.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
This is a predominantly an agricultural landscape but also provides a number of informal recreational opportunities. These include fishing on the water bodies associated with the restored mineral sites. The Torpel Way runs into the Welland Valley between Bainton to Stamford, however there is no recognised route that follows the remainder of the old course of the Welland to the east. There are a few rights of way that follow old drove roads through North Fen connecting to the Welland and a number of routes that follow close to but not directly along the Maxey Cut. The Peakirk Wildfowl Trust site based on the former duck decoy has now closed.

- Bainton Pits (TLP)
3a WELLAND VALLEY FRINGE

Strength of Character = Moderate
The area has on balance a moderate strength of character however there are a number of aspects that are weak. It is the openness to views both from within and outside the area and the lack of enclosure which create a relatively indistinct character. The strongest aspect is the importance of cropping but the landscape framework in which this sits is poorly defined.

Condition = Moderate
This is considered a largely average area. Although much of the arable landscape has poor value in biodiversity terms there is some local value in the hedged pasture and enclosed landscape between Bainton and Ashton and the areas associated with the restored mineral workings.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
The interrupted nature of the cultural and ecological landscape pattern is in need of improvement by creating new corridors. These could involve new hedges and field margins linked to historic boundaries or rights of way. Improved links from the Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau northwards towards Maxey Island and the River Welland together with addition spokes of the Green Wheel in similar directions should be encouraged.

Sensitivity
The ecological sensitivity of the Welland Valley Fringe sub area is overall very low, while the cultural sensitivity is moderate. The relatively level topography means in visual terms the visual sensitivity is moderate however due to the open character the impact of any built development would be significant not only within the area but also possibly seen from the more sensitive Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau to the north.
3b MAXEY CUT AND NORTH FEN

Strength of Character = Moderate
The area has on balance a moderate strength of character with only the sense of enclosure considered weak. The presence of the strongly embanked Maxey Cut and local associated features e.g. the Lolham Bridges together with a number of wetland sites e.g. at Peakirk and other restored mineral sites create a relatively more distinctive landscape than on the adjacent valley slopes. There is also a more enclosed pattern north of Northborough.

Condition = Moderate
Condition is overall considered average. Although much of the arable landscape has poor value in biodiversity terms there is local value in the restored mineral workings. There are currently few detractors arising from built development.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
As with the Welland Valley Fringe the interrupted nature of the cultural and ecological landscape pattern needs improving though the creation of ecological and access corridors. These could involve new hedges and field margins particularly perpendicular to the Maxey cut whose potential for a new recreational corridor should also be explored.

Sensitivity
The ecological sensitivity of the Maxey Cut and North Fen sub area is overall low, while the cultural sensitivity is moderate. The level topography means the visual sensitivity is moderate however due to the open character the impact of any built development would be significant.

**STRENGTH OF CHARACTER**
- Impact of landform: prominent
- Impact of land cover: prominent
- Impact of historic pattern: apparent
- Visibility from outside: locally visible
- Sense of enclosure: open
- Tranquility: moderate
- Distinctiveness/rarity: unusual

**CONDITION**
- Land cover change: localised
- Age structure of tree cover: mixed
- Extent of semi-natural habitat survival: scattered
- Management of semi-natural habitat: good
- Survival of cultural pattern: interrupted
- Impact of built development: low
- Visual unity: coherent

*Maxey Cut (TLP)*
3c MAXEY ISLAND

Strength of Character = Moderate
The narrow finger of Maxey Island has a number of strong features including the extensive presence of archaeological remains, water bodies and fringing tree belts relating to former mineral extraction. Extraction still continues south east of the Maxey village. Both Maxey and Northborough villages have strong historic cores. However the arable landscape has suffered from the decline in hedgerows and there are minimal hedgerow trees.

Condition = Moderate
There has been widespread land cover change as a result of mineral extraction however the impact of built development is more limited.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
Landscape development on the island needs to emphasize the character of this historic landscape set above the former floodplains. There is also scope to develop new wet woodland habitat with the restoration of existing extraction sites in preference to open water. The conservation and interpretation of the historic environment should also be a priority for the area.

Sensitivity
The ecological sensitivity of the Maxey Island is considered low in terms of historic ecological patterns however the presence of new habitats through restored sites raises the sub area to moderate. The historic environment is considered moderate since while there are a number of archaeological remains there has also been considerable disturbance due to minerals. The landform is level giving a moderate visual sensitivity but this is locally less due to the presence of linear screening belts.

• Maxey Church (B.Robinson)
3d WELLAND FLOODPLAIN

Strength of Character = Moderate
The meandering floodplain of the Welland forms a narrow strip of land to the northern boundary of the authority. Where floodplain meadows are present particularly to west close to Stamford and around Lolham Mill, where there are good tree belts and enclosure, the character is locally stronger. However in other sections where arable cropping extends to the river the floodplain character is weaker. The sense of tranquillity however is strong.

Condition = Moderate
Where the character is stronger the elements are generally in better condition. The river also provides a unifying and linking habitat through the sub area. However landcover change to arable has weakened the condition of sections of the corridor. The impact of built development is very limited.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
The emphasis should be to provide a stronger sense of connectivity between the habitats along the full length of the river. This should involve retaining the meadows and riparian tree belts and targeting arable conversion back to pasture.

Sensitivity
The ecological sensitivity of the corridor is moderate; however it has the potential to improve with greater connectivity between meadows. The historic environment is considered moderate. The enclosed low lying nature of the landform means the visual sensitivity is low.
COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Generally

- Promote plant species in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and use of local provenance wherever possible
- Strengthen the distinction between the valley fringe, Maxey Cut, Maxey Island and the Floodplain
- Promote sympathetic improvement to village entrances and fringes screening local eyesores and framing local landmarks e.g. churches
- Encourage the reversal of habitat fragmentation and the creation and improvement of habitat links to create eco-corridors starting from existing stream lines, ditches and hedgerows
- Promote uncropped or grass field margins to enhance biodiversity linkage within and outside the area. Margins to follow existing and proposed rights of way where possible
- Identify and encourage the provision of addition rights of way and extensions to the Green Wheel network to give improved access within the area and between the Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau and Torpel Way to the Welland Valley to the north
- Ensure right of way signage is clear but appropriate to the location using local materials where possible

3a Welland Valley Fringe

- Promote the retention, restoration and planting of hedges and hedgerow trees within open landscape to provide additional structure while still retaining vistas across the valley. Pattern to follow historic field boundaries where possible
- Promote the appropriate management of existing woodland to retain indigenous broadleaves, using coppicing where possible to establish a rich ground flora
- Encourage the retention of grassland and field trees and promote extensions of grassland habitats and new planting where suitable
- Promote both the creation of new ponds and the retention / enhancement of existing ponds
- Promote additional woodland planting to the south east of the area to screen large scale industrial units on the edge of Peterborough as seen from the Welland Valley and the Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau around Marholm

3b Maxey Cut and North Fen

- Explore greater use of the Maxey Cut embankments for enhanced public access
- Promote the active management of restored gravel pits at Bainton and Maxey to benefit biodiversity and to balance with fishing and other quiet recreational activities.
- Promote wet woodland and reeds as restoration technique for active mineral sites

3c Maxey Island

- Promote the active management of restored gravel pits at Bainton and Maxey to benefit biodiversity and to balance with fishing and other quiet recreational activities.

Guidelines in relation to development

- Protect the historic setting and structure of the villages including views to the villages and the retained open spaces within them
- Ensure development or restoration in the historic parts of villages uses indigenous materials or equally visually acceptable alternatives to maintain and enhance the character of the existing villages
- New development adjacent to existing villages to concentrate on locations at Clinton and Northborough
- Promote improvements in and around villages to the perimeter and wider setting to improve visual quality and to maintain separation from adjacent settlements and northern edge of Peterborough
- Ensure future built development in and adjacent to Peterborough is screened from adjacent rural landscape to the north and west
- Potential future mineral extraction to be carefully evaluated against historic value of landscape. If future extraction is on balance acceptable restoration measures to provide additional accessible green space and wet woodland
- Ensure that any development considered appropriate in the open countryside is carefully assimilated into the open landscape character. Building forms, materials and landscape proposals are to be sympathetic to the existing character
- Prevent development that could detract from local landmarks including village churches
- Conserve the rural character of secondary roads and limit urbanising influences such as widening, kerbing and lighting
LOCATION
This area covers much of the land to the east of the City of Peterborough, extending from the edge of Peterborough to the boundary of the authority. It is bisected by the A47.

CHARACTER SUMMARY
The fen landscape can be divided into four sub areas as follows:

a. Bedford North Level - an extensive area of low-lying reclaimed fen farmland dominated by a geometric pattern of arable fields

b. Thorney Island - an area of slightly elevated ground on clay soils with an intact pattern of hedges and organic fields

c. Nene Washes - an area of grassland which provides seasonal flood storage capacity

d. Horsey Toll - an area of slightly elevated landform to the south of the fens

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
- Flat extensive and open landscape with panoramic views and large skies
- Rectilinear field pattern reflecting the artificial drainage pattern
- Predominantly arable farmland
- Isolated farmsteads mainly of Victorian to modern origin
- Sparse tree cover generally limited to shelter belts/copses around farmsteads and avenues along drove roads
- Road pattern typically rectilinear and raised above the surrounding peat fen
- Scattered active and former mineral extraction sites
- Settlement on the drained fen mainly of recent origin
- Organic pattern of fields and stronger hedgerows around Thorney

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES
- Pill boxes and other WWII features
- Avenues of trees along roads
- Catswater Drain
- Embanked River Nene
- Duck Decoy
- Thorney Abbey and House
- Thorney water pumping station tower
- Duke of Bedford model village properties
- Abbey Fields parkland in Thorney
- Dog in a Doublet sluice

Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment
GEOLOGY AND SOILS
There is a surprising variety of soils on the level fens which reflects its complex history. To the north and south east there is a mix of deep humose soils, both calcareous and clayey in character (DownHolland 1 and Normoor Associations) which overly marine alluvium and fen peat laid down when the area was underwater as part of a more extensive Wash. The silty soils are often present as low ridges which relate to the extensive network of Roddons or old river systems that once drained parts of the area e.g. Borough Fen. The geology of the River Nene and Welland floodplain is formed on river alluvium with the overlying soils being stoneless clays and in places calcareous with seasonally high groundwater (Fladbury 1 Association). Smaller areas of glaciofluvial drift are overlaid by coarse loamy calcareous soils with some sand (Ireton Association), which is reflected in the presence of mineral extraction. Areas of river terrace drift with fine loamy soils (Waterstock Association) are found closer to the River Nene. In contrast to the majority of the area Thornely stands on an island of Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shale that is overlaid by slowly permeable clay soils with, localised waterlogging (Oxpasture Association).

TOPOGRAPHY
The expansive and level fens provide a dominant characteristic of the character area. Strong horizons provide the baseline for expansive and often dramatic skies.

DEGREE OF SLOPE
The fens are essentially flat. The only exceptions are at the margins of the 'islands'. Despite the lack of variation in height in absolute terms where a small change does appear this can be visually quite noticeable with sites e.g. 'Hill Farm' on the southern approach to Thorne and at Horsey Hill, the site of a civil war fort.

ALTITUDE RANGE
The altitude of the Peterborough Fens generally ranges between minus 1 and 3m AOD. The localised 'islands' or 'hills' which reach above the 5m contour and are also the site of historic settlements.

HYDROLOGY
This low-lying once forested land became increasingly inundated as sea levels rose and the drainage of seaward

• Soil profile in freshly cleared ditch (TLP)

LAND COVER AND LAND USE
The land cover pattern is dominated by agriculture including arable and root crops on the good quality rich fen soils with some localised irrigation. Fields are typically large with most field boundaries marked by drainage ditches. Tree cover is sparse and is generally only found in the form of shelter belts around isolated farmsteads, at settlement edges, or as avenues along some of the major drove roads e.g. Dairy Drove.

BIODIVERSITY
The Peterborough Fens Landscape Character Area is quite varied in terms of its wildlife and biodiversity value. Although arable farmland is the predominant ground cover, there are four main valuable habitat types within the Landscape Character Area, which include alluvial grassland & washland, ditches, pollarded willows and gravel workings/brick pits, all of which are, to some extent, manmade.

The concerted efforts to drain the wetland fens originate in the medieval period. Morton's Leam, dug in the late 15th century, provided a direct navigation from Wisbech to Peterborough, and made a significant contribution to fenland drainage. The 17th century, however, saw the beginning of the large scale drainage works that eventually produced one of the most productive agricultural landscapes in Europe. The idea that the major fenland channels could have dual roles for navigation and drainage was extended to the excavation of the present Nene channel, which also created a 'wash' between the two rivers, to provide a flood safety valve for the drainage system.

The boundary of Area 4d is formed by the course of the Old Nene, an artificially enhanced and formerly navigable channel. In medieval and early post-medieval times it linked Peterborough to Whittlesey Mere, Ramsey, March, the central fens and ultimately the coast.

Artificial drainage of the low lying fens was initially provided by wind power but later changed to diesel engines. The system under the direction of the Internal Drainage Boards and Environment Agency is critical to maintaining the land in agricultural production.
also probably the most important biodiversity site. They are internationally important for breeding and wintering birds, and form part of the overall Nene corridor and its nationally important flyway for migratory birds which are designated as a SPA, RAMSAR site, SAC and SSSI. The grassland and ditches within the washes that is grazed by cattle when conditions allow, are also noted for their rich flora. Species rich ditches are generally located towards the west of this LCA, and many are designated as County Wildlife Sites. These ditches tend to be located within areas of fen gravels and support a rich flora, as well as high populations of Water Voles. Many of the ditches, which are up to 300 years old, run for a considerable length and may be of national importance for species associated with ditches. The disused gravel workings in the character area often share similar aquatic plant species to the ditches, but are also designated as County Wildlife Sites for their populations of invertebrates. Pollarded willows are located mainly along the lines of watercourses and drove roads, such as Willow Drove CWS. Pollarded willows are declining in number due to lack of management, and most are not replaced when they eventually die out. Barn Owls and badgers are also known to be present within the Peterborough Fens. A programme to monitor Barn Owls on the Fens is currently underway.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
Area 4 comprises part of the wider fenland landscape which on examination is one of the most diverse, distinctive and dynamic ancient landscapes in the country. The history of the fens and its people is a fascinating tale of man working with nature and then conquering it through the progressive drainage over the centuries. The onset of wetland conditions brought by rising sea levels buried vast prehistoric field systems, settlements, and burial mound cemeteries at the fen margins. Though increasingly exposed by the erosion of overlying peaty soils, the preservation of archaeological remains is often exceptional. The Bronze Age timber alignment and platform at Flag Fen is an internationally renowned archaeological site. It is the only place in the country where a substantial prehistoric timber structure can be viewed by the public in situ. There is a very well preserved Iron Age site north-east of Peakirk, which elsewhere in the country would be classified as a hill fort. Roman settlement occupied the fen margins, low islands, and the raised silt ridges of extinct prehistoric water courses but lacked the apparent wealth of the Nene and Welland valley villa sites. These Roman sites focused on livestock management and salt production.

The prevailing wetland character of the area into post-medieval times is reflected by the presence of an important duck decoy pond north-east of Newborough - the oldest continually operated decoy in the country and one of the most elaborate. From this time much of the undrained landscape provided rich hunting ground for wildfowl and eels, and a source of raw materials from reeds for roofing and willow for basket making.

FIELD PATTERN
The Earl of Bedford’s Thorney estate provided the prototype for the reclamation of the whole of the fenland region of the east of England. It is exemplified in the ruthlessly tessellated rectangular ditched fields, and ruler-straight droves, roads and channels that characterise the broad sweep of the landscape fenland landscape. Area 4b comprises the historic island of Thorney, the only place where parkland and ridge and furrow field systems could be established and these features remain highly distinctive in the local landscape. The remains of early reclamation and enclosure fields fan out from higher land into the surrounding fen margins.

TRANSPORT PATTERN
The historic Fen Causeway, an important Roman road that linked East Anglia to the Midlands, runs through Area 4, hopping across fen ground from Whittlesey Island to Peterborough. It is preserved as pronounced gravel and stone ridge at Flag Fen. Today the A47 and the A1703 are the main roads across the area. The road pattern is generally rectilinear following ditches and drains such as along the River Nene and the many minor roads that follow the drove roads e.g. English Drove and French Drove created during the draining of the fens to bring livestock to market. Most roads are now elevated above the surrounding arable landscape due to the erosion of the fen soils. The vertical alignment of the minor roads can vary due to varied settlement and the underlying pattern of harder silty soils which follow the line of ancient tidal watercourses. The Nene was navigable at the time of the Vikings who sailed inland to sack the monastery at Peterborough. The Dog in a Doublet sluice marks the end of the current tidal stretch of the River Nene.

SETTLEMENT AND BUILT FORM
Thorney is the main historic settlement in the area. An important medieval abbey was established here following the colonisation of the island by a religious community in the Anglo-Saxon period. The present striking parish church incorporates the remains of the monastic church. Thorney was re-modelled by the Duke of Bedford and the architect Samuel Toulon during the 19th century. It retains the special character of an estate village, a very rare type of settlement in the fenland region and its margins. The Bedford family brought Huguenot settlers to Thorney, and also established farmsteads and cottages on the reclaimed fen. The pattern of settlement on the fens today comprises isolated farmsteads typically located just a metre or two above the surrounding fields. These include a number of grand Victorian and Edwardian houses with mature shelter belts. Newborough built on reclaimed fen is one of the very few entirely ‘modern’ villages in the area, having been created in the 19th century. Its current mid to late 20th century character presents a rather harsh interface with the surrounding open landscape.
VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION
Due to the strong horizontal skyline and large skies the presence of built or natural features is significantly emphasised e.g. the avenues of trees which follow the drove roads create a marked silhouette highlighting form and species. However, the lack of major settlements and the dispersed nature of villages and farmsteads within the very open landscape create a feeling of isolation. The only major road through the area is the A47, which bisects it and creates localised disturbance to the landscape, particularly around the Thorney bypass. Other roads are more rural in character and have relatively little traffic on them, creating a quiet and peaceful landscape. The flat landform allows extensive views within and beyond the area meaning landmarks and visual detractors on the eastern edge of Peterborough and also outside the authority, such as the brick chimneys at Whittlesey and wind turbines to the east and north of the district are often visible from a great distance. To many the appreciation of the fens is an acquired taste yet it is a very distinctive landscape that can engender strongly contrasting responses.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The fens have a very limited network of rights of way due to their relatively recent draining, with transport in the past often having been by boat. Some of the minor roads form part of the Green Wheel cycle network. There are a few tourist attractions within the area, including Thorney Abbey and Heritage Museum. The Nene Washes are also a popular location for bird watching.

Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre opened in 1987 after workers on nearby drainage ditch uncovered what turned out to be the Bronze Age timbers of a causeway between Peterborough and Whittlesey. The site now includes a museum, visitor centre, preservation hall containing in-situ timbers, an archaeology park and mere, and a Roman herb garden.
Strength of Character = Strong
The flat, open nature of this landscape, with its rectilinear drainage pattern and relative lack of vegetation, create a very strong character. Although the area is exposed and, is widely visible from its surroundings, this does not weaken the character and may be considered to even strengthen it further. The sense of distance from major development generally leads to a tranquil character.

Condition = Moderate
The general lack of semi natural vegetation and the character of many of the drainage ditches means that the landscape generally has a relatively poor biodiversity value. Progressive drainage has gradually reduced the biodiversity value over the centuries although some man made features such as the Nene Washes has created valuable areas. The impact of built development on the landscape is mainly limited to isolated settlements and farmsteads or larger developments located beyond the area.

Landscape Strategy = Conserve and restore
The combination of strong character and moderate condition indicates the need to conserve the main characteristics of the landscape and then to restore the areas where the condition has deteriorated. This should involve ensuring that the open nature of the landscape is safeguarded from inappropriate elements and development. The harsh edges of some of the fen villages should be softened with appropriate planting, in keeping with other planting belts around Fen settlements. The planting along Thorney bypass should be monitored and adjusted to ensure that it is in keeping with the Fen landscape.

Sensitivity
The ecological sensitivity of the Fens is relatively low overall. The flat topography means that this area has moderate visual sensitivity, however due to the open character the impact of any built development would be significant not only within the area but also as seen from the more sensitive Thorney Island (Area 4d). Cultural sensitivity is moderate within this area.

Reclaimed Fenland East of Thorney (B. Robinson)
4b THORNEY ISLAND

Strength of Character = Moderate
The impact of landcover within Thorney Island is strong, with its more intimate mix of pasture and arable fields. The area is partially enclosed, allowing localised views into the island area. The presence of the A47 locally interrupts the tranquility that can be experienced elsewhere on the Fens. The elevated situation and clay soils has determined a landscape pattern which contrasts with the surrounding fen. On balance the strength of character is considered to be moderate.

Condition = Moderate
This is a mature landscape with a coherent visual unity. However, the vegetation on Thorney Island is generally mature, and approaching over maturity in some locations, with semi-mature habitats becoming scattered. The cultural pattern has also been interrupted by modern agricultural practices and the expansion of the built up area of Thorney.

Landscape Strategy = improve and conserve
The island nature of this landscape should be conserved and its historic structure and field patterns should be reinforced and improved wherever possible. Interpretation of the historic features of the sub area should be provided and built development should be closely restricted.

Sensitivity
The overall ecological sensitivity of the island is considered to be very low due to its isolation. Its cultural sensitivity is considered to be moderate, whilst the slight elevation of the island above the surrounding flat landscape means that the visual sensitivity of this area is high. Any development on the island will be prominent not only within the rest of the island but from the surrounding Fen landscape.

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

| Impact of landform: | apparent |
| Impact of landcover: | prominent |
| Impact of historic pattern: | apparent |
| Visibility from outside: | locally visible |
| Sense of enclosure: | partial |
| Tranquillity: | moderate |
| Distinctiveness/rarity: | unusual |

CONDITION

| Land cover change: | localised |
| Age structure of tree cover: | mature |
| Extent of semi-natural habitat survival: | linked |
| Management of semi-natural habitat: | not obvious |
| Survival of cultural pattern: | intact |
| Impact of built development: | moderate |
| Visual unity: | coherent |

![Thorney Island Image]
4c NENE WASHES

Strength of Character = Strong
Although the Nene Washes are very exposed, which could potentially weaken their character they have a very prominent flat landform and distinctive washland grazing meadows. The Washes represent an artificial but historic feature of the River Nene and have fulfilled a flood prevention role for a long period of time. Compared to the surrounding Fen landscape a number of valuable habitats are present meaning this is a rare sub area with a strong character.

Condition = Good
The management of the widespread semi-natural habitats within this sub area is good mainly as a result of its flood storage function. Much of the woody vegetation within the sub area is over mature, however this does not weaken the overall condition of the landscape as it is predominantly meadowland. The cultural pattern of the Washes is largely intact, although built development on the edges of Peterborough and Whittlesey has a high visual impact. Overall the condition of the Washes is considered to be good.

Landscape Strategy = Safeguard and manage
The strong character and good condition of the Nene Washes means that they need to be safeguarded and managed. The functional requirement to provide a flood storage should ensure the continued management of the area for biodiversity.

Sensitivity
Despite the designations within this sub area, the lack of variety of habitat types means that the ecological sensitivity is considered to be moderate. Cultural sensitivity is also moderate, but visual sensitivity is considered to be low as the flat valley landscape is surrounded by land that is marginally higher than it.

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4d HORSEY TOLL

Strength of Character = Moderate
This is a predominantly arable sub area, however, it does not have a distinct character of its own. Its slight elevation above the surrounding area, and the civil war fort on Horsey Hill, now marked by mature trees, combine to create an unusual landscape when compared to the rest of the Fens. Overall, however, the character of Horsey Toll is considered to be of moderate strength.

Condition = Moderate
Although landcover change within this sub area has been insignificant, semi-natural habitats are scattered with limited biodiversity value, and their management is not obvious. The expansion of housing at Stanground has a marked visual influence on the area and this will continue with additional planned development including the bypass. The vegetation pattern is generally in decline apart from the vegetation around the site of the fort.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and conserve
The historic features of this sub area need to be conserved, but the character of Horsey Toll needs to be improved in order to ensure a more attractive and robust edge to the expanding City of Peterborough. Drainage ditches within the area should be managed more sympathetically for wildlife in order to provide better habitat linkages, with new hedgerows and field margins introduced.

Sensitivity
The overall ecological sensitivity of this sub area is low and the cultural sensitivity is moderate. The very slightly undulating, but still low-lying landform, means is moderately visually sensitive. The openness of the area would mean that new development would be visually significant not only within the area but also from the adjacent Nene Washes and the Fens.

• Horsey Hill Civil War Fort (TLP)
COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Generally

- Promote plant species in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and use of local provenance wherever possible
- Restore and maintain pollarding cycles to traditionally pollarded willows, which are an important habitat for tree sparrows
- Encourage the planting of new willows for pollarding along key routes and waterways
- Encourage management and replacement regime for existing tree avenues along with single species. Promote new avenues in selected areas linking with ‘quiet lanes’
- Promote rationalising planting to Thorney Bypass to create a single species avenue
- Review suitable locations for controlled flooding of areas in addition to the Nene Washes to counter the implications of climate change
- Ensure right of way signage is clear but appropriate to the location using local materials where possible
- Encourage appropriate management of all drainage ditches to improve wildlife value, by improving water quality and establishing grass headlands
- Encourage increased public access to the Fens, particularly through the designation of ‘quiet lanes’ and extension on the Green Wheel network
- Preserve and interpret pill boxes and other features along the ‘GHQ line’
- Discourage the planting of inappropriate woodland blocks throughout the Fens
- Retain the rectilinear field pattern that characterises the Fens
- Encourage the restoration of mineral extraction sites to traditional Fen and wetland habitats including wet woodland
- Promote a strategy to minimise peat shrinkage and loss from agricultural fields

4a Bedford North Level

- Encourage planting along the Catswater Drain corridor to improve its biodiversity value and distinctiveness
- Encourage diversification of farming techniques and crops, encouraging organic farming and reducing the use of fertilizer
- Consider use of Peterborough Farms estate for trialling new biodiversity and cropping techniques
- Discourage development that could alter the water table of the Fens, particularly around the sensitive Flag Fen area
- Restrict tall buildings and structures that will visually impact over a large area where not suitably mitigated

4b Thorney Island

- Target hedgerow planting in the ‘Island’ landscape - using former fields boundaries as guidance for appropriate locations
- Encourage restoration of Abbey Fields parkland, including replacement/ restoration of parkland trees

4c Nene Washes

- Encourage seasonal grazing on the Washes
- Improve public access where not adversely affecting the ecology of the area
- Protect from development that would alter its visual or environmental character
- Improve links out into the area from Peterborough City centre

4d Horsey Toll

- Preserve and interpret historic civil war hill fort
- Target hedgerow planting on elevated sections using former fields boundaries as guidance for locations

Guidelines in relation to development

- Ensure careful consideration is given to development on the fringes of settlements to minimise visual intrusion
- Ensure built development is generally enclosed by existing and/or strengthened vegetation
- Where development is otherwise considered acceptable ensure that the forms and materials create elegant structures within the open landscape
- Encourage the improvement of village and farmstead edges through the use of appropriate shelter belt planting
- Limit expansion of Thorney to retain the remaining organic hedged landscape and parkland areas
- The use of traditional building materials should be encouraged, particularly around Thorney
- Prevent development that could detract from local landmarks such as Thorney Abbey

- River Nene, Flag Fen and Stanground (B. Robinson)
LOCATION
The area lies between the built edge of Peterborough as marked by the A15 Paston Parkway to the west and the fens to the east.

CHARACTER SUMMARY
This is a transitional area between urban Peterborough and the Fens and includes the last largely undeveloped areas of slightly elevated landscape set on underlying clay soils to the east of Peterborough. The character area can be divided into two sub-areas as follows:

a. Norwood Fen Fringe - an area with a mix of land uses including arable farmland and disturbed landforms following the extraction of clay from the area, over many years, for the brick industry

b. Eye Fen Fringe - an area centred on an historic village location

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
• Gently undulating landform slightly higher than adjacent fen
• Evidence of former clay extraction, with clay pits now both nature reserves and a landfill site
• Isolated farmsteads and residential properties
• Large commercial buildings associated with the site of former brickworks
• Some medium sized hedgerows containing a variety of species

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES
• Promontory of open historically cultivated land extending to the east up to the line of the Catswater Drain

• Car Dyke Roman canal
• Household waste/landfill site
• Dogsthorpe Star Pit SSSI/LNR
• Former BOCM Paul building
• Eye village core
• Permanent travellers site

• Car Dyke. (TLP)
GEOLOGY AND SOILS
The extent of the fen fringe at Eye is determined by the underlying river terrace drift geology. The soils are deep loams over lying sandy soils with local groundwater and areas of seasonal waterlogged loams over clay (Shabbington Association), which explains the previous extraction of clay for the Dogsthorpe Star brickworks.

TOPOGRAPHY
The landform comprises a subtle elevated area set above the adjacent low lying fens. The man made features in the landscape provide more dramatic contrasts in landform. These include the former brick pits which are well below sea level and the domed land fill site to the south of the A47 which is slowly creating a new hill in the landscape. The embanked Car Dyke provides a strong linear feature to the northern boundary of the area.

DEGREE OF SLOPE
Natural slopes are typically very gentle and less than 1 in 100 while much steeper slopes are associated with the man made features.

ALTITUDE RANGE
To the west around Norwood the land rises up to 13m AOD while to the east the settlements of Eye and Eye Green are located on a minor ridge above the 5m contour. A narrow finger of land to the north east which has been cultivated and part of the parish since medieval times follows the Reaches towards Powder Blue Farm at 4m AOD.

HYDROLOGY
The area is drained by a series of ditches and dykes that flow onto the fens or into artificial channels. The northern boundary follows the embanked Car Dyke that runs from Cambridge to Lincoln and was one of the greatest engineering feats carried out by Roman Empire in Britain. It is thought that the waterway was built to carry food and supplies from East Anglia to the north, with cargoes of corn, wool for uniforms, leather for tents and shields, and salted meat. Although the Dyke does not seem to have been used for transport subsequently it is a substantial water-filled ditch with associated earth banks, which effectively marks the historic fen edge.

The Catswater Drain formed the old county boundary between Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire and marks the eastern boundary of the character area. Its north-south course defined the fen edge in medieval times and the east side of the narrow peninsula that juts out into the fen towards Lincolnshire. Despite its apparent natural meandering form the Catswater Drain is likely to have been excavated in the Late Saxon period or medieval period. The counter drain just north of Oxney House defines a narrow valley that flows into a small land-locked fen embayment south of Eye.

Following the extraction of clay there are a number of artificial lakes at the bottom of the former brick clay pits. Two of these at Eye Green and Dogsthorpe Star Pit are important wildlife habitats.

LAND COVER AND LAND USE
The land cover of this area is very varied. There are areas of arable farmland around the edges of Eye and Peterborough, growing a mix of linseed, oil seed rape, wheat and sugarbeet. Field boundaries include a mixture of hedgerows and drainage ditches, with hedgerows still containing elm in places. Former brick pits now function contrastingly as a landfill site and nature reserves. Woodland can be found around the edges of the nature reserves at Dogsthorpe Star Pit and Eye Green. Car Dyke forms a distinct linear water feature along the edge of the area, with grassy banks and tall vegetation along most of its length. Other isolated areas of grassland can be found to the south of Eye, particularly around Eyebury Farm.

Biodiversity
The main habitats within the Eye Fen Fringe occur in locations that have either been heavily influenced or created by human activity. The main areas of wildlife interest are concentrated at the locations of former brick pits. Dogsthorpe Star Pit is a former brick pit and is designated as a SSSI and LNR for a number of reasons. It has rich and varied mosaic of habitats, with its plant life including orchids and a range of aquatic or semi-aquatic plants. It also hosts a large number of rare and scarce invertebrates, including a range of different water beetles and some species that are usually only found in costal areas, which suggests saline conditions underlying the pit. There are also a wide variety of birds that visit the site, both aquatic/wading species, including rare migrants such as the green winged teal.

Eye Green LNR is also a former brick pit, and supports a range of birds, invertebrates, insects and grassland wildflowers. There are also County Wildlife Sites within the character area that have been designated for their woodland habitat e.g. Little Wood CWS, or for their value as species rich ditches e.g. Cat’s Water Drain.
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
Large scale archaeological excavations in advance of sand and gravel extraction have demonstrated that an extensive network of fields and droves was created on the fen margins during the Bronze Age. Their primary purpose seems to have been livestock management. Hitherto they were thought to be Roman since enclosure on this vast scale was considered to be beyond the region’s prehistoric people.
There are many Roman farmsteads in the area. They tend to be situated on the fen edge to make use of seasonal grazing land. During the medieval period several monastic farms (granges) were established in this area by Peterborough Abbey. Northholm, Tanholt, Eyebury, Singlesole, and Oxney are mentioned in medieval documents. All these sites are still occupied by substantial farm houses and yards. Oxney, though originating as a cattle farm, became a significant moated residence that was used as a retreat by monks and by retiring abbots. It was endowed with a chapel and a fair. The present imposing Oxney House, largely re-built in the 19th century and now undergoing redevelopment, retains medieval vaulted rooms.

FIELD PATTERN
A large part the whole of the area was already enclosed prior to the parliamentary enclosure act for Eye in 1820. The more organic pattern of fields and drains and presence of hedgerows and hedgerow trees reflect this ancient enclosure in contrast to the neighbouring fens. However there are no substantial areas of ridge and furrow surviving in the old open field areas. A park was created around Eyebury, south of Eye, in 1299. There is a large earth bank at the south edge of Eye which formed the north boundary of the park, and probably housed its rabbit warren.

TRANSPORT PATTERN
Car Dyke runs along the eastern boundary of Area 5a and considerable lengths of the monument survive as substantial earthworks and a water-filled ditch. The present A47 (T) retains the feel of the historic causeway that ran between the fen edge at Eye and the island of Thorney. The former railway, still marked by an embankment and a few buildings, runs on a parallel course to the north of the A47. The A1073 runs northwards from Eye to Crowland.

SETTLEMENT AND BUILT FORM
The village of Eye owes its name to the Old English phrase meaning ‘island in the marsh’ and was surrounded to the north, east and south. The main settlement is medieval or earlier in origin and has a linear main street and backstreet plan on a ridge of high ground overlooking fen ground. St Mathews church built in 1846 from limestone is a replacement for the medieval church which occupied the same site. Eye is separated from its sister village of Eye Green by the A47. Eye became one of the brickmaking villages of the Peterborough area, along with Fletton, Yaxley and Stanground. The village of Eye has a number of buildings built in local yellow brick.

• Dogsthorpe Star Pit (TLP)
VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION
The landfill site, the A15 Paston Parkway and the A47 trunk road provide visual and audible disturbance even to the adjacent nature reserves. Within much of Area 5b away from these intrusive features, the landscape is open and exposed with little vegetation and in many ways similar to the adjacent fen. In Area 5a there is a locally more intimate character with some tall hedgerows creating a stronger sense of enclosure on the eastern side of the city. From most parts of this area, however, the urban edge of Peterborough intrudes into views. In many locations this intrusion is minimised by the screening provided by shelterbelts along the edges of the parkway system, but in other locations, particularly to the south of Eye, this intrusion is much more noticeable where large industrial units are prominent. The southern residential edge of Eye is also harsh and intrudes on views to the south of the area.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Dogsthorpe Star Pit and Eye Green nature reserves are both publicly accessible and promoted as visitor attractions. They have informal footpaths around them and interpretation boards are also provided at both sites. The Green Wheel cycle network has routes running through the northern part of this area and along the northern edge of Dogsthorpe Star Pit. Rights of Way through the area are very limited, although there are a number of permissive routes.

- Land at Norwood Farm (TLP)
5a NORWOOD FEN FRINGE

Strength of Character = Moderate
Despite the discordant nature of this sub area, it is unusual for this side of the city, with a wide variety of landuses occurring in a relatively small area. Most of the features of the area combine to create a moderate strength of character, with its slightly elevated clay based landform being apparent in contrast to the surrounding Fens. Its recent history is apparent in the legacy of pits from the extraction of clay, while its more ancient history can also be identified through interpretation of features such as Car Dyke. The level of enclosure is variable through the sub area, with mature hedgerows creating an intimate scale of landscape in certain locations but areas such as the landfill being much more exposed.

Condition = Poor
A number of elements of the sub area indicate that its condition could improve. These include the varying ages of vegetation e.g. young planting around the landfill site to mature woodland blocks and hedgerows in the area to the north of Dogsthorpe Star Pit. The semi-natural habitats within the sub area, although scattered, are also well managed, with Dogsthorpe Star Pit SSSI undergoing regular management to its valuable habitats. On the whole, however, the condition of the sub area is considered to be poor. Widespread changes have occurred within the area and much of its cultural pattern has been destroyed, leaving an incoherent and jumbled landscape.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Restore
This sub area has undergone much change and has been left disjointed and in need of improvement. There are a number of important features within the area, such as Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Eye Green nature reserve and Car Dyke, but these need to be better integrated with their surroundings. Hedgerows are becoming over mature and in need of regeneration and better links to nearby woodland blocks. The roads that pass through the area could also be better accommodated to reduce visual and audible intrusion. The landfill site will need to be carefully incorporated back into the landscape when it comes to the end of its workable life.

Sensitivity
Ecological sensitivity in this sub area is either low or very low. The area disturbed by clay extraction is particularly highlighted as being of very low sensitivity, although Dogsthorpe Star Pit is a designated nature reserve. Cultural sensitivity is considered to be moderate overall but Car Dyke is an important local feature. Visual sensitivity is also considered to be moderate for this sub area. However, any development should take account of the views into the area from the adjacent Fens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRENGTH OF CHARACTER</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact of landform:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of land cover:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of historic pattern:</td>
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<td>Visibility from outside:</td>
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<td>Sense of enclosure:</td>
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<td>Land cover change:</td>
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<td>Age structure of tree cover:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survival of cultural pattern:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of built development:</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual unity:</td>
<td>incoherent</td>
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</table>

Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment  pg 63
5b EYE FEN FRINGE

Strength of Character = Moderate
On the whole, this sub area is considered to have a moderate strength of character. It has strong features, such as its predominately arable landcover, but it also has a number of weak characteristics. These include its openness and visibility from the edge of Peterborough, Eye and the wider Fen landscape. These factors, combined with its arable landuse, make it a frequent landscape type in this part of the country. Given its location, however, it is a moderately tranquil sub area away from the main roads. In terms of landform there are some noticeable undulations, particularly as it rises up to the more historic settlement of Eye on the line of the A47.

Condition = Moderate
The condition of this sub area is considered to be moderate, despite having a number of weak elements to it. Its cultural pattern is declining as a result of the expansion of Eye and Peterborough, and their influence on the surrounding land. This has resulted in an incoherency throughout this sub area with fragmentation of landscape units and harsh edges to development. Semi-natural habitats have become scattered, and with the exception of Eye Green LNR there is no obvious management, other than regular dredging of drainage ditches to maintain their drainage function.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
The moderate strength of character and condition of this sub area indicate that there is room for improvement such as the scope to improve the harsh urban edges of Eye and parts of Peterborough through careful tree belt planting in character with the surrounding Fen landscape and the heavily vegetated boundaries to Peterborough in other parts of the city. The corridor of the A47 could also be targeted for selective enhancements to integrate it further into the sub area. Improvements to the landscape structure including some hedgerow planting need to ensure that the sub area becomes more cohesive and reads more as a Fen island.

Sensitivity
Ecological sensitivity in this sub area is considered to be either low or very low. The areas adjacent to Eye have very low sensitivity, which may be a result of the expansion of Eye and its influence on the land beyond its boundaries. Cultural and visual sensitivity are both considered to be moderate, however, any development should take account of the views into the area from the adjacent Fens and the edges of Peterborough.

- The Southern edge of Eye (TLP)
COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Generally
- Promote plant species in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and use of local provenance wherever possible
- Identify and encourage the provision of additional rights of way and extensions to the Green Wheel network to give improved quality of access in the area
- Ensure right of way signage is clear but appropriate to the location using local materials where possible
- Introduce a programme of sympathetic improvements along the A47 to improve its integration within the landscape and tie together the separate sub areas
- Provide enhanced connectivity of habitats
- Promote the extended use of the area for informal recreation

5a Norwood Fen Fringe
- Promote the restoration of the landfill site for public access and recreation
- Protect Car Dyke from potentially damaging development, provide interpretation and promote its use for informal recreation
- Ensure that Dogsthorpe Star Pit and Eye Green nature reserves are protected from potentially damaging development whilst improving public access
- Target hedgerow planting and restoration in the northern part of the sub area to retain its enclosure and more intimate scale
- Ensure appropriate management of woodland blocks with thinning and replanting as necessary

5b Eye Fen Fringe
- Target hedgerow planting to the south of Eye - to help define the boundaries of the area with the fens
- Encourage appropriate management of all drainage ditches to improve wildlife value, by improving water quality and establishing grass ‘verges’ and headlands
- Introduce screening to the southern edge of Eye to soften the currently visible harsh boundaries
- Target opportunities for enhanced interpretation of the historic landscape

Guidelines in relation to development
- Discourage development on flatter land beyond the edge of the raised island of Eye
- Ensure careful consideration is given to the siting of appropriate development on the fringes of settlements to minimise visual intrusion
- Ensure new development is enclosed by existing and/or strengthened vegetation to minimise visual intrusion on the surrounding landscape
- The use of traditional building materials should be encouraged, particularly in development around Eye
- Encourage the improvement of village and farmstead edges through the use of appropriate shelter belt planting
- Ensure new roads are carefully integrated into the landscape with appropriate planting along them

- Fields north of Dogsthorpe Star Pit (TLP)
LOCATION
This area is located to the south of Peterborough adjacent to the boundary with Huntingdonshire where the irregular boundary creates a fragmented pattern of landscape units. The northern boundary is formed by the south Peterborough township of Hampton, which is currently under construction. The A1 (M) forms its western boundary of the authority and area.

CHARACTER SUMMARY
This clay-based landscape has locally undergone significant change largely as a result of clay extraction and can therefore be divided into two contrasting character types that are represented in a number of fragmented sub areas as follows:

a. South Peterborough Farmed Claylands - a predominantly arable landscape that has not been directly affected by clay extraction and contains two discrete sub areas

b. South Peterborough Brickfields - a heavily disturbed area that has seen major changes as a result of clay extraction, and is currently undergoing large scale restoration and redevelopment. It contains four discrete sub areas including the East of England Showground

KEY CHARACTERISTICS
• Natural landscape comprises gently undulating landform
• Medium sized arable fields remain in areas unaffected by clay extraction
• Variable hedgerow cover

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES
• Orton Pits SAC/SSSI - important for Great Crested Newts and Stoneworts
• Disused brick pits
• East of England Showground
• Regions of high nature conservation interest
• Strong visual impact from new development at Hampton
• The A1(M) forming a strong boundary to the west
• Areas of neglect

Ridge and Furrow in Beeby’s West Lake (TLP)
GEOLOGY AND SOILS
The geology to the south and south west of Peterborough comprises an extensive area of chalky till which is overlaid by slowly permeable calcareous clayey and non calcareous clayey soils (Hanslope Association). The presence of the clay has determined the historic extraction of clay for brick manufacture.

TOPOGRAPHY
The character area generally slopes gently towards Peterborough with localised undulations. The former brick pits which are well below sea level in places. The steep banks are being re-profiled to make the pits safe for public access as part of the development of Hampton. To the south-east of the character area at Yaxley there is a more pronounced ridge and sloping ground which falls down to the Huntingdonshire fens.

DEGREE OF SLOPE
Natural slopes are typically gentle and range from approximately 1 in 20 to 1 in 150. Much steeper slopes are associated with the man made features such as the brick pits, but again these are being altered to make the pits safe for public access.

ALTITUDE RANGE
The Claylands range from just under 35m AOD in its southern corner to around 10m AOD at the boundary with Hampton.

HYDROLOGY
The area is drained by a series of ditches and dykes that flow into artificial channels and eventually into Stanground Lode. Following the extraction of clay there are a number of artificial lakes at the bottom of the former brick clay pits. Several of these are used to store water from the Hamptons development and release it gradually into Stanground Lode to reduce flood risk further down stream.

LAND COVER AND LAND USE
The land cover of this area is varied. The South Peterborough Farmed Claylands are predominantly arable and used to grow a mix of wheat with some sugar beet and linseed. Large areas are also left as set aside. There are some small to medium sized woodland blocks within the sub area including some poplar plantations however these are typically fragmented. Other vegetation follows the A605 Fletton Parkway and provides a dense screen to the edge of Peterborough. Hedges are mainly clipped and gappy with few hedgerow trees. A number of other boundaries are marked by ditches which are only seasonally wet. The South Peterborough Brickfields comprises a mosaic of waterbodies in the former brick pits, open spaces or areas that will become open spaces as their restoration is completed, and other wildlife habitats. There are also areas of woodland around many of the former pits.

Biodiversity
The South Peterborough Claylands has a number of interesting ecological features, mainly as a result of past brickworks activity in the area. The areas that have remained undisturbed are largely arable or set-a-side with a combination of hedgerows, narrow ditches and woodland blocks but are less ecologically diverse than those areas that have been affected by past works.

The most important ecological feature of the area is Orton Pit, which is designated as a SAC and SSSI. The pit has areas of ridge and furrow that were created during the extraction of clay for brickmaking, which have become a series of pools with habitats at different stages of succession between them, varying from open grassland to scrub. Orton Pit is home to the largest population of Great Crested Newts in Britain, possibly Europe, and a large variety of a type of algae known as Stoneworts, including the nationally rare Bearded Stonewort. The site also supports a range of aquatic flora that is unusual in Britain, particularly in freshwater conditions. Locally and nationally rare or scarce species known to be present include badgers, bats and water voles, as well as a range of amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and insects.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
There are traces of prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon settlement in the vicinity, though these are less dense than in neighbouring areas. The clay soils here are thought to have been generally less attractive for settlement and agriculture than neighbouring areas, and have not been as receptive to archaeological survey.

The site of the former Napoleonic Prisoner of War Camp at Norman Cross (which though mainly in Huntingdonshire District is nevertheless enveloped by Area 6) is of considerable interest. This was the first ever purpose built prisoner of war camp, and was designed to hold upwards of 7000 men. The enclosed part of the prison is protected as a Scheduled Monument and its boundary can be seen as earthworks in pasture. The whole prison site (then known as a ‘depot’) including two barracks for 1000 troops and ancillary buildings, cemeteries, etc. occupied a larger area, including part of Area 6. The site was almost entirely cleared in 1816 and since that time has remained a rare oasis of parkland-type landscape.
FIELD PATTERN
Ridge and furrow remains of the former open field systems can be seen west of the A1 within Huntingdonshire but these have been ploughed away within Area 6. Most of the surviving field boundaries seem to relate to parliamentary enclosure and there are areas of plantation woodland e.g. Jones’s Covert.

TRANSPORT
Ermine Street which marks the western boundary of the area was the principal north-south route of eastern Roman Britain, linking London and York. This route later became the alignment of the Great North Road while the current A1 (M) runs adjacent to the west.
London Road, A15 was the coaching road which ran from the Great North Road through Yaxley to Peterborough, and ultimately on to Lincoln and the Humber. Part of the ‘New Road,’ which historically linked Orton Waterville with the Great North Road, is preserved in a modern farm track and is part of the Green Wheel. The northern boundary is marked by the Fletton Parkway however the route is largely screened by linear belts of planting. To the east the B1091, Peterborough Road runs from Yaxley through Fawcett to Peterborough along a ridge from where there are extensive views of the fens to the south. The east coast main line railway passes through the area to the east.

SETTLEMENT
The area has no significant settlement. There are a few isolated houses on the old Great North Road and Spendelows Farm in the middle of Area 6a. Beyond the perimeter there is more significant development most notably the expanding Hamptons township and Yaxley, a medieval origin village located in Huntingdonshire. To the south Norman Cross, which gave its name to one of the Saxon hundreds of Huntingdonshire, is the most historic settlement bordering Area 6 and there is a group of important historic buildings on London Road associated with the Napoleonic Prisoner of War Camp, including the fine residence of the prison commandant (or ‘Agent’ as he was then known) and the Barrackmaster’s house.

Norman Cross. (B. Robinson) •
VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION
The A1(M), to the west of the area, provides audible disturbance to a large proportion of the area, as does the A605 Fletton Parkway. Parts of the A1(M) are screened from the area, particularly where it is in cutting, but other stretches notably to the north west are more visible creating additional visual disturbance. The A605, and beyond it the southern edge of Peterborough, are well screened by vegetation along the sides of the parkway apart from the tops of large warehouse and industrial buildings on the south western edge of Peterborough.

The edge of development at Hampton is very visually intrusive on much of the area. There is currently no established planting or other form of screening to soften the edge of development, and the new housing is very prominent in many views looking east. The impact of the A15, is minimised by a linear belt of mature poplar trees, although these are beginning to reach the end of their lifespan. Much of Yaxley is also screened from view, although its church spire forms a local landmark.

Parts of the Farmed Claylands, Area 6a are very open and exposed, with only a limited number of hedgerows to break up the landscape or create any sense of enclosure. There are considerable areas of set aside to the north-west which give the impression of neglect. Woodland blocks do enclose parts of the area, however, and can create occasional spaces that are more intimate in scale. The Brickfields sub area is more varied, however, and provides a wide range of sensory experiences when passing through the area. Enclosure is created by mature vegetation, including wet woodland, but there are also often expansive views across waterbodies and into the surrounding arable landscape.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The majority of the landscape character area falls within the South Peterborough Green Parks, a project area defined to identify, protect and create greenspace opportunities for people and wildlife to the south of Peterborough. There is already a country park within the area at Crown Lakes to the west of Farcet, and other areas are intended to come forward as publicly accessible open space through the development of the Hamptons. The SAC at Orton Pit is not intended to be publicly accessible, however, due to its ecological sensitivity.

There are a number of Rights of Way that pass through the area including sections of the Green Wheel cycle network and routes promoted by Sustrans as part of their network of national cycle routes. There is only one bridge over Fletton Parkway at present, which limits access from the city however a second crossing is planned to enhance sustainable access. The site of the former Napoleonic Prisoner of War Camp at Norman Cross is not currently publicly accessible although there is an art gallery open to the public in one of the near by buildings.

* Guided Walks at Hampton Nature Reserve (Froglife)
6a SOUTH PETERBOROUGH FARMED CLAYLANDS

Strength of Character = Moderate
On the whole the character of this sub area is considered to be of moderate strength. Much of the area is open, with little vegetation to provide a sense of enclosure. The landform is gently sloping and is noticeably more elevated than the nearby Fen landscape but is not as steeply sloping as the ridgeline west of the A1(M). There are localised views into the area from publicly accessible locations.

Condition = Moderate
Despite the major impact of built development from the neighbouring Hamptons and the historic disturbance at the adjacent brickfields, the condition of this sub area is considered to be moderate. Landcover change has been localised within the sub area, with the majority of land remaining under arable cropping and some limited woodland cover. As a whole, the sub area is visually coherent, although there is visual intrusion from built development and adjacent roads.

Landscape Strategy = Improve and Conserve
The woodland blocks present within this sub area should be conserved and, where possible extended to provide, increased enclosure, enhanced habitat linkages and strengthened character. Improvements could be made to hedgerows to reinforce field boundaries and restore structure in the landscape. Measures to minimise the visual and audible disturbance caused by the adjacent roads and built development would also help to improve the condition of the sub area and strengthen its character.

Sensitivity
Ecological sensitivity in this sub area is considered to be very low, with large arable fields as the main landcover, although Chambers Dole/Jones’ Covert is a localised more sensitive feature. Cultural sensitivity is considered to be low, however the Norman Cross PoW camp is an important feature adjacent to the boundary of the area. Visual sensitivity is considered to be moderate for this sub area as a result of its gently sloping landform. Any development within this area will be overlooked by the higher ground to west of the A1(M) and will need careful planning, mitigation and integration.
**6b SOUTH PETERBOROUGH BRICKFIELDS**

**Strength of Character = Strong**
Despite some weak and moderate elements the character of this sub area, is overall considered to be strong. The major changes arising from the clay extraction in the 20th century removed most of the original historic landscape pattern. Subsequent closure of the brickworks and pits has left a legacy of pits and waterbodies. Within the area there is partial enclosure but other areas are concealed from public viewpoints. The features within this sub area combine to create a rare landscape with a patchwork of different habitats, particularly within the Orton Pit SAC.

**Condition = Poor**
The condition of this sub area has a number of contradictory elements to it. The areas that have been restored, or are in the process of restoration, demonstrate good condition. However other factors indicate that the overall condition of the sub area is poor. The widespread landcover change while the area was worked, its relic cultural pattern and the major impact of built development, particularly at Hampton and Yaxley, create an incoherent landscape with fragmented patches of different landuses. On balance the condition is considered to be poor however with continued improvements and maturity of the new landscapes this should improve in the future.

**Landscape Strategy = Restore condition to maintain character**
The features within this sub area that combine to create its strong character and rarity, such as the valuable habitats and mosaic of land uses, should be effectively managed and enhanced. However, the elements that contribute to the poor condition of the landscape need to be improved. The restoration work that is currently being undertaken should be progressed with an emphasis on linking together existing elements and making them more cohesive. Much of these improvements will help to create a new landscape pattern. Built development currently has a major impact on the sub area, and providing screening and mitigation of this development should be a priority to further improve the condition and character.

**Sensitivity**
The sensitivity of this sub area is very similar to that of the South Peterborough Farmed Claylands sub area. Ecological sensitivity generally considered to be very low on the whole with localised pockets of moderate sensitivity and Orton Pit SAC which is very sensitive to change due to the need to carefully manage the water levels. Cultural sensitivity is considered to be low with localised pockets of moderate sensitivity and visual sensitivity is also considered to be moderate. Other parts of the sub area are also likely to become more ecologically sensitive as their habitats mature and restoration is completed.
COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Generally
• Support the South Peterborough Green Parks initiative and the realization of its vision, recommendations and objectives for the area
• Promote the extended use of the area for informal recreation
• Promote plant species in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and use of local provenance wherever possible
• Ensure right of way signage is clear but appropriate to the location using local materials where possible
• Promote the continued maintenance of Green Wheel and Rights of Way routes, particularly where new development may cause pressure
• Identify and encourage the provision of additional rights of way and extensions to the Green Wheel network to give improved access within and from the area including links to the Great Fen Project to the south
• Provide additional bridges over the Fletton Parkway to allow improved public access
• Develop a strategy to visually integrate the A1 into the landscape through additional offsite woodland planting and the management of the onsite highway planting
• Extend interpretation of the historic heritage of the area including, the former Napoleonic Prisoner of War Camp at Norman Cross, and promote public access as appropriate
• Retain key views to local landmarks such as Yaxley church
• Promote the gradual replacement of poplar belts along the A15 with more appropriate indigenous species

6a South Peterborough Farmed Claylands
• Protect and seek to extend the network of small to medium scale woodlands in the arable landscape providing enhanced linkage of woodland habitats
• Encourage progressive conversion of conifer plantations within existing woodlands to indigenous native broadleaved tree and shrub species of local provenance stock
• Promote the creation of new woodland blocks and copses to strengthen the character of the area providing visual relief from extensive arable fields and providing additional screening of the Hamptons
• Promote hedgerow restoration and improvements throughout the area to provide visual and ecological links between existing and proposed woodland
• Encourage appropriate management of all drainage ditches to improve wildlife value, by improving water quality and establishing grass 'verges'
• Encourage the provision of uncropped or grass field margins to link areas of wildlife importance and /or existing and proposed rights of way

6b South Peterborough Brickfields
• Promote the management of existing woodlands including shelterbelts and roadside plantations including the use of a variety of traditional practices including coppicing
• Promote the creation of new woodland belts to maintain enclosure within the area
• Restore and manage former clay pits for enhanced access, recreational and ecological value
• Protect the important ecological habitats including Orton Pit SAC from potentially harmful development, and ensure that it is managed in the most appropriate to maintain its ecological value
• Promote the development and enhanced management of corridors and areas of open space and associated facilities including Crown Lakes Country Park and Stanground Lode
• Encourage the dissemination of information about the historic importance of the brick pits, geological and dinosaur remains and the ecological importance of the waterbodies and wetland habitats

Guidelines in relation to development
• Encourage early planting to both existing and proposed development in order to minimise visual and audible intrusion
• Ensure any future built development in and adjacent to Peterborough is screened from adjacent rural landscape to the west and integrated by appropriate planting within the area
• Ensure that new development within the Hamptons contributes to the provision and maintenance of a network of accessible and multifunctional green space
• Promote improvements in and around the perimeter of Yaxley and its wider setting to improve visual quality and to maintain separation from the southern edge of Peterborough
• Prevent development that could detract from local landmarks including village churches

Haddon Lake (TLP)
Landscape Character Areas and Sub Areas

LCA1: Nene Valley
1a - Nene Valley Floodplain
1b - Ferry Meadows Corridor
1c - Ailsworth and Castor Valley Slopes

LCA2: Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau
2a - East Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau
2b - Central Nassaburgh Slopes and Valleys
2c - West Nassaburgh Limestone Plateau

LCA3: Welland Valley
3a - Welland Valley Fringe
3b - Maxey Cut and North Fen
3c - Maxey Island
3d - Welland Flood Plain

LCA4: Peterborough Fens
4a - Bedford North Level
4b - Thorney Island
4c - Nene Washes
4d - Horsey Toll

LCA5: Eye Fen Fringe

LCA6: South Peterborough Claylands
6a - South Peterborough Farmed Claylands
6b - South Peterborough Brickfields

Key
County/Unitary Authority Boundary
District Boundary
Landscape Character Areas
Landscape Character Sub Areas

1:50,000
## Field Survey Form

### Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment

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**Location:**
**Landscape Character Area:**
**Conditions:**

### Strength of Character

#### LANDFORM (S1)
- **Description:**
  - flat
  - gently undulating
  - strongly undulating
  - steep
  - broad valley
  - narrow valley
  - plain
  - plateau
  - upland
  - cliff

- **Hydrology:**
  - river
  - stream
  - ponds
  - lakes
  - reservoir
  - wetlands
  - other

- **Degree of slope:**
- **Altitude:**

#### LANDCOVER (S2)
- **Description:**
  - open farmland
  - treed farmland
  - wooded farmland
  - parkland
  - woodland
  - grassland / common
  - open water or wetlands

- **Primary land use:**
  - commercial / industrial
  - farmland: arable / pastoral / mixed
  - forestry: broadleaf / conifer / mixed
  - common or green: grassed / treed
  - nursery / allotments / orchard
  - recreation or amenity: type
  - reservoir
  - disturbed: type

- **Associated features:** e.g. glasshouses / marina.

- **Secondary land use** (select from above)

- **Woodland cover:**
  - extensive
  - interlocking
  - linear
  - discrete
  - fragmented

- **Species:**

- **Field boundaries** (in order of promincence):
  - hedgerow (with/without trees)
  - tree rows
  - hedgebank
  - fence
  - wall / wet ditch
  - other

- **Field size:**
  - 1- small < 2ha
  - 2- small/medium
  - 3- medium / large
  - 4- large > 8ha

- **Settlement:**
  - Form: village / hamlet / isolated house or farm / other
  - Building style: vernacular / non-vernacular
  - Age: Tudor / Stuart / Georgian / Victorian / Edwardian / 20thC
  - Materials: walls and roof

- **Verges:**
  - absent
  - variable
  - uniform wide / medium / narrow
  - ditched

- **Country houses:**
  - Age: Tudor / Stuart / Georgian / Victorian / Edwardian
  - 20thC
  - Materials:

- **Other built features (function, age and materials):**

- **Other comments e.g. cultural features:**

### Historical Pattern (S3)
- **Description:**
  - organic
  - planned
  - unenclosed

- **Field pattern:**
  - geometric (ordered)
  - regular (rectilinear)
  - subregular (interlocking – curved boundaries)
  - irregular (organic, winding lanes)
  - discontinuous (no discernable pattern)

- **Transport pattern:**
  - motorway
  - straight
  - A road
  - winding
  - B road
  - sinuous
  - track / lane
  - sunken
  - canal
  - railway

- **Settlement:**
  - Form: village / hamlet / isolated house or farm / other
  - Building style: vernacular / non-vernacular
  - Age: Tudor / Stuart / Georgian / Victorian / Edwardian / 20thC
  - Materials: walls and roof

- **Verges:**
  - absent
  - variable
  - uniform wide / medium / narrow
  - ditched

- **Country houses:**
  - Age: Tudor / Stuart / Georgian / Victorian / Edwardian
  - 20thC
  - Materials:

- **Other built features (function, age and materials):**

- **Other comments e.g. cultural features:**

### Visual and Sensory Perception
- **Views of area from outside (S4):**
  - widely visible
  - locally visible
  - concealed

- **Sense of enclosure (S5):**
  - confined
  - contained
  - partial
  - open
  - exploded

- **Tranquility (S6):**
  - tranquil
  - moderate
  - discordant

- **Rarity (S7):**
  - unique
  - rare
  - unusual
  - frequent
### HIStoryC Al INTEGRITY

<table>
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<th>Extent and type of landcover change (C1):</th>
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<td>change in extent of woodland/tree cover on farmland</td>
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<td>minerals</td>
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Notes:

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<td>S4 Visibility from outside</td>
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<td>Locality visible</td>
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<td>S5 Sense of enclosure</td>
<td>Open/Exposed</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Contained/confined</td>
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<td>S7 Distinctiveness/rarity</td>
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<table>
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<th>C3 Extent of semi-natural habitat survival*</th>
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<th>C5 Survival of cultural pattern (fields and hedges)</th>
<th>C6 Impact of built development*</th>
<th>C7 Visual unity</th>
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APPENDIX C
Peterborough LCS Stakeholder Response

Peterborough Landscape Character Area Stakeholder Workshop 20/7/06

Name.................................................................. Date ..........................................................

Organisation...................................................... Tel.................................................. Email..........................................................

NB Please complete sections in the questionnaire that are of interest to you and return to:
The Landscape Partnership, Greenwood House, 15a St Cuthbert’s Street, Bedford, MK40 3JG by 25/08/06. Alternatively if you would like to reply by email please contact ruth.sismey@bedford.tip.uk.com for an electronic copy of the form

Introduction
The purpose of Landscape Character Assessment is to identify what makes a particular area or locality distinctive and then how that distinctiveness can be reinforced or managed to maintain diversity and quality within the landscape. It is a process that has been carried out through much of England to provide planning guidance in a consistent and evidence based framework.

The aim is to build up a picture of the local landscape within the framework of landscape character areas. Draft landscape character areas have been proposed for the rural areas of Peterborough City Council authority. This has involved a combination of a desk study (covering aspects of geology, soils, land use, ecology and historic environment) and field work to test the desk study and also identify other visual, perceptual and aesthetic characteristics.

The attached sheets and plan has been produced at an interim stage in the development of the Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council when the views of a wide range of Stakeholders are sought. We would very value any comments or information that you have to guide the development of the Landscape Character Assessment descriptions and to thereby enrich the study. We appreciate that there is wealth of information available through the stakeholders. Please feel free to add comments which could range from strategic ideas to more local and detailed knowledge of the areas.

The value of a landscape to the local population is an important aspect of the study. Question 8 provides the opportunity to provide a measure of value to each character area on a scale of 1 to 5 measured within the context of the wider Peterborough environment. For the purposes of this study the following values are selected: 1 = very low, 2 = low, 3 = moderate, 4 = high, 5 = very high. Please provide a mark for the character area as a whole rather than reflecting any single features within it.

After the audit of each area has been carried out it is then the intention to create a series of guidelines. These will help guide the management the existing landscape resource and also provide guidance on the sensitivity of the landscape to new development and its potential capacity to accept new development. Please add your comments to Question 9 and use the reverse sheets or addition paper if required.

General Question

Draft Landscape Character Areas
With reference to the attached map do you think that the main landscape types and areas have been correctly identified within the authority? Are there any more areas or potential sub divisions? (NB It should be noted that the boundaries between character areas may sometimes be reasonably clear whereas in other locations they may be more of a gradual transition).
1. Nene Valley

**Key Characteristics**
- Recreational land uses at Nene Park/Ferry Meadows Country Park
- Broad valley of River Nene
- Pasture and flood meadows along banks of river
- Large arable fields further from the river
- Villages with distinctive stone buildings at their centre and generally sympathetic infill development
- Areas of former gravel extraction within floodplain
- River Nene gently meanders through area
- Major centre of Roman archaeology in association with the Ermine Street crossing of the River Nene

**Distinctive Features**
- Nene Park/Ferry Meadows Country Park
- Nene Valley Railway
- Castor Church
- Line of dismantled railway from Nene Valley Railway to Stamford including attractive brick bridge in Sutton
- Large stone buildings in Sutton
- Durobrivae Roman settlement

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife)

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual of aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note) 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
2. Nassubburgh Limestone Plateau

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating limestone landscape.
- High percentage of woodland cover, including large blocks of woodland, many ancient or semi-natural and others of later origin in association with sporting activities.
- Large arable fields with clipped hedgerows and large hedgerow trees - mainly oak.
- Landscape pattern strongly influenced by large estate owners.
- Large areas of parkland remain intact and well managed.
- Attractive villages, buildings constructed of local stone with local slate roofs and associated dry stone walls.
- Many areas of high nature conservation interest.
- Several active and disused sand, gravel and limestone quarries.
- Good network of public rights of way and published routes.
- Remnant pre-enclosure field systems, with ridge and furrow near villages and isolated settlements.
- Wide road verges with rich limestone flora.

Distinctive Features

- Milton & Burghley Estates
- RAF Wittering historic airfield
- Castor Hanglands
- Barnack Hills and Holes
- Bedford Purlieus
- Strong linear Roman features of Ermine Street and King Street.
- Model farm at Upton

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife)

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual of aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note) 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
3. Welland Gravels

Key Characteristics

- Flat open farmland with gappy and fragmented hedgerows.
- Many ditches also act as field boundaries within the largely arable landscape.
- Evidence of extensive areas of gravel extractions, many now restored to lakes and being replanted.
- Villages generally have an historic core, with attractive stone buildings, and unsympathetic modern development around their fringes.
- Vegetation generally in linear belts, particularly along rivers and drainage cut/ditches, and consisting of willow and poplars.
- The meandering River Welland forms part of northern boundary.
- The flat river valley formed part of the delta system of the Welland, creating gravel islands that include the modern day location of Maxey, but is now artificially drained by a series of cuts and drains.
- Very rich Neolithic landscape evident in crop marks on the Maxey gravel island.
- Prominent industrial areas in Peterborough along Lincoln Road.

Distinctive Features

- 2 major railway lines, including the east coast mainline and Marholm Cut County Wildlife Site
- Maxey Cut
- Car Dyke along eastern boundary
- Glinkton Church
- River Welland

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife)

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual of aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note) 1 2 3 4 5

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
4a. The Fens (NB excludes islands – see 4b)

Key Characteristics
- Flat, open landscape with expansive views.
- Rectilinear field pattern created by geometric arrangement of drains and ditches.
- Arable farmland with isolated farmsteads of Victorian to modern origin.
- Vegetation sparse and generally limited to shelter belts/copses around farmsteads and avenues along drove roads, often a prominent feature on the middle and distant horizon.
- Road pattern typically straight and raised above the reducing level of the adjacent peat fen.
- Numerous active and former mineral extraction sites.
- A general absence of Public Rights of Way.
- Settlement on the Fens, other than on Fen islands, is of recent origin.

Distinctive Features
- Car Dyke
- Pill boxes and other WWII features relating to the GHQ line
- Avenues of trees along roads (lime and willow)
- Cats Water Drain
- River Nene and Nene Washes
- Drove roads

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife )

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual of aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note)  1 □  2 □  3 □  4 □  5 □

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
4b. The Fen Islands

**Key Characteristics**
- More organic pattern of fields and drains.
- Stronger hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Slightly higher ground.
- Harder ground in the form of silt or clay islands.

**Distinctive Features**
- Thorney Abbey and House
- Thorney water pumping station tower
- Duke of Bedford model village properties
- Abbey Fields parkland in Thorney
- Windmill in Thorney
- Eye village core

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife)

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual of aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note) 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
5. Fen Fringe
Key Characteristics
- Gently undulating landform
- Evidence of former clay extraction, with clay pits having now become a nature reserve and a landfill site
- Isolated farmsteads and residential properties
- Large commercial buildings associated with the area of former brickworks
- Medium sized hedgerows containing a variety of species, including elm

Distinctive Features
- Care Dyke Roman canal
- Household waste/landfill site
- Dogsthorpe Star Pit SSSI/LNR
- Former BOCM Paul building
- Large permanent travellers site

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife)

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual of aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note) 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
6. Peterborough Southern Claylands

**Key Characteristics**

- Very gently undulating landform.
- Disused brick pits have a major impact on the landscapes, with many now forming lakes and recreational facilities.
- Medium sized arable fields remain in areas unaffected by clay extraction, with some loss of hedgerows.
- Isolated modern buildings present but otherwise sparsely populated.
- Small to medium blocks of woodland and plantations.
- Large areas of high nature conservation interest.
- Strong visual impact of new development at Hampton, where there is very little screening at present.
- The A1(M) forms a strong boundary to the west.

**Distinctive Features**

- South Peterborough Green Parks
- Orton Pits SAC/SSSI – important for Great Crested Newts and Stoneworts
- Disused brick pits
- East of England Showground
- Norman Cross Napoleonc Prisoner of War camp just to the south west of the area
- Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites – dinosaur remains

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested boundaries/name of the area?

2. Do you have any comments on the key characteristics identified for the area? (mark list above or add below)

3. Do you consider that there any other important distinctive features in the area? (mark list above or add below)

4. What are the important natural features of the area? (including, hydrology, geology & wildlife)

5. What are the important cultural/historic of the area? (including, field patterns, people & places)

6. What are the main recreational and accessibility features of the area? Are there any gaps?

7. Are there any important perceptual aesthetic factors of the area (e.g. visual impact of development, noise)

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how do you value the character area in the context of Peterborough and its the surrounding landscape? (See front page for note) 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

9. What specific guidelines would you suggest to guide the management/enhancement and or development of the area? (Please continue on reverse if required)
## 5.0 APPENDICES

### Stakeholder Workshop Attendees

#### Group 1 (No sticker group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Sismey</td>
<td>The Landscape Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuart McPhee</td>
<td>PCC (Natural Environment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Smith</td>
<td>PLAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rohan Wilson</td>
<td>FoE/Ramblers Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Smith</td>
<td>Smith Gore (Surveyors)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renuka Gunasekara</td>
<td>Haskoning (Water Management)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Clements</td>
<td>Bretton Parish Council/FoE</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Marsden</td>
<td>PCC (Recreation Services)</td>
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<td>Sue Turner</td>
<td>PCC (Grounds Maintenance)</td>
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<td>Dave Hill</td>
<td>PCC (Planning)</td>
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<td>Simon Pickstone</td>
<td>PCC (Sustainable Travel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Billingsley</td>
<td>The Landscape Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Thompson</td>
<td>LDA Design</td>
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<td>Jonathan Price</td>
<td>English Nature</td>
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<td>John Dodge</td>
<td>Barker Storey Matthews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Kay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Nichols</td>
<td>Rural Development Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Jacomb</td>
<td>Biological Records Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Locke</td>
<td>O&amp;H Properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Palmer</td>
<td>Barnack Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Armstrong</td>
<td>PCC (Ecology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neil Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phill Wray</td>
<td>The Landscape Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Smith</td>
<td>The Landscape Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Heath-Brown</td>
<td>PCC (Planning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethan Eggboro</td>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candy Reed</td>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Clay</td>
<td>PCC (Landscape)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosemary Smith</td>
<td>PCC (Implementation manager)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Wilkinson</td>
<td>Friends of the Earth</td>
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<td>Catherine Lee</td>
<td>Bretton Parish Council</td>
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<td>Jim Gammie</td>
<td>English Nature</td>
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<td>June Woolard</td>
<td>Barnack Parish Council</td>
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<td>Graeme Law</td>
<td>PCC (Planning)</td>
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### APPENDIX G

**Summary of Sensitivity**

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**Ratings:**
- Individual Sensitivity: Very High = 5, High = 4, Moderate = 3, Low = 2, Very Low = 1
- Overall Sensitivity for Ecological, Cultural and Visual: Very High = 13, 14 & 15, High = 11 & 12, Moderate High = 10, Moderate = 9, Moderate Low = 8, Low = 6 & 7, Very Low = 3, 4 & 5
APPENDIX H

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FRONT COVER (from top to bottom)
Southern Clay Fringe. (TLP)
Narrow boat on the River Nene. (TLP)
Thorney Village. (B. Robinson)
left: River Welland. (TLP)
right: Church of St Kyneburgha, Castor. (TLP)

BACK COVER (from top to bottom)
New South Eau. (TLP)
Enterance to Burghley House. (TLP)
Ferry Bridge. (TLP)
The Fens. (TLP)
Shanks Millennium Bridge. (TLP)