

6. C: TRIBUTARY FARMLAND WITH PARKLAND

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 6.1. The Tributary Farmland with Parkland Landscape Type occupies two discrete areas of landscape, one in the east and one towards the north of the district. It shares many of the characteristics of the Tributary Farmland Landscape Type and is therefore found in similar transitional locations, defined spatially by the plateau uplands and river valleys between 20m AOD and 50m AOD. This type differs due to the presence of some different land uses, in particular parklands, which create a very distinctive character throughout much of the area.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Gently undulating landform** created by the presence of small tributary stream valleys which cut through the glacial till landscape providing a sense of restrained variety
- **Transitional landscape** occupying the mid ground between the upland plateaux and the main river valley landscapes, providing varied opportunities for long and framed views
- **Presence of large parkland estates** particularly associated directly with the tributary valleys. Estate railings, prominent gatehouses, boundary fences and tree-lined avenues with areas of pastoral farmland and horse grazing reveal the presence of the wooded parkland in the wider arable landscape.
- **Context of tamed and peaceful arable farmland** with scattered small farm woodlands, including ancient woodland, and medium to large-scale fields of sugarbeet and cereal surrounded by sparse hedges and hedgerow trees.
- **Small fields of more unusual crops** such as sunflowers and asparagus bounded by banks of coppiced willow.
- **Dispersed but evenly distributed settlement pattern** of small farmsteads and small, nucleated villages.
- **An intricate network of small rural roads** often bounded by banks or ditches with a sense of impenetrability.
- **Tributaries visually elusive and often physically inaccessible** – rarely evident because they are hidden within the landscape by topography or trees, particularly where they are associated with the parkland which prevents public access to them.
- **Mixed architectural character** comprising modern development and traditional vernacular architecture, including stepped and Dutch gable ends and brick and flint.

- **Isolated flint round towered churches** particularly evident.
- **Characteristic large detached halls** and manor houses, usually constructed of brick and of high architectural quality, associated with the parkland estates. These are frequently screened by woodland, except at close range.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

- 6.2. The majority of the Tributary Farmland is formed of the chalky Glacial Till known as Lowestoft Till. However, the Glacial Till has been incised by tributary valleys and much of the area of this landscape type is now covered by sand and gravel deposits and narrow linear bands of alluvium. The Tributary Farmland with Parkland lies predominantly between 20 and 40m AOD and is more topographically diverse than other landscape types due to the combined influences of the shelving landform and the sculpting qualities of the tributary valleys. The boundary of the type is distinguished by the valley landscape of the Yare and Waveney, including the Broadland fringe.
- 6.3. The numerous tributary streams and small upper reaches of rivers that occur in this area are responsible for much of the character of this landscape type. Of particular importance are Broome Beck, Landspring Beck (tributaries of the Waveney) and the minor (unnamed) tributaries of the Yare. However, because the watercourses are very small, the water is frequently not visible and therefore the tributaries are mostly indicated by the presence of landform or the occasional ford crossing. Bands of vegetation also line the tributary corridors including willow, ash and alder, which also allude to the presence of the water.
- 6.4. In common with most of the rest of Norfolk the predominant land use is arable farming, particularly of cereals and sugar beet, which occupy large fields, often with denuded boundaries. Other speciality crops are also found to a lesser extent including sweetcorn, sunflowers or asparagus, the latter protected by boundaries of coppiced willow, adding variety and colour to the landscape. Areas of pasture are also associated with the immediate tributary valley corridors supporting cattle and horses.
- 6.5. The open arable landscape is interrupted by deciduous woodland blocks as well as heavily wooded 'landscaped' parkland estates surrounded by estate rail or chestnut pale fence. Some of these areas of woodland are classified as ancient having survived since 1600. This extensive presence of parkland estates is one of the most characteristic features of this area and these tend to be associated with the sand and gravel areas of the valley landscape. The estates are usually focussed on a large eighteenth or nineteenth century hall for example Ravenham Hall, Hedenham Hall and Thickthorn Hall, although the buildings are frequently hidden within the wider landscape. Some of these halls have been converted for business, education or recreational purposes. There is wide use of brick, particularly in the large houses, which is attributable to the presence of a number of brick making concerns in these areas during the nineteenth century. Stepped or Dutch gables are also evident.

- 6.6. This area was early to be settled with extensive evidence of settlement dating to Roman times, however, today this landscape type is sparsely settled with buildings being largely confined to the halls as described previously, small hamlets and prominent isolated farmsteads. As a consequence of this population decline this area has a large number of flint-built round towered churches which are now frequently isolated from settlement. There are also a number of moated sites.

LANDSCAPE ASSETS

✓✓✓ very characteristic/important ✓✓ characteristic/important ✓ noticeably present/important

– Asset not present or present but by virtue of extent or quality does not contribute significantly to landscape character

ASSET/LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE		NOTES
NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL:		
Nationally important ecological assemblages	✓✓	Ancient woodlands and numerous SSSIs
Presence of Scheduled Ancient Monuments	–	
Presence of round-towered churches	✓✓	
Presence of isolated churches	✓✓✓	Very characteristic
DISTRICT/COUNTY:		
Strong regional vernacular character	✓✓	Flint and brick, stepped gables and large halls are common.
Important Views that provide sense of place	✓✓	Views to Norwich and the Norfolk Broads
Presence of historic parkland particularly EH listed.	✓✓✓	Particularly characteristic of this landscape type.
Wooded appearance	✓✓✓	
Distinctive valley landform	✓	
Waterways visible within the landscape	✓✓	Landspring Beck, Broome Beck and (unnamed) Yare Tributaries
Watermills present	–	
Windmills present	–	
Moats present.	✓✓	
LOCAL:		
Pastoral Farmland with visible grazing animals.	✓✓	
Willow pollard and/or poplar-lined watercourses	✓	
Drainage ditches	✓	
Wide grass verges alongside roads	✓	

Good hedgerow network	✓	
Mature hedgerow trees	✓✓	
Presence of river crossings	✓	
Sunken Lanes	✓	
Water bodies	✓✓	
Distinctive plateau landscape	-	
Area of or including significant strategic breaks between settled areas	✓✓	Some character areas very important but others less so.

See summary table for greater explanation of Landscape Assets

CHARACTER AREAS

- 6.14. The boundaries and character of these are subject to more detailed analysis and definition. The main subdivisions are anticipated to be:

Norwich Policy Area (See Volume 2 for more details)

- Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (CI)

Outside Norwich Policy Area

- Thurlton Tributary Farmland and Parkland



- Large detached halls are characteristic, often with ornate brickwork and gables, such as Hedenham Hall.



- The tributary valleys such as Broome Beck are more wooded and pastoral in character than the surrounding arable valley sides.



- Ostentatious gateways indicate the presence of parklands and halls, such as Ditchingham Park.



- Areas of mature parkland including estate rail boundaries are one of the principal distinguishing characteristics of this landscape type as at Broome Place.

Figure C: Landscape Type C - Tributary Farmland with Parkland

Figure D: Landscape Type D - Settled Plateau Farmland



- Roads, such as the A11 near Wymondham connect the large settlements of the rural area to Norwich and beyond.



- Settlement is an important element in the landscape and punctuate the large scale open arable fields as at Poringland.



- Field boundaries are more intact on the edges of towns and villages, as here at the boundary of Framingham Earl.



- There are large settlements in this landscape character type, although these often retain vernacular appeal such as these flint and brick houses in Wymondham.

