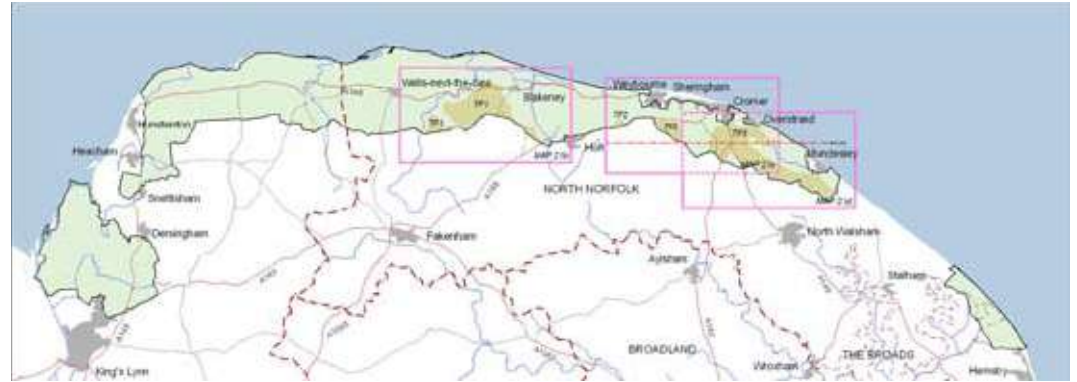




tributary farmland



Integrated landscape character



MAP 23a - Landscape Character Type - Tributary Farmland Key Plan

Tributary Farmland is typically an expansive landscape of open, gently rolling farmland. To the west, the farmland is underlain by deep drifts of Boulder Clay, which smother the underlying Chalk, but to the east of Sheringham, the soils of the Tributary Farmland have developed from sandier deposits, formed on drifts of brown sandy Norwich Brickearth underlain by the shelly sands and gravels of the Norwich Crag formation.

Historically the area has been subdivided into relatively small tenanted and owner-occupied landholdings, based loosely around villages and this historic landownership pattern is reflected in the rather unregimented pattern of relatively small, irregularly shaped fields, loosely structured settlements and many scattered, isolated farmsteads and cottages. The majority of the landscape was not farmed as open fields, but was enclosed in a piecemeal fashion, over centuries. The Tributary Farmland has a less regulated and tightly structured landscape pattern than areas of farmland where Parliamentary Enclosure was more dominant, but over the years, the differences have become less marked as hedgerow removal and infill development within villages has led to larger, more geometric fields and a more nucleated settlement form.

Arable field predominate, with areas of grassland in the smaller fields which are typically found on the fringes of settlements and individual rural properties. These fields often retain a strong sense of enclosure and echo the historic landscape pattern of a small-scale, more organic layout of fields, hedgerows and rural buildings. The pastures are typically improved grassland and are of relatively limited ecological value, but field margins to arable land make a significant contribution to the biodiversity value of the landscape. Woodlands tend to be relatively mature, with a diverse structure and quite a high proportion of semi-natural ancient woodland. Patterns of woodland vary, from geometric shelterbelts and shooting copses to more fluid, organically shaped woodlands and tree belts which conform to older field boundary patterns and local topographic features.

Settlement tends to be rather linear in character, with a relatively high density of isolated farmsteads, hamlets and cottages. More recent estate-type development has led to a change to a more nucleated settlement character but, in the absence of a village 'centre', the church, school, or a group of older buildings creates a series of sub-centre village foci. Outside the villages, older farmsteads, isolated lines of cottages and minor 'entry' properties are often significant landscape features.

Landscape sensitivity and change

Parts of the extensive Tributary Farmland landscape type are found within the Norfolk Coast AONB. Key environmental assets which are sensitive to change are:

- The small pastures on the outskirts of settlements, which are significant in reflecting the historic, small-scale landscape pattern and in forming the characteristic rural landscape setting to villages.
- Mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and older tree assemblages, particularly the mature species-rich hedgerows (sometimes of pre-enclosure origin) which enclose some pastures alongside roads and on the fringes of settlements and areas of coppiced or species-rich woodland.



Landscape sensitivity and change (continued)

- Curvilinear hedgerows and woodlands, which reflect the distinctive, historic field patterns and landownership in the area and which distinguish the Tributary Farmland from the more regimented large scale Parliamentary Enclosure landscapes elsewhere in northern Norfolk.
- Small areas of wood pasture and heathland, which are present in very limited amounts, but which could be extended throughout the Tributary Farmland.
- Small remnant parkland features associated with smaller 'gentry' houses.
- Older farmsteads and minor 'gentry' properties, which are often prominent features within the wider countryside.
- Open spaces within the loosely structured settlements, which contribute to the characteristic layout of the settlements and their rather organic relationship with the surrounding countryside.

Variations in character

Variations in character and inherent landscape sensitivities are highlighted in the following distinctive landscape character areas, parts of which fall within the AONB area:

Landscape character area	Distinctive character	Inherent sensitivity
Morston & Hindringham - TF1	Gradually sloping landform which rises from north to south over the area, giving rise to large views and an almost plateau like landscape, intersected by small tributary valleys. Roads (and settlements) orientated north-south and east-west – probably resulting from an earlier planned landscape. Settlement tends to be clustered around a church, but with a strong extension element along roads. Lower density of woodland – tends to be in very small, fragmented parcels (mostly shooting copses). Lower than average (for the type) presence of small fields around settlements, giving a ‘stark edge to settlement as viewed from the surrounding countryside. Also lower than average presence of hedgerow trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining small pastures on the fringes of settlements • All existing woodlands and hedgerow trees, many of which have been lost or become degraded • Long, open rural views • Quiet rural roads, particularly those with a narrow, well treed character • The open spaces within the ‘loosely structured’ settlements

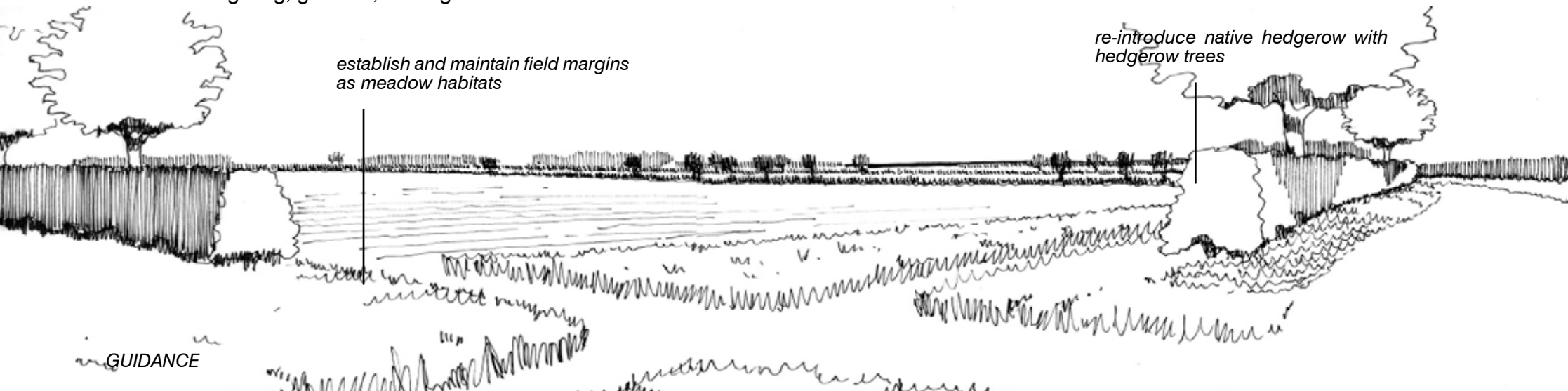
Landscape character area	Distinctive character	Inherent sensitivity
Hempstead, Bodham, Aylmerton & Wickmere - TF2	<p>Relatively elevated area – landform slopes southwards, with water courses draining towards the Broads. Settlement is in the form of elongated, fairly dispersed villages and farmsteads. Some farms are located in villages and some in isolated sites. Parts of the landscape are influenced by the houses and parklands of the large estates (in the Wooded with Parkland landscape type) – isolated larger farmsteads, woodland planted for sporting copses, estate-type cottages. Many cottages have above average-sized gardens and there is a high proportion of small fields and enclosed, high-hedges within and on the fringes of settlements, giving them a spacious character</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small hedged pastures on the fringes of settlements • Mature trees and hedgerows • Wooded copses • The characteristic spacious, elongated settlements, with large gardens and open fields dispersed through the settlements
Roughton, Southrepps, Trunch & Knapton - TF3	<p>Ridged landform with prominent views to north east and south west. Strongly nucleated settlements with few outlying farmsteads and relatively small-scale road network. Exception is the Roughton area, where there is a high proportion of villas in large semi-rural locations – probably associated with the holiday development of ‘Poppyland’ during the late 19th and early 20th century. This is an exceptionally open landscape with fewer than average woodlands and a low presence of hedgerows. There are remnant areas of heathland around Roughton (Roughton Heath) and occasionally heathland species are found in hedgerows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long open rural views • Network of narrow, rural lanes • All remnant woodlands, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, which are less common in this area than elsewhere in the type • Remnant heathland areas

OPEN RATHER DENUDED ARABLE FARMLAND



Key forces for change

- Changes to the agricultural economy and particularly the introduction of agri-environmental grants, have led to positive changes in landscape character – reinstatement or conservation of hedgerows and woodlands and arable reversion to pasture.
- Development pressures on the edges of settlements and as infill within them, often eroding the small pastures which are characteristic of the landscape and which help to integrate the villages within the wider countryside.
- Extensions to existing properties, subdivision of landholdings within settlements, external lighting and inappropriate boundary fencing which result from increasing affluence and which cumulatively contribute to the suburbanisation of the area.
- Introduction of new agricultural buildings, which are increasingly replacing older barns.
- Conversion of older barns to residential use, with the associated erosion of rural character this brings due to driveways, pylons, car parking areas, external lighting, gardens, fencing etc.



20 year vision

restore and enhance

The irregular, intimate pattern of hamlets, pastures and larger arable fields retains a small scale and a strong sense of history. There is a higher proportion of pasture on the fringes of villages where small pastures and groups of mature trees often provide the landscape setting for buildings. Patches of woodland thread between the small settlements, providing a backdrop to views and giving definition to the gently rolling landform. Areas of ancient woodland are connected by hedgerows and buffered by new planting.



Integrated landscape guidance

- 1 Conserve and enhance the small-scale pastoral landscape which is characteristic of the fringes of settlements**
 - Encourage reversion of arable fields to pasture, targeting land close to settlements where pastures are characteristic and form a key part of the landscape setting for villages.
 - Conserve and manage all existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees, aiming to extend and improve their visual/ecological structure by new hedgerow and tree planting which is designed to enhance the connectivity of the ecological network and the overall sense of enclosure.
 - Aim to increase the diversity of landscape elements and habitats within the landscape – take opportunities to introduce new woodlands, hedgerows and hedgerow trees as a means to integrate new development.
 - Give priority to the conservation of the hedgerows and hedgerow trees which line many rural roads, ensuring that these are replaced if there are minor changes to road alignments, for instance as a result of improvements to sightlines or the introduction of passing places.
- 2 Conserve and enhance the hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodlands, which create the overall structure of the landscape**
 - Conserve all existing hedgerows, hedgerow trees, copses and woodlands, which create the principal visual structure of the landscape and contribute the most biodiversity value.
 - Conserve all existing woodlands, copses and tree belts, extending them wherever possible to create or enhance connections with the existing matrix of woodlands and hedgerows.
 - Give priority to the conservation of historic curvilinear hedgerows and semi-natural ancient woodland, which are exceptionally species-rich, with high biodiversity.
 - Give priority to the conservation and extension of remnant patches of heathland habitat, particularly on verges and any uncultivated land.
 - Encourage wide field margins within arable fields to enhance the ecological value of the hedgerows as corridors for the movement of wildlife through intensively farmed areas.

Integrated landscape guidance (continued)

3 Manage arable farmland to enhance its biodiversity value

- Establish arable field margins as potential nest sites for ground nesting birds and habitats for small mammals and invertebrates. ¹
- Manage arable farmland as habitat for game birds.

4 Conserve the loosely-structured, informal character of rural settlements

- Conserve small pastures and farmsteads within villages so that there is an open, informal structure, with fields, hedgerows and groups of mature trees retained within the village layout.
- Wherever possible conserve mature trees within and on the outskirts of settlements; new built development should be designed to incorporate new tree and hedgerow planting so that settlements are integrated within the landscape in an organic way, with trees 'anchoring' and connecting the buildings to existing mature hedgerows and small woodlands.
- Tree cover should increase towards the fringes of settlements, isolated rural properties and larger farmsteads.
- Avoid the introduction of suburban features, including gardens, fencing, lighting and entrance driveways, which can cumulatively alter the rural character of the landscape.
- New farm buildings or conversions require exceptionally high standards of siting and design – woodland, hedgerow and hedgerow tree planting may be required to integrate new structures into the surrounding landscape.

5 Conserve the character and landscape setting of minor 'gentry' properties, which are often prominent within open rural views

- Conserve small pastures, areas of remnant parkland, specimen trees and small woodlands associated with larger historic rural properties.
- Conserve vernacular buildings, walls, gateposts and other structures associated with historic properties, matching traditional vernacular materials as necessary.
- Seek opportunities to recreate areas of wood pasture, perhaps in association with the larger rural properties, which have areas of remnant parkland.

¹ See: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/margins/index.asp>

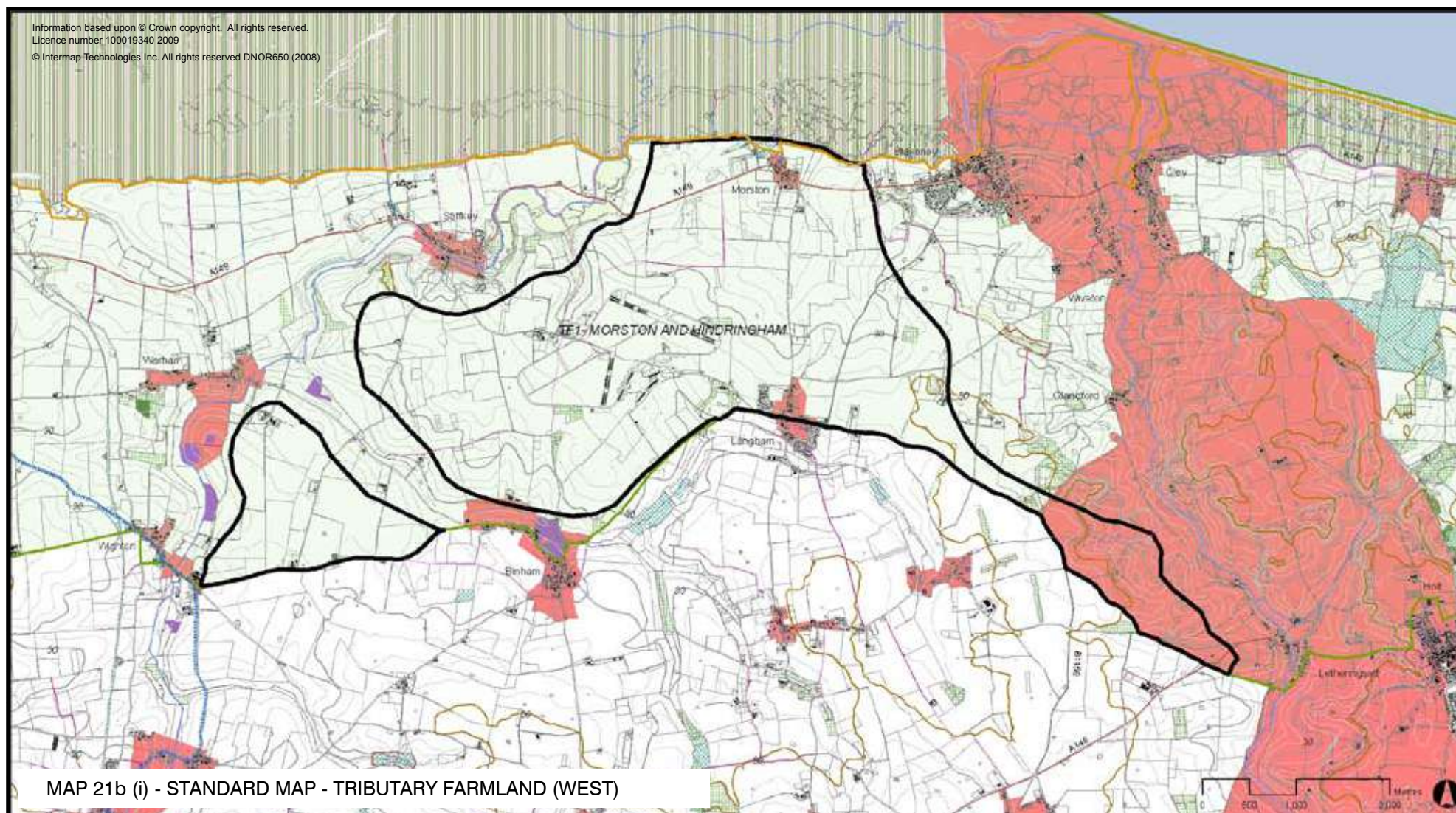
Detailed maps

- **Standard** - landform, drainage, rights of way and statutory designations
- **Biodiversity** - ecological networks ²
- **Historic landscapes** - broad historic landscape character types ³ and data from the Historic Environment Record ⁴

² Norfolk Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, July 2006, *Ecological Network Mapping Project for Norfolk*

³ Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, January 2009, *Norfolk Historic Landscape Character - a report on the Norfolk Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project*

⁴ www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk - provides a computerised, searchable database (with integrated digital mapping) of all areas of known archaeological activity, sites, finds, cropmarks, earthworks, industrial remains, structures and historic buildings in the county



MAP 21b (i) - STANDARD MAP - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (WEST)

Statutory Designations

- Ramsar Site
- Special Protection Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- County Wildlife Sites

- Local Nature Reserve
- Forestry Commission Woodland
- Special Area of Conservation

Heritage

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Historic Parks and Gardens

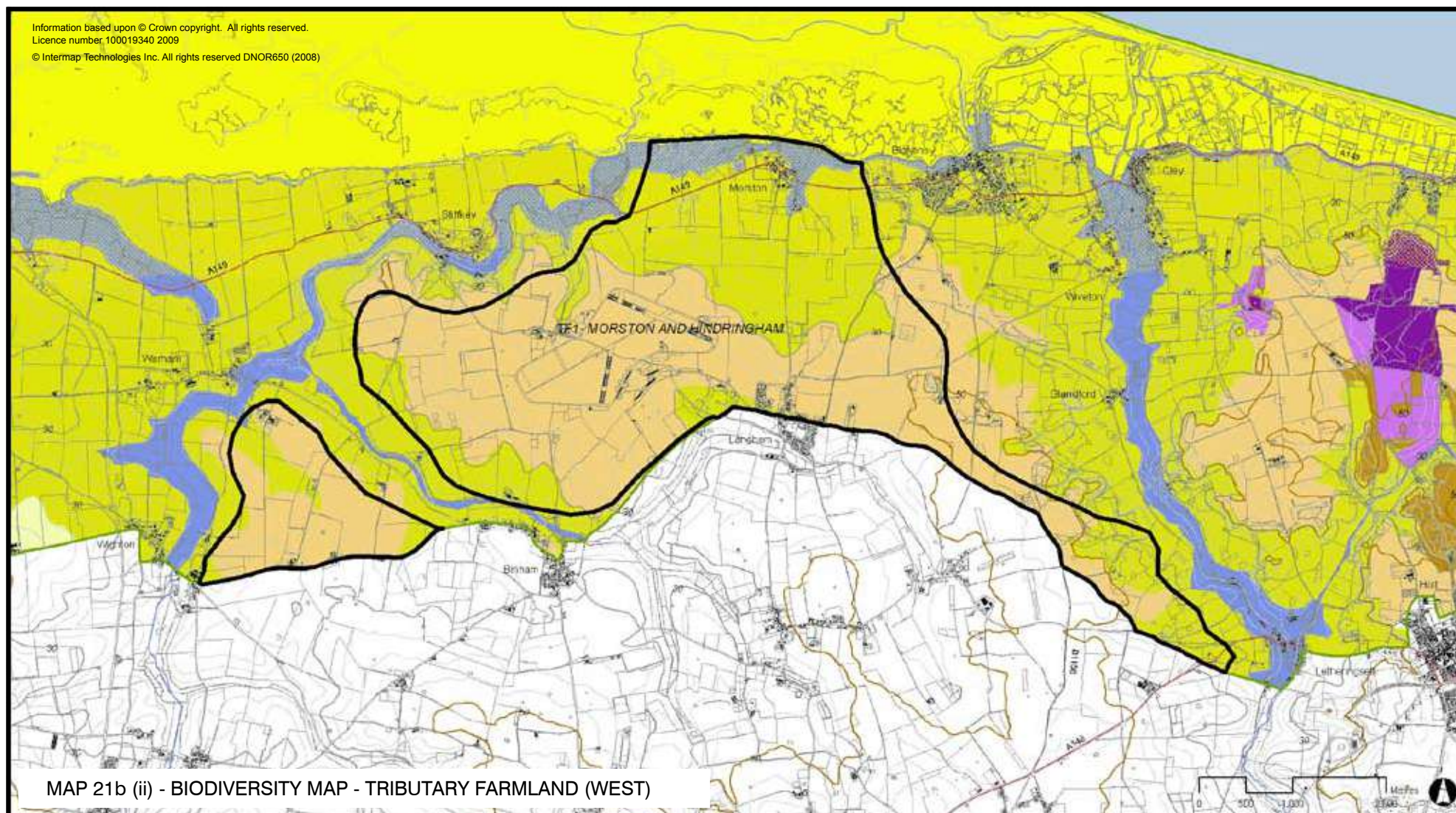
Connections

- National Cycle Route
- Cycleways
- Long Distance Path
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway

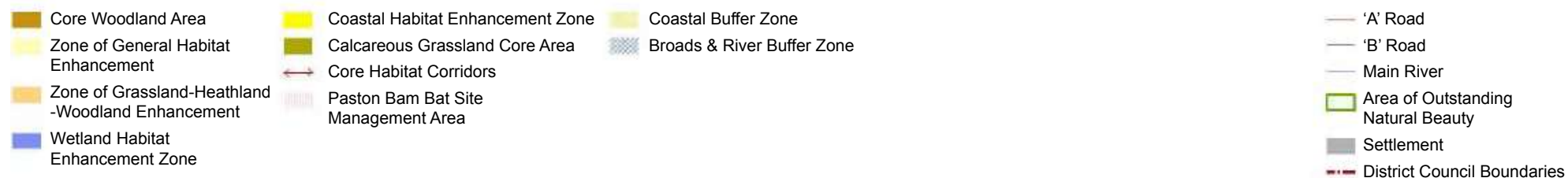
Topography

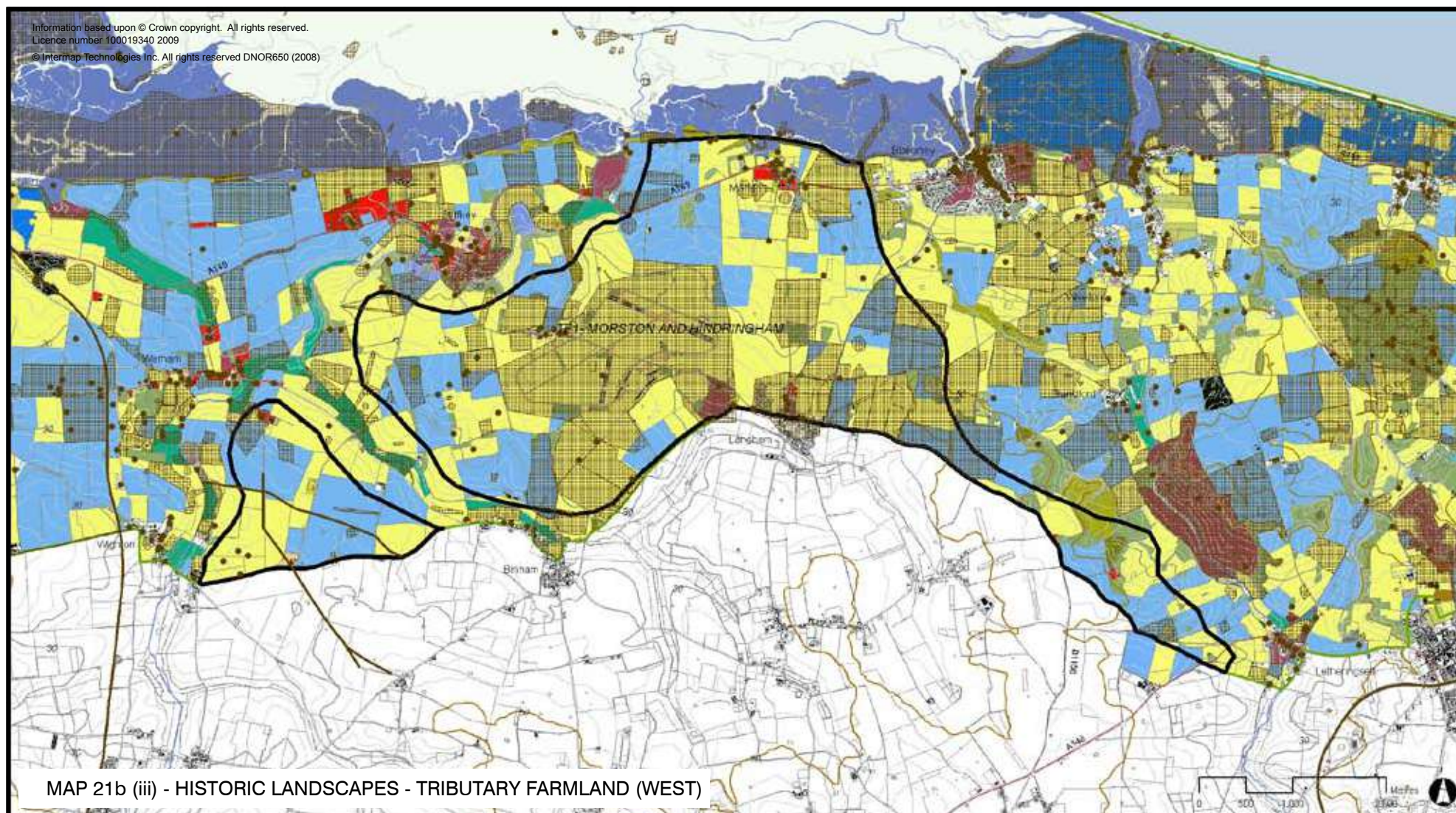
- Contour Line (Interval 5 m)
- 30 m Contour Line
- 50 m Contour Line

- 'A' Road
- 'B' Road
- Main River
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Settlement
- District Council Boundaries



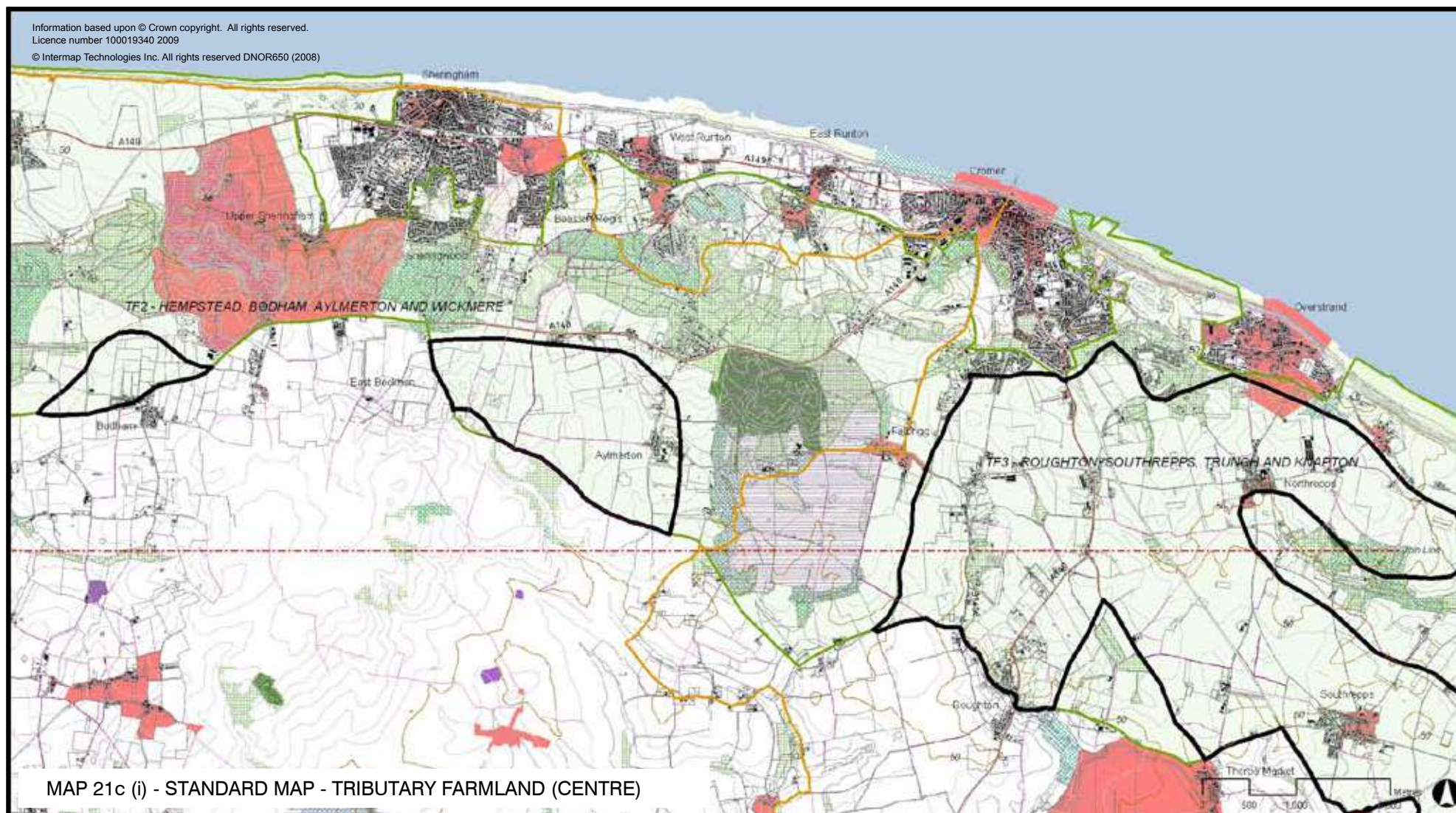
MAP 21b (ii) - BIODIVERSITY MAP - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (WEST)





MAP 21b (iii) - HISTORIC LANDSCAPES - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (WEST)





MAP 21c (i) - STANDARD MAP - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (CENTRE)

Statutory Designations

- Ramsar Site
- Special Protection Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- County Wildlife Sites

- Local Nature Reserve
- Forestry Commission Woodland
- Special Area of Conservation

Heritage

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Historic Parks and Gardens

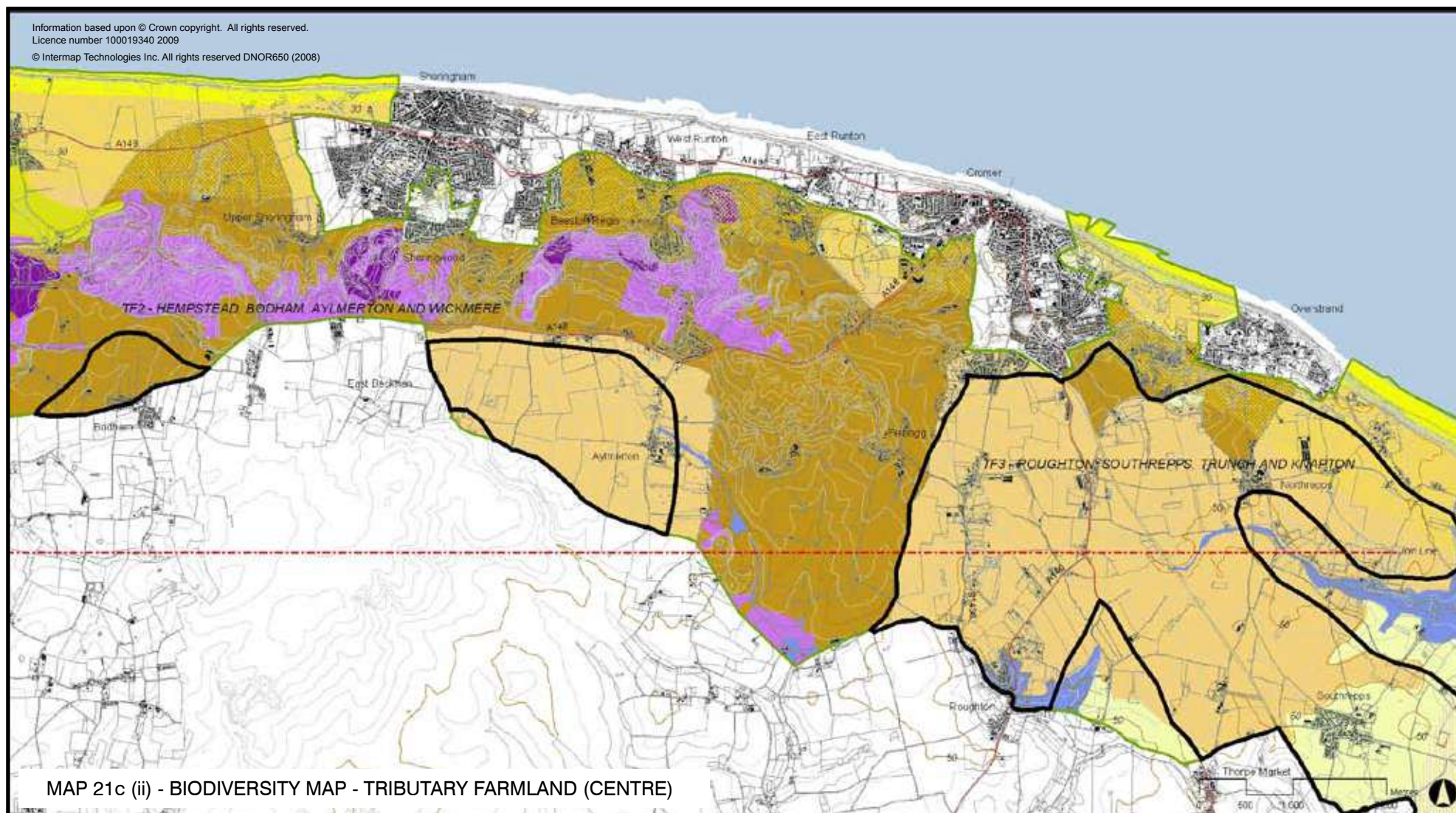
Connections

- National Cycle Route
- Cycleways
- Long Distance Path
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway

Topography

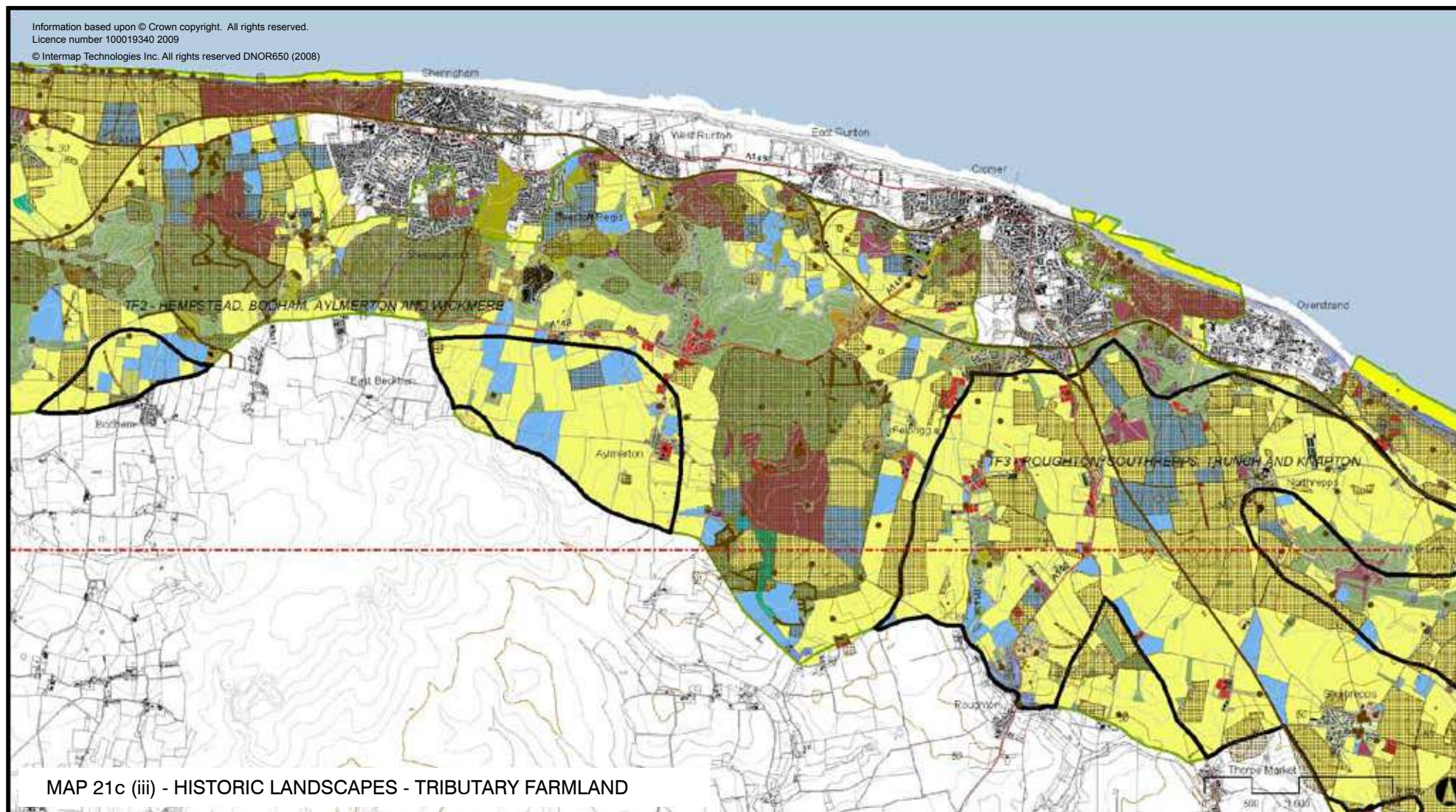
- Contour Line (Interval 5 m)
- 30 m Contour Line
- 50 m Contour Line

- 'A' Road
- 'B' Road
- Main River
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Settlement
- District Council Boundaries

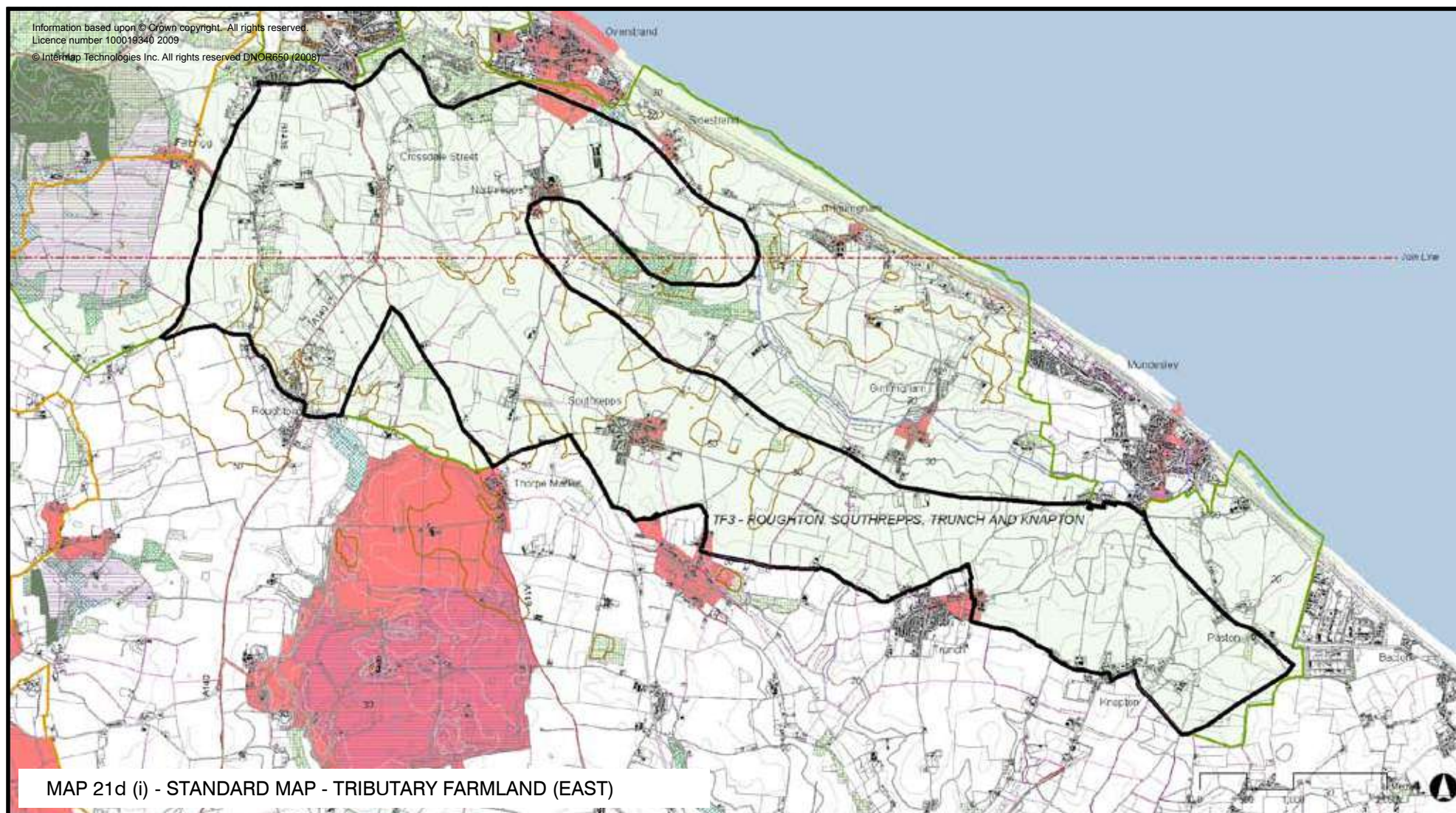


MAP 21c (ii) - BIODIVERSITY MAP - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (CENTRE)

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Core Woodland Area | Coastal Habitat Enhancement Zone | Coastal Buffer Zone | 'A' Road |
| Zone of General Habitat Enhancement | Calcareous Grassland Core Area | Broads & River Buffer Zone | 'B' Road |
| Zone of Grassland-Heathland-Woodland Enhancement | Core Habitat Corridors | | Main River |
| Wetland Habitat Enhancement Zone | Paston Bam Bat Site Management Area | | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| | | | Settlement |
| | | | District Council Boundaries |



- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 18th-19th Century Enclosure | Commons, Wastes, Heaths | Marginal | Water Features | HER 'point' | 'A' Road |
| 20th Century Agriculture | Communications | Military | Woodland | HER 'line' | 'B' Road |
| Built up Areas - Historic | Historic Earthwork | Mineral | | HER 'area' | Main River |
| Built up Areas - Modern | Horticulture | Miscellaneous | | | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| Coastal - Drainage Enclosure | Industry | Parks, Gardens, Recreation | | | Settlement |
| Coastal - Managed Wetland | Inland - Managed Wetland | Pre- 18th Century Enclosure | | | District Council Boundaries |



MAP 21d (i) - STANDARD MAP - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (EAST)

Statutory Designations

- Ramsar Site
- Special Protection Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- County Wildlife Sites

- Local Nature Reserve
- Forestry Commission Woodland
- Special Area of Conservation

Heritage

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Historic Parks and Gardens

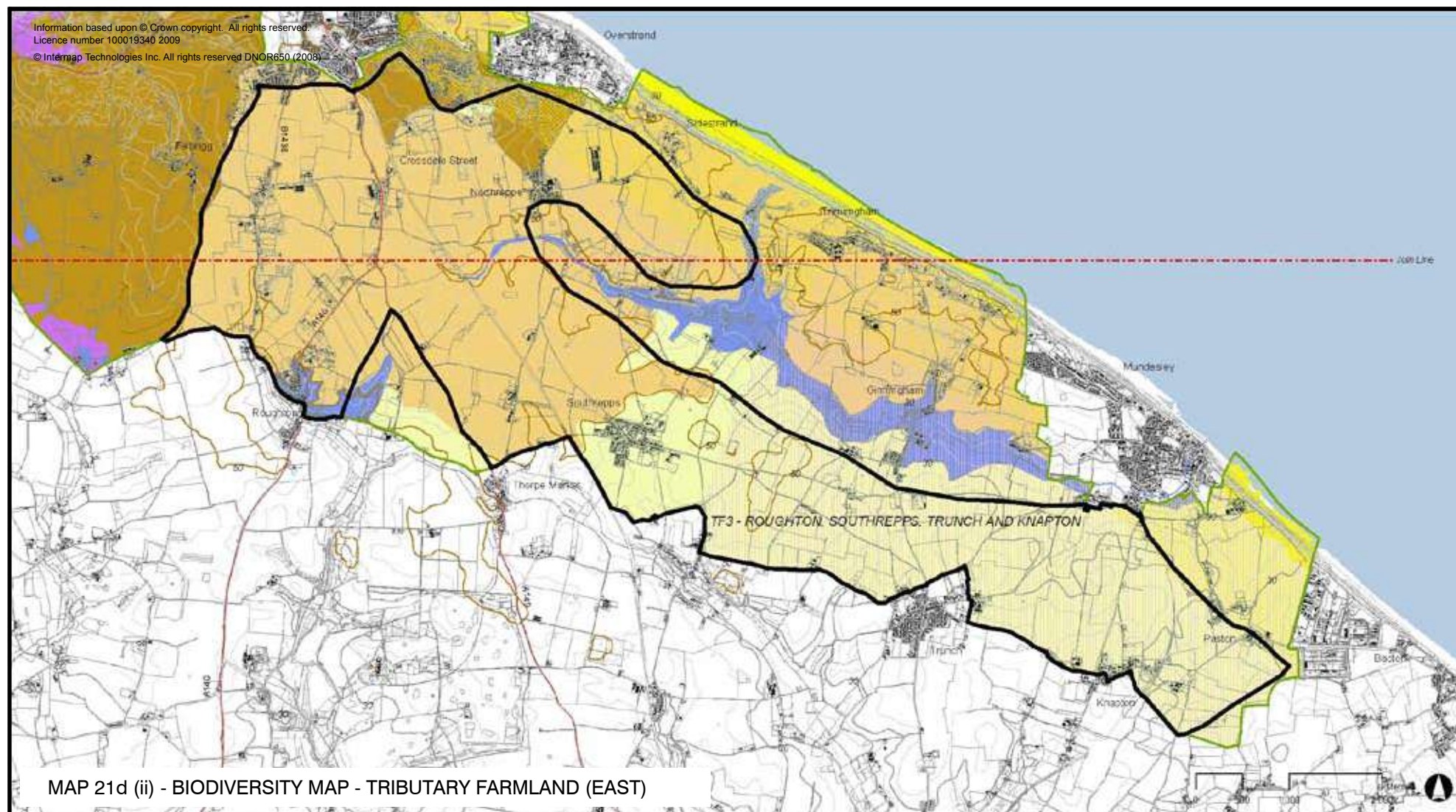
Connections

- National Cycle Route
- Cycleways
- Long Distance Path
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway

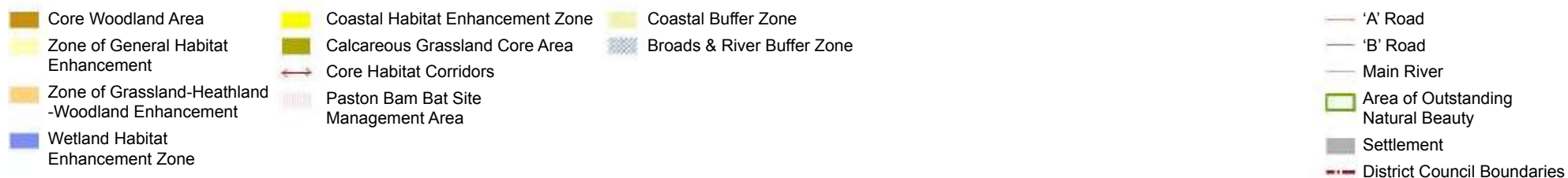
Topography

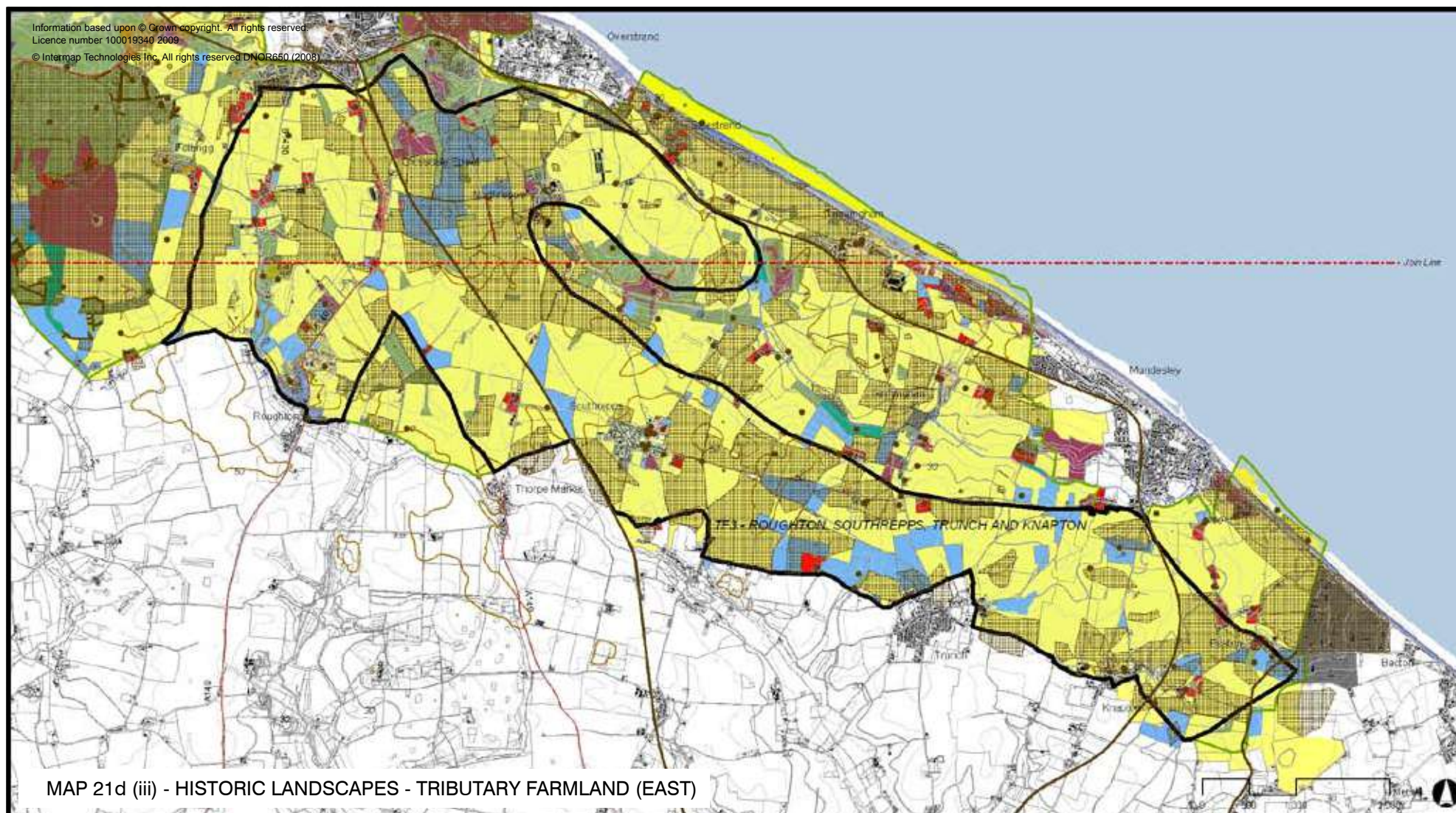
- Contour Line (Interval 5 m)
- 30 m Contour Line
- 50 m Contour Line

- 'A' Road
- 'B' Road
- Main River
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Settlement
- District Council Boundaries



MAP 21d (ii) - BIODIVERSITY MAP - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (EAST)





MAP 21d (iii) - HISTORIC LANDSCAPES - TRIBUTARY FARMLAND (EAST)

