

TW PZ 24 - Littleborough River Meadowlands

Policy: Conserve

Character Summary

This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedgelines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINC's within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP.

The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.

The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

Landscape condition is defined as **very good**. There is a **unified** pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a **strongly visually unified** area.

The overall cultural integrity is **good** due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINCS in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is **moderate** which together with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall

A **strongly visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600)' although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is **insignificant**, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to **moderate** visibility.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a landscape of **moderate** Sensitivity

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- **Conserve** mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough
- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 24
Landscape Character Parcel TW33

Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition

Very good

Pattern of Elements: Unified

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Strongly unified

Cultural Integrity: Good

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Functional Integrity: Strong

Sensitivity

Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Moderate