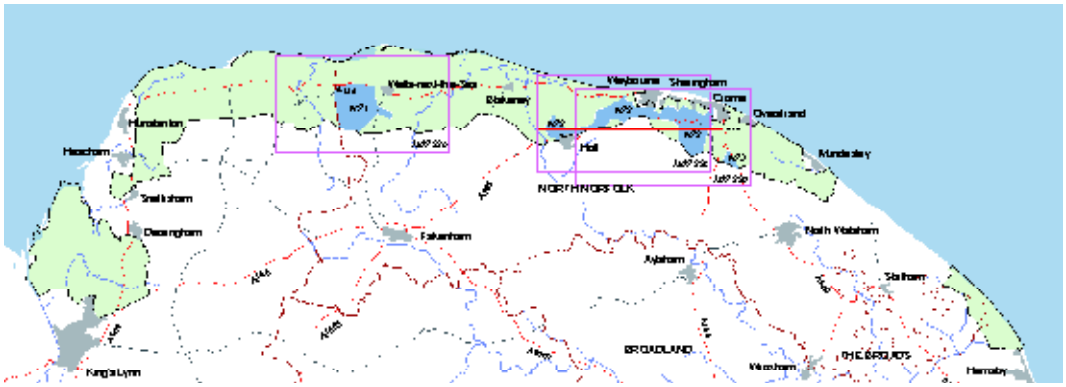
wooded with parkland

Integrated landscape character



MAP 22a - Landscape Character Type - Woodled with Parkland Key Plan

The Wooded with Parkland landscape type is found in two areas - at Holkham and a more extensive area along the Cromer Ridge. The Holkham area is underlain by chalk and glacial boulder clays, which form a rolling landform dipping towards the coast. To the east, the Wooded with Parkland landscape type is centred on the Cromer Ridge, a distinctive glacial terminal moraine which marks the point where two glacial lobes converged at the edge of the ice sheet. The Cromer Ridge resulted from the superimposition and contortion of layers of debris from the ice sheets, which formed undulating, hummocky terrain. The landform is composed of a mix of till, sands, gravels and erratics (lumps of granite, basalt, chalk and sandstone) which has led to an irregular, hummocky surface and a diverse range of soils and landcover.

The Wooded with Parkland landscape type has a distinctive wooded landcover and settlement character. The key characteristics are:

- Parkland belts around and within formal great house parks. The planning of these parklands tends to be associated with the early to late C18th (in the general style of either Capability Brown – Felbrigg and Holkham which are highly formalised enclosed parks using relatively few features or elements - or Repton whose work is a development from this style but with a more naturalistic and less formal, occasionally a 'wooded garden' style). The current management of these parks varies; some are highly managed whilst others have matured to a more naturalistic form. Some have added areas of commercial woodland planting to the basic parkland (Felbrigg).
- Commercial woodlands planted by landowners and the Forestry Commission. These are usually predominantly blocks of conifers with a varied age structure - but most are less than seventy years old.
- Ancient woodlands. These are rarer but may occur anywhere; they are of exceptional biodiversity importance and act as 'species-rich banks' from which species move out to colonise adjacent areas in the ecological network. Many of the smaller areas are not indicated on any register as they are considered too small (i.e. below 2ha) but are of considerable local importance. Portions of parkland belts, reforested commercial woodlands may also be ancient woodlands.
- Wood pasture – in small areas scattered through the parklands. There is a larger assemblage of veteran trees in wood pasture at Sheringham Park.
- Shooting woodlands and breaks. These are farmland woods which have been planted for a variety of reasons including shooting cover for game

Integrated
landscape character (continued)

birds, minor forestry production and to prevent wind blow, or simply to use up an area which is too wet or dry or topographically unsuitable for any other purpose. The woodlands created tend to be in small blocks but may in the latter cases be sinuous and follow other features (streams or slopes). They tend to produce a fragmented wooded character

The Wooded with Parkland area was settled from the early Mesolithic period, following the last glaciation. Early settlers may have been attracted by the long views across a relatively open plain, although this would have become wooded as the climate warmed and stabilised following the final glacial period. There is also evidence of Neolithic settlement, with a concentration of barrows on parts of the Cromer Ridge. The glacial deposits of the Cromer Ridge supported heathy vegetation on acid soils. The common heathland was an important part of the local economy as it fulfilled many uses: fuel was cut as furze or wood and the foldcourse system of managing sheep flocks needed common grazing on the heaths. There is Domesday evidence of medieval wood pastures in the Cromer Ridge area. Within the mosaic of woodland landscapes, areas of remnant heathland, veteran trees, ancient multi-species hedgerows, coppiced woodland, glades, semi-natural grassland, ponds and ancient woodlands all contribute to a rich ecological diversity. Between the blocks of woodland, arable farmland predominates, but there are also extensive areas of pasture associated with parklands and some smaller areas of pasture and settlement. The character of the arable fields typically reflects that of the surrounding farmland, with medium to large fields hedged with banks. Hedgerows are generally more mature and species-rich close to areas of ancient woodland.

Settlement is very varied. Holt is the only major town, but the heathy Cromer Ridge landscapes form the inland setting to the towns of Sheringham, Cromer, West Runton and East Runton. Parks and large houses are a dominant feature and most have had a considerable influence over the development of settlement within and outside the parks - destroying and relocating settlements, creating new settlements of workers cottages, model farms, small hamlets etc. The overall density of settlement in these areas tends to be lower than that outside the influence of the large landowner. The character, period and style of each great house and its attendant settlement is unique.

Another distinctive type of settlement was created during the C20th with the selling off ‘plotlands’ within woods for those seeking a woodland lifestyle (particularly the period 1914 to 1960). This has formed the distinctive settlements of High Kelling, Sheringwood and Aylmerton with numbers of Arts and Crafts, Modern and ad-hoc prefab or timber framed hut / bungalows. Since the 1960s, many of the original plots have become more and more heavily subdivided and infilled, creating areas which are only semi-wooded, increasingly suburban and eroding the original intention of the amenity and design.

Landscape sensitivity and change

Parts of the Wooded with Parkland landscape type are found within the Norfolk Coast AONB. Key environmental assets which are sensitive to change are:

- Areas of lowland heathland and semi-natural ancient woodland, which are priority BAP habitats.
- The diverse mosaic of woodland landscapes (including coppiced woodland and areas of wood pasture), curvilinear mature species-rich hedgerows, hedgerow trees and older tree assemblages, which is of high ecological value and characteristic of the landscape type.
- The historic designed landscapes of the grand parkland properties, including historic parklands, specimen trees, vistas, drives, walls, gateways, railings and estate buildings which are the focus for this distinctive landscape type.

Landscape
sensitivity and change (continued)

- Distinctive estate buildings, including planned villages, farmstead and cottages, which are often built in a unified style unique to each estate.
- Views to historic built features – designed vistas, but also incidental views from roads and public rights of way.
- Remaining woodlands which form the setting for the Cromer Ridge plotlands, which are critically important to conserve the distinctive character and historic layout of these unique settlements (High Kelling, Aylmerton and Sheringwood).
- Woodland edges, which form a backdrop to views and enclose parts of the landscape – particularly important in views from or to the more open adjacent landscape types.
- Views from or to adjacent landscapes, notably the Drained Coastal Marshes which are particularly vulnerable to change (and have less capacity to absorb or mitigate the impacts of development than the Wooded with Parkland landscapes).
- The Cromer Ridge itself - as a uniquely important example of a glacial terminal moraine - and views where the distinctive, hummocky landform can be understood and appreciated.
- Sites which are of national importance for geology and geomorphology, including Beeston Regis Gravel Pit, an exposure of Pleistocene glacial and glaciofluvial sediments of the Cromer Ridge.

Variations in character

Variations in character and inherent landscape sensitivities are highlighted in the following distinctive landscape character areas within the Wooded with Parkland landscape type, which fall within the AONB area:

Landscape character area	Distinctive character	Inherent sensitivity
Holkham Park - WP1	Walled area of Holkham Park, enclosing large area of designed woodland, arable, pasture and formal historic park and garden. Numerous listed buildings – many C18th neo-classical buildings, including Holkham Hall, model farms and farm buildings, gatehouses and features such as obelisks and columns. Isolated large church. Relocated model village and hamlets with other estate houses (mostly dating from mid C19th to early C20th. Mature woodlands beyond the walled area form a triumphal entrance avenue several miles long. The village of Holkham is a bustling major tourist attraction.	• Well known and historically important designed landscape with numerous features of interest • Area to the south of the park is particularly sensitive to change due to relatively low settlement density and remote character • Park is able to absorb change, but surrounding landscape types eg Drained Coastal Marshes are more vulnerable and may be affected by changes relating to visitor facilities

Landscape character area	Distinctive character	Inherent sensitivity
Holt to Cromer - WP2	Wide mix of woodland types, jumbled together to form a cohesive area stretching along the Cromer Ridge (terminal glacial moraine). Long views from and to the ridge are characteristic and contrast with enclosure within wooded areas. Woodland types include parkland (Holt Hall C19th naturalistic planting, Voewood (early C20th screening planting), Sheringham Park 1770s Repton landscape, Cromer Hall C19th parkland and Felbrigg C18th walled park with later plantings through to C20th (Victory V in post war era); older mixed woodland (around Holt and on some of the areas around Felbrigg); C20th conifer plantations – often Forestry Commission lead and natural woodland colonisation of former heath and scrub lands. Large settlement of Holt and settlements such as High Kelling and Sheringwood, which have been 'planted' within the woodland and former common land during the early C20th and have subsequently grown. Caravan parks and chalet parks are a feature of Kelling Heath and Bodham. Good visitor access – public access land, National Trust properties, Woodland Trust and land owned by North Norfolk District Council	• Long views from parts of the ridge out to the north (seaward) and inland – up to 20 miles in places • Woodland which forms a setting to the wide mix of villages in the area, many of which have a dispersed character • The vernacular character of the original plotland developments, which has been eroded by infill and the introduction of suburban elements • The specific combinations of woodland, open farmland and heathland which forms the distinctive landscape settings of Holt and Sheringham • Mature trees and woodlands which form the distinctive wooded landscape setting to the unique C20th 'plotland' settlements of High Kelling, Aylmerton and Sheringwood • Remnant areas of heathland and semi-natural ancient woodland
Gunthorpe & Hanworth - WP3	Woodland is associated with designed parkland landscapes. Small areas of copses and woodland which are outside the parklands, but closely associated with them, extend the wooded area. Settlement pattern is mostly nucleated, with few outlying farmsteads.	• Setting of the parklands is critically important in assessing the capacity of the landscape to absorb change

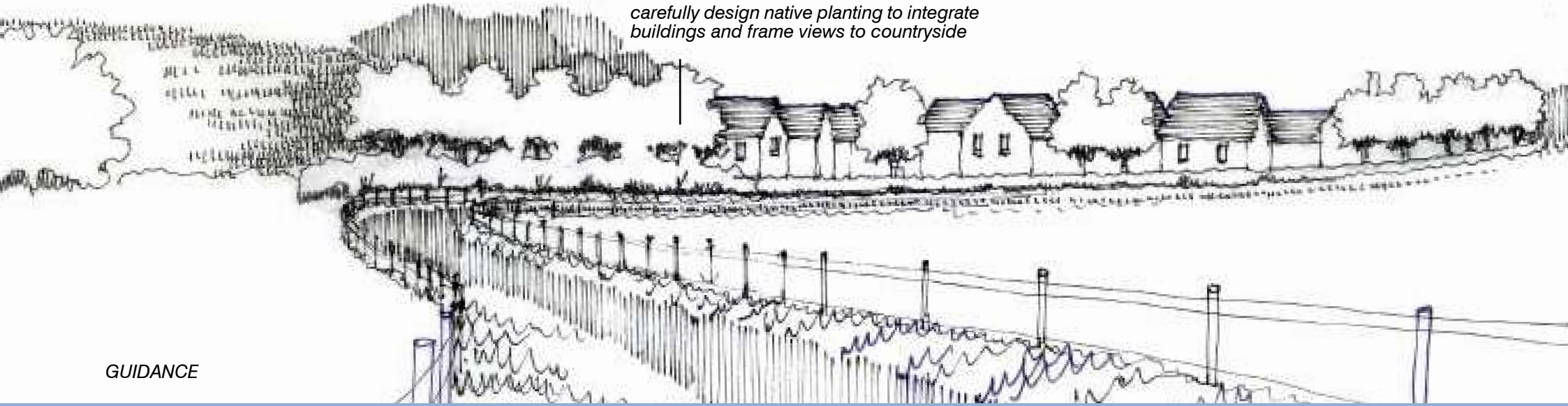
abrupt settlement edges can have a suburbanising influence

EXISTING

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, arable reversion to pasture and recreation of heathland (from woodland).
- Loss of woodlands and hedgerow field boundaries as a result of agricultural intensification.
- Changes in woodland cover as a result of changes in management.
- Small scale changes to parkland landscapes, including realignment of driveways and access tracks, erection of ancillary buildings, introduction of signage, lighting, increased parking and facilities to accommodate visitors.

carefully design native planting to integrate buildings and frame views to countryside



GUIDANCE

Key forces for change (continued)

- Small-scale, incremental and infill development within settlements (particularly outside the protected estate villages) - external lighting and inappropriate boundary fencing - which may be inconsistent with local built character and materials and which may erode their distinctive landscape setting.
- Larger extensions to settlements (eg Holt and High Kelling) which may undermine the traditional form of road and settlement patterns and the characteristic vernacular appearance of the plotlands.
- Introduction of new agricultural buildings, which are increasingly replacing older barns and the 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

conserve and restore

A diverse, inter-connected mosaic of heathland, ancient woodland, wood pasture, hedgrows and pasture. Overall the proportion of heathland is increased, with open areas sited to reveal the irregular form of the Cromer Ridge, as well as buffering, extending and linking exising habitats. Open heathland and pastures are enclosed by a matrix of woodland, which provides a backdrop and landscape setting for historic designed parklands and the small-scale ‘pioneer’ plotlands.

Integrated landscape guidance

1 Increase the overall proportion and connectivity of heathland habitats

- Give priority to the conservation and enhancement of existing areas of remnant lowland heath.
- Seek opportunities create new lowland heathland habitats, particularly on areas which are currently planted as conifer plantations; these habitats are a BAP priority and a local heathland study[1] has indicated that the Wooded with Parklands landscape type is a prime candidate for heathland re-creation on the basis of soil type and historic use.
- Aim to increase the connectivity of heathand habitats to maximise their ecological value.

2 Conserve and enhance a balanced, diverse mosaic of woodland landscapes, linked to mature hedgerows, tree belts and hedgerow trees

- Give priority to the conservation and enhancement of semi-natural ancient woodlands, areas of remnant heathland, curvilinear mature species-rich hedgerows, coppiced woodlands, areas of wood pasture and assemblages of veteran trees, which are of particularly high ecological value.
- Seek opportunities create new lowland heathland habitats, particularly on areas which are currently planted as conifer plantations; these habitats are a BAP priority and there are suitable soil conditions for their creation in many parts of the Wooded with Parkland landscape type.
- Aim to increase the connectivity of woodland habitats, both within the parklands and beyond, linking hedgerows and woodlands with those in the more open farmlands which typically surround the Wooded with Parkland landscape type.
- Give priority to the conservation and enhancement of woodland edges, increasing the deciduous content of the woodland mix on the edge of conifer plantations and creating links to buildings and hedgerows. Recognise that woodlands within the Wooded with Parkland landscapes often form a backdrop to views from the more open adjacent landscape types.
- 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.

[1] ELP (Ecology, Land & People), May 2002, Norfolk Heaths Re-Creation Strategy (on behalf of English Nature Norfolk team)

Integrated landscape guidance (continued)

3 Conserve the unique, historic designed landscapes and features, guided by accurate historic research

- Conserve and enhance the built and designed landscape elements of the historic parklands, referring to historic plans and balancing resources with ongoing management.
- Conserve vernacular buildings, walls, gateposts and other structures associated with historic properties, matching traditional vernacular materials as necessary.
- Conserve the wider landscape setting of farmsteads and estate villages associated with the parklands, retaining pastures, avenues of trees and gateway views.

4 Conserve the character and landscape setting of the distinctive 'plotlands' settlements (High Kelling, Aylmerton and Sheringham) on the Cromer Ridge, which are unique in Norfolk and of some historic significance

- Conserve the remaining woodlands which form the setting for the Cromer Ridge plotlands, which are becoming eroded due to subdivision of landholdings, infill and lack of management. These settlements developed as an expression of people's desire for a rural, woodland lifestyle during the Arts and Crafts Movement through to the 1960s so a woodland setting is a fundamental aspect of the distinctive settlement character.
- Encourage an ongoing programme to replant and manage woodland trees throughout the area, through a proactive programme of promotion to local landowners (as many trees are within private gardens. All planting should be of local native species.
- Aim to increase the density and inter-connectivity of woodland cover throughout the plotlands. Heathland creation should not take place at the expense of woodland within the plotlands – ie create heathland as a result of reversion from arable farmland or create new woodland to replace any that is lost as a result of heathland creation.
- Maintain a relatively low density of built development within the wooded plotlands, so that there is space for the retention of woodland within gardens, alongside roads and in stands between buildings.
- Avoid the introduction of suburban features, including gardens, fencing, lighting and entrance driveways, which can cumulatively alter the rural character of the landscape.
- Give priority to gateways to the settlements and the setting for key views from Cromer Ridge.

Integrated
landscape guidance (continued)

5 Conserve the character and landscape setting of all other settlements within the Wooded with Parkland landscape

- 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.
- Ensure potential new small-scale development within the villages is consistent with existing settlement pattern, density and traditional built form.
- Encourage carefully designed new tree planting on the fringes of settlements which is designed to replace existing trees, screen locally intrusive structures and frame views to the surrounding countryside.
- Integrate potential new small-scale developments within the villages with new planting, using species appropriate to local landscape character.

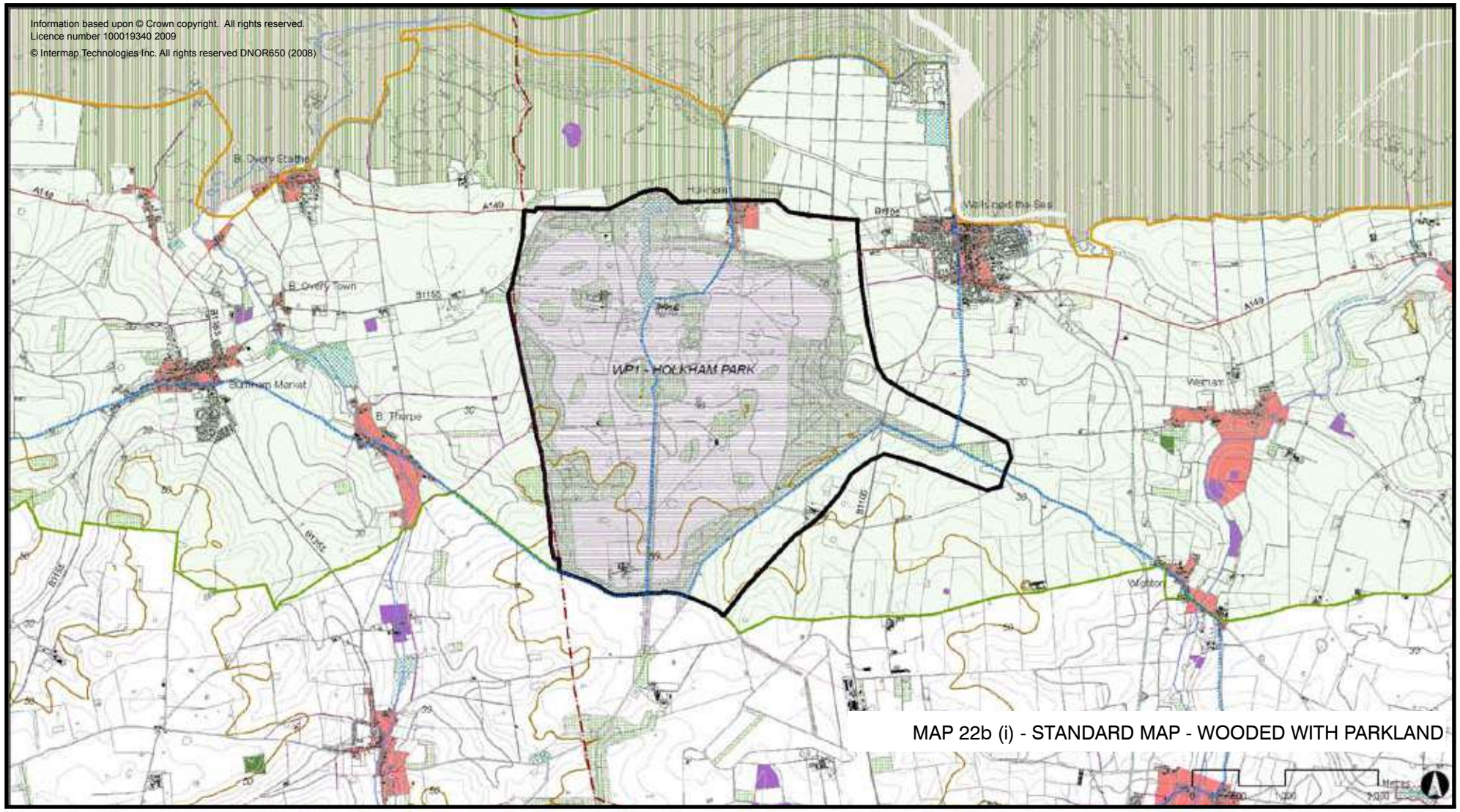
Detailed maps

- **Standard** - landform, drainage, rights of way and statutory designations
- **Biodiversity** - ecological networks [1]
- **Historic landscapes** - broad historic landscape character types [2] and data from the Historic Environment Record [3]

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

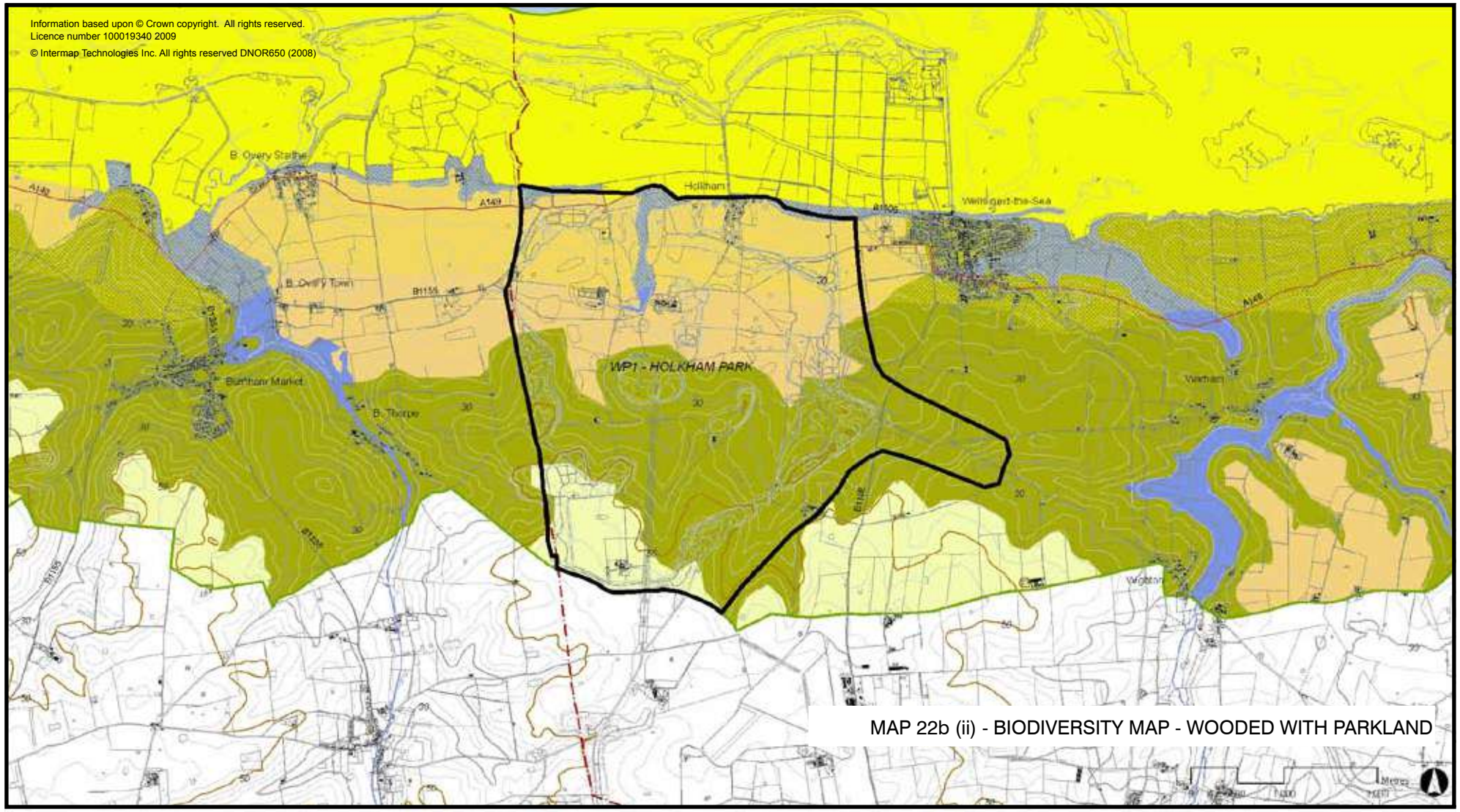
[2] *Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, January 2009, Norfolk Historic Landscape Character - a report on the Norfolk Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project*

[3] *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*



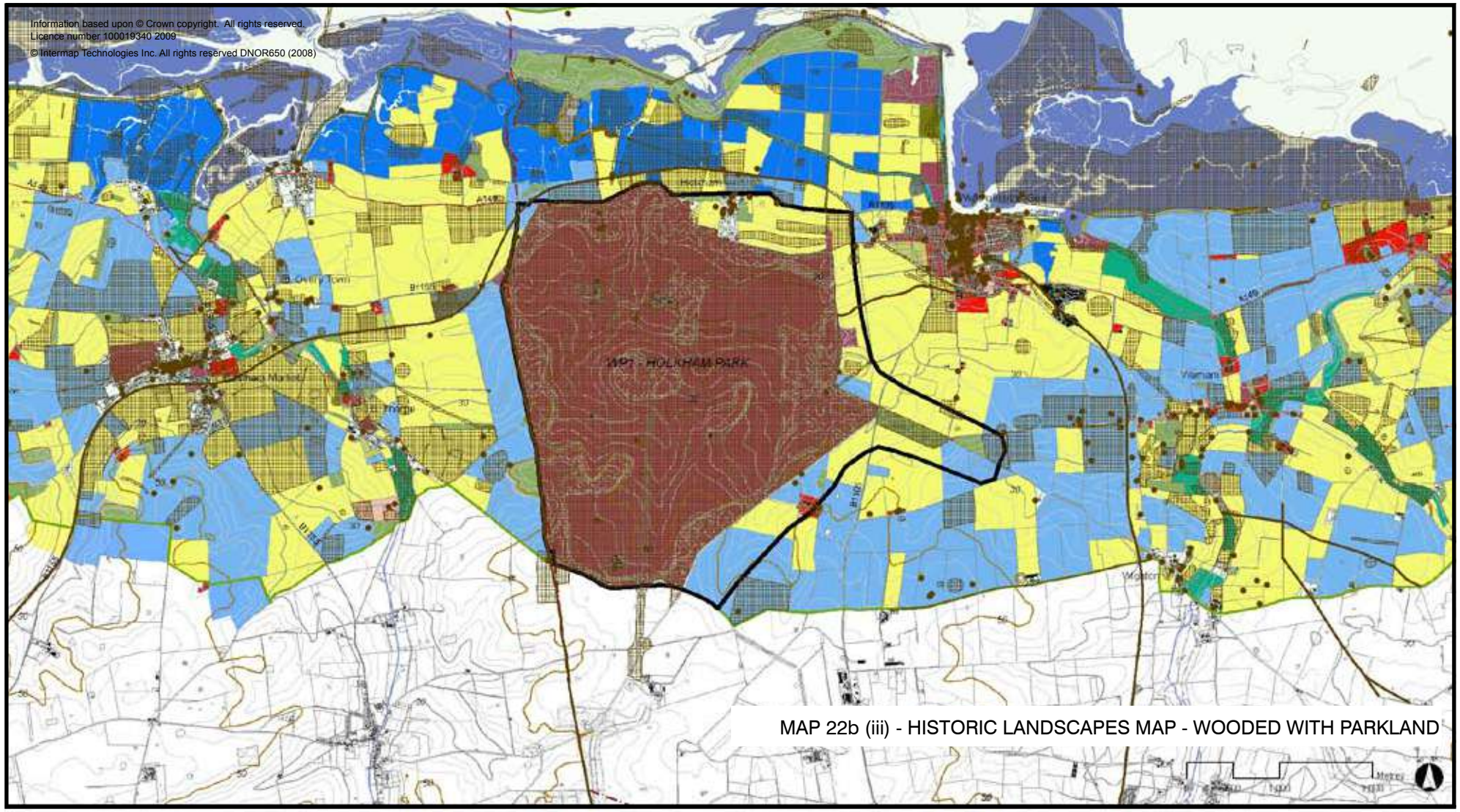
MAP 22b (i) - STANDARD MAP - WOODED WITH PARKLAND

wooded with parkland

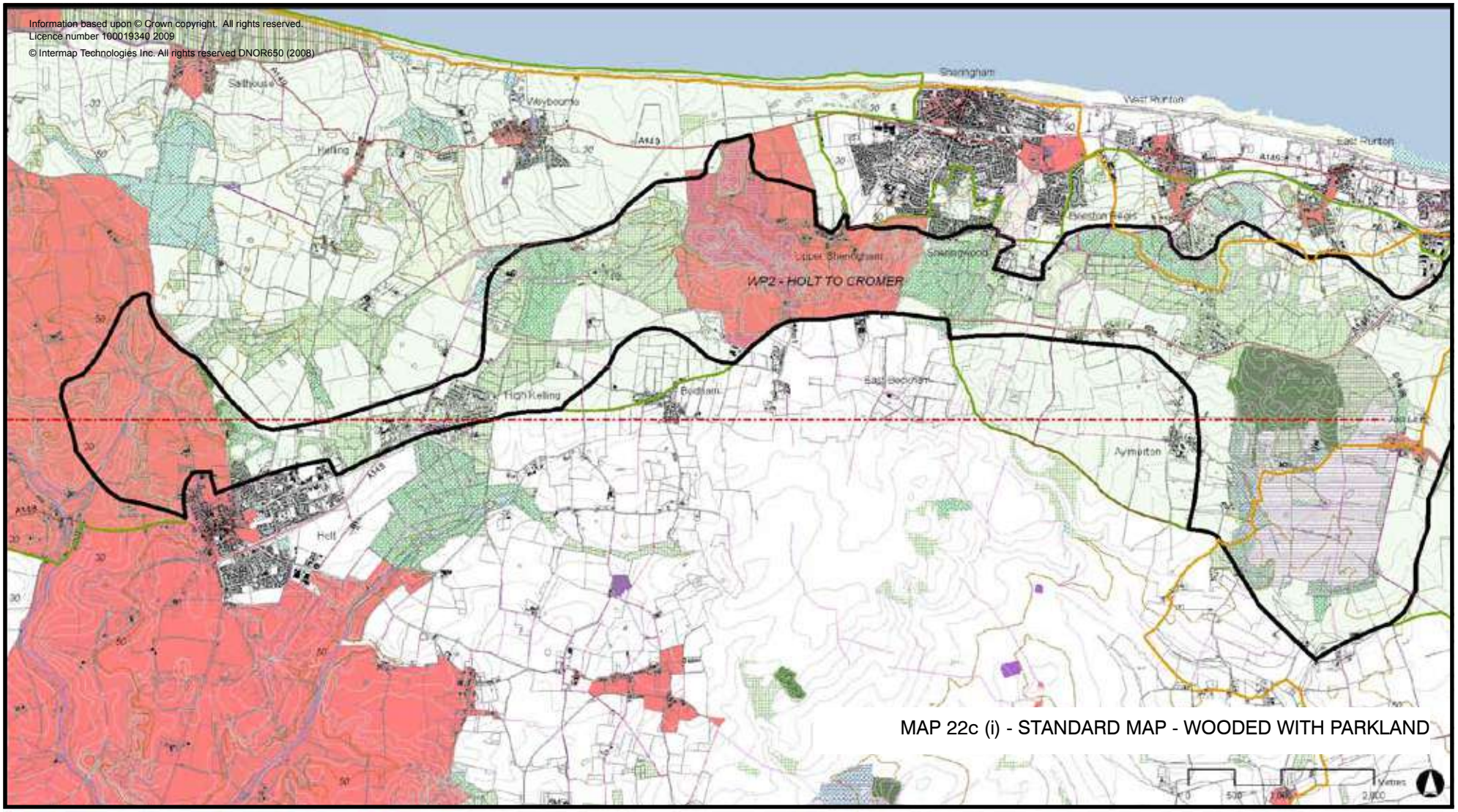


Ecological Network - (in WP area only)

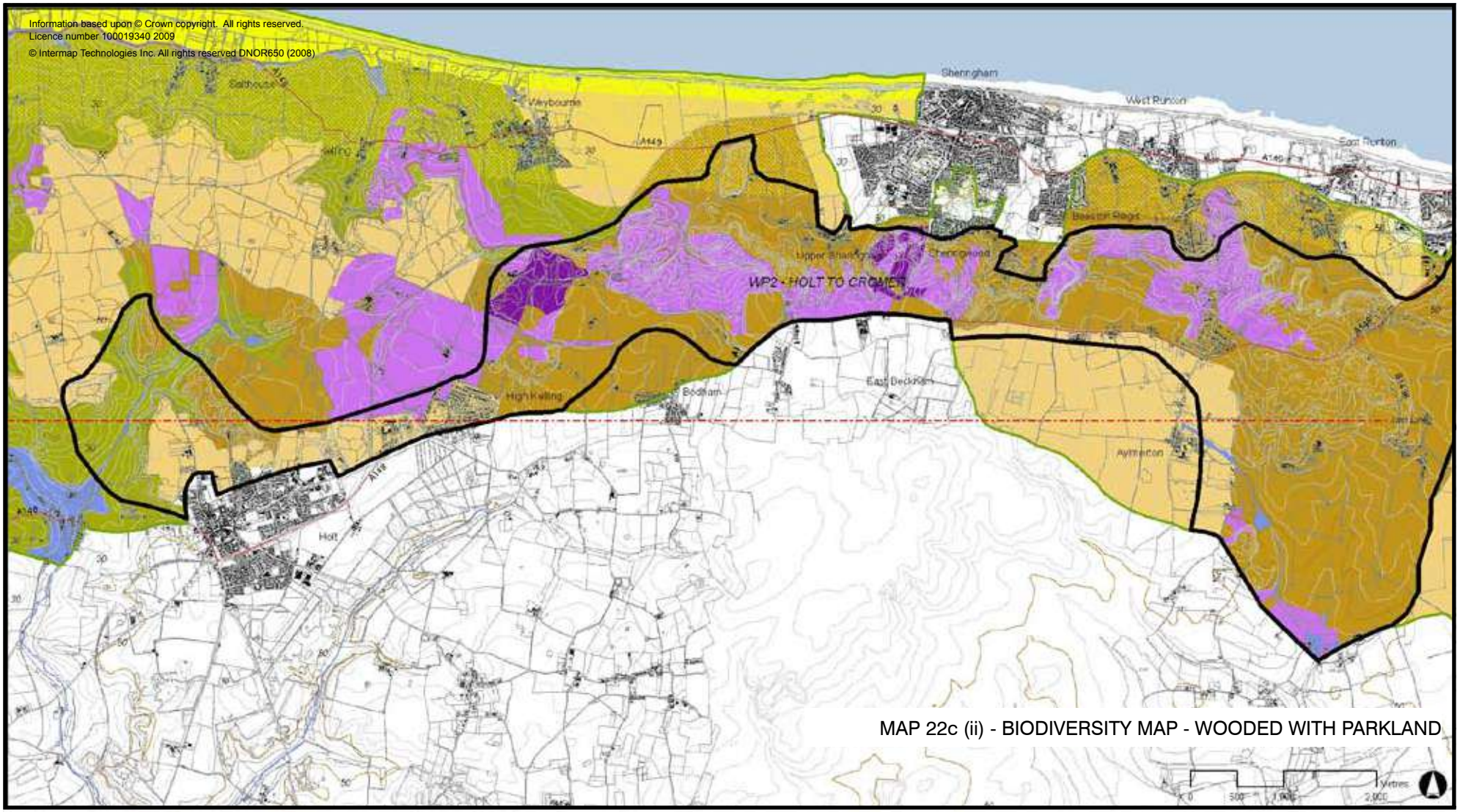
- Core Woodland Area
- Zone of General Habitat Enhancement
- Zone of Grassland-Heathland -Woodland Enhancement
- Wetland Habitat Enhancement Zone
- Coastal Habitat Enhancement Zone
- Calcareous Grassland Core Area
- Core Habitat Corridors
- Paston Bam Bat Site Management Area
- Coastal Buffer Zone
-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



wooded with parkland



wooded with parkland



MAP 22c (ii) - BIODIVERSITY MAP - WOODED WITH PARKLAND

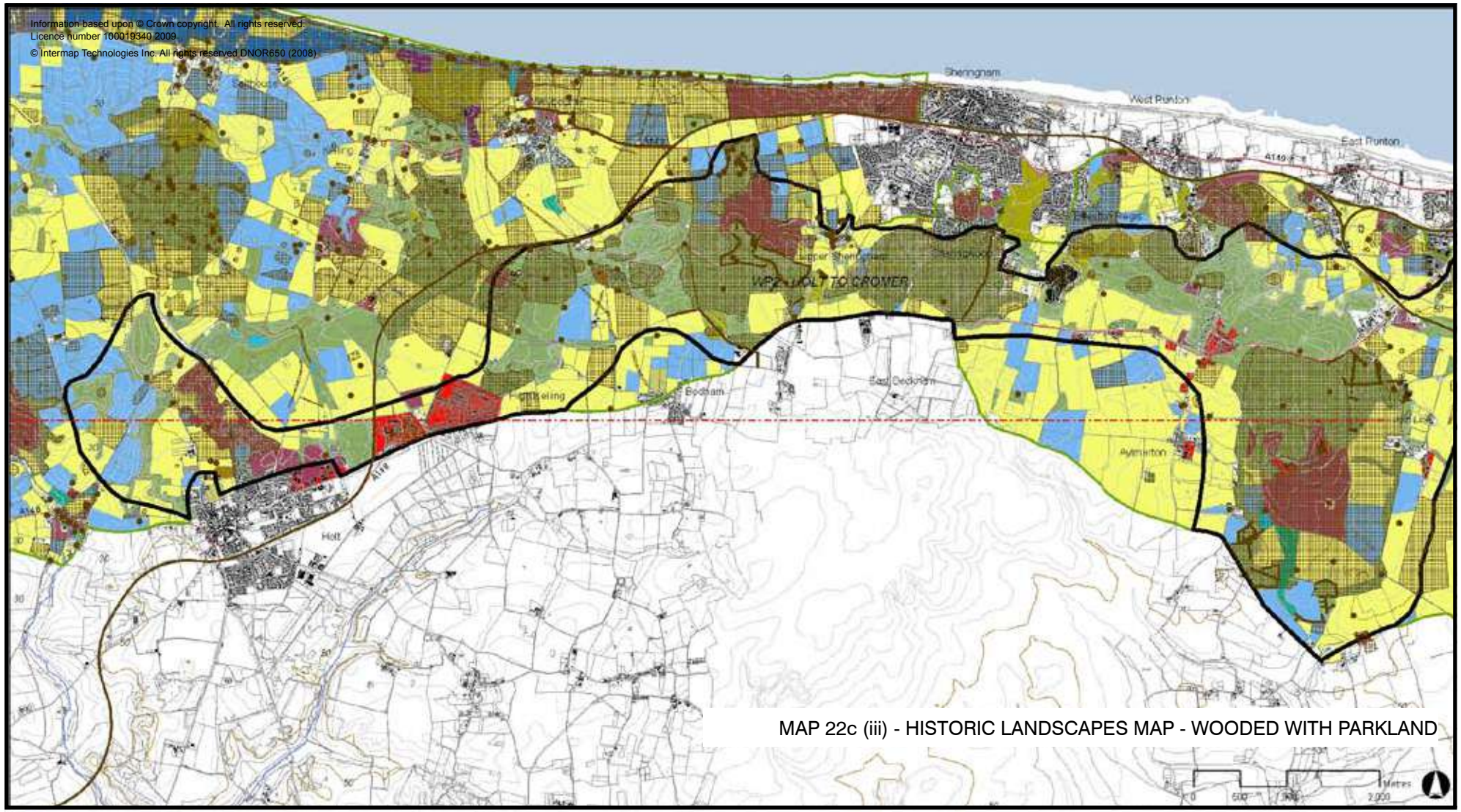
Ecological Network - (in WP area only)

- Core Woodland Area
- Zone of General Habitat Enhancement
- Zone of Grassland-Heathland -Woodland Enhancement
- Wetland Habitat Enhancement Zone
- Coastal Habitat Enhancement Zone
- Calcareous Grassland Core Area
- Core Habitat Corridors
- Paston Bam Bat Site Management Area
- Coastal Buffer Zone
- Broads & River Buffer Zone

Priority Heathland Creation Areas Data (All in core area)

- Priority 1 Heathland Creation Areas (Scores 31 or Above)
- Priority 2 Heathland Creation Areas (Scores 21-30)

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



MAP 22c (iii) - HISTORIC LANDSCAPES MAP - WOODED WITH PARKLAND

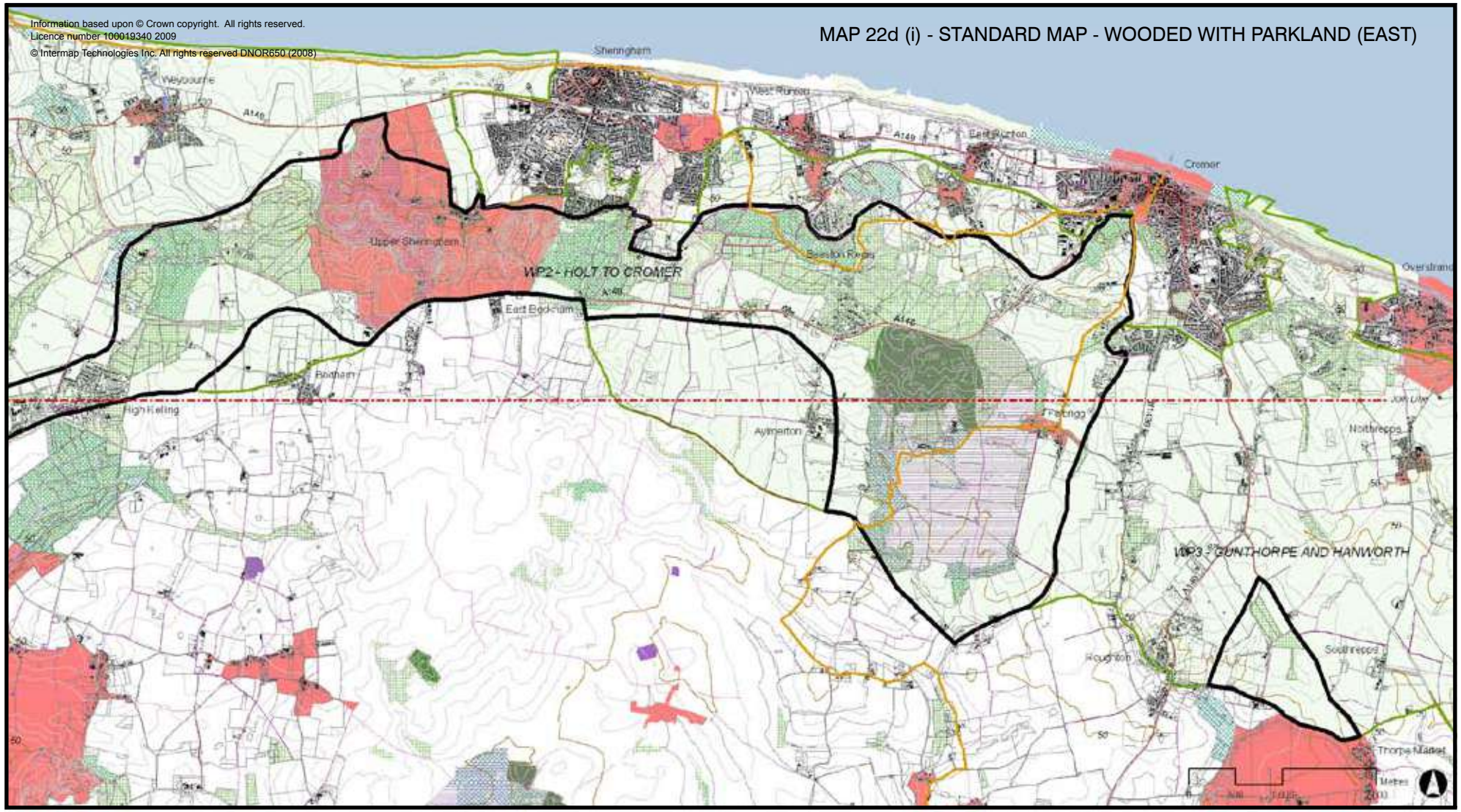
- 18th-19th Century Enclosure
- 20th Century Agriculture
- Built up Areas - Historic
- Built up Areas - Modern
- Coastal - Drainage Enclosure
- Coastal - Managed Wetland
- Commons, Wastes, Heaths
- Communications
- Historic Earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - Managed Wetland
- Marginal
- Military
- Mineral
- Miscellaneous
- Parks, Gardens, Recreation
- Pre- 18th Century Enclosure
- Water Features
- Woodland

HER data

- HER 'point'
- HER 'line'
- HER 'area'

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

wooded with parkland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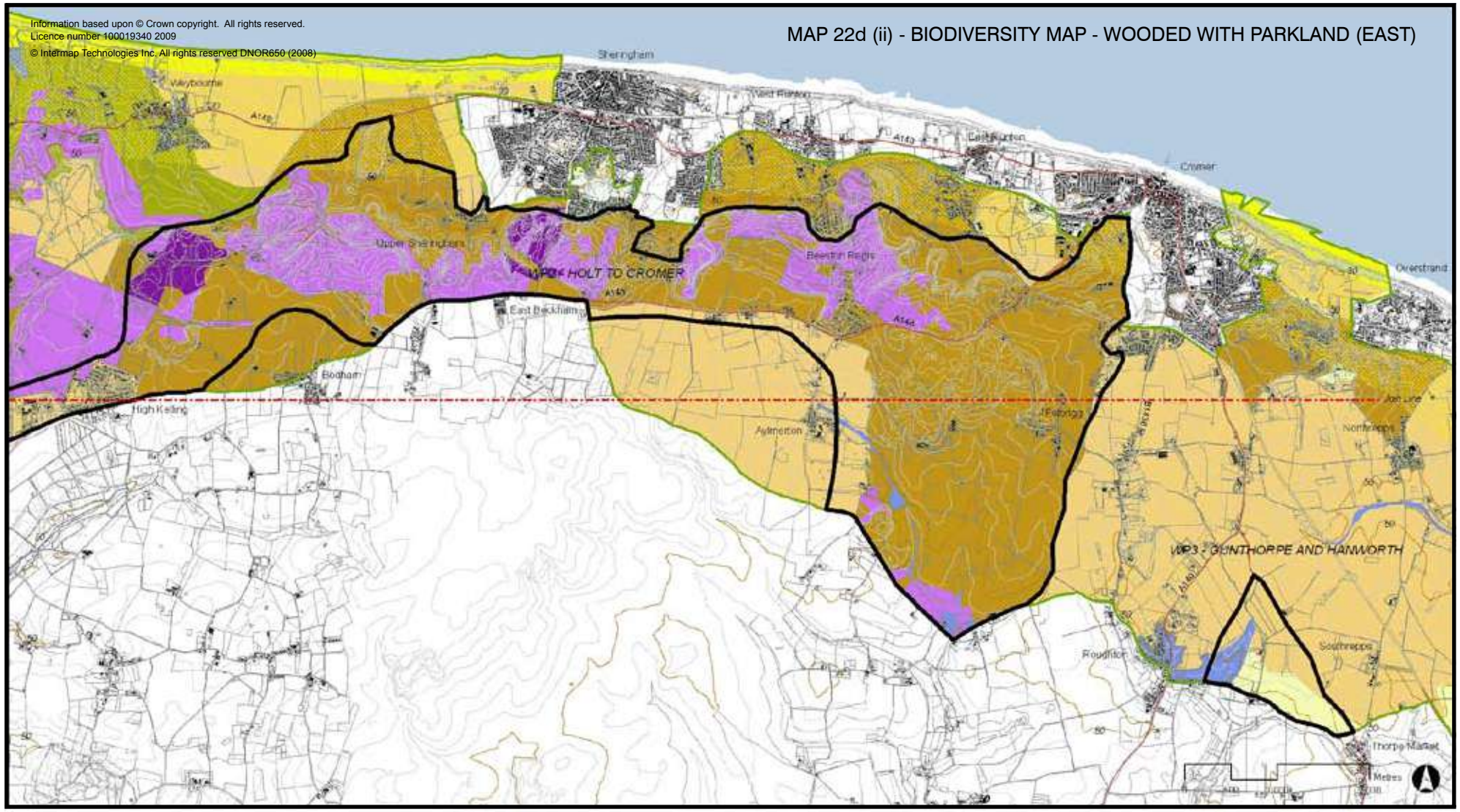
MAP 22d (i) - STANDARD MAP - WOODED WITH PARKLAND (EAST)
WP2 - HOLT TO CROMER
WP3 - GUNTHORPE AND HANWORTH
Sheringham
Weybourne
West Runton
East Runton
Cromer
Upper Sheringham
Beeston Regis
Overstrand
East Beckham
Roughton
Northrepps
Southrepps
Thorpe Market
Metres
Statutory Designations
Ramsar Site
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 22d (ii) - BIODIVERSITY MAP - WOODED WITH PARKLAND (EAST)



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- 'B' Road
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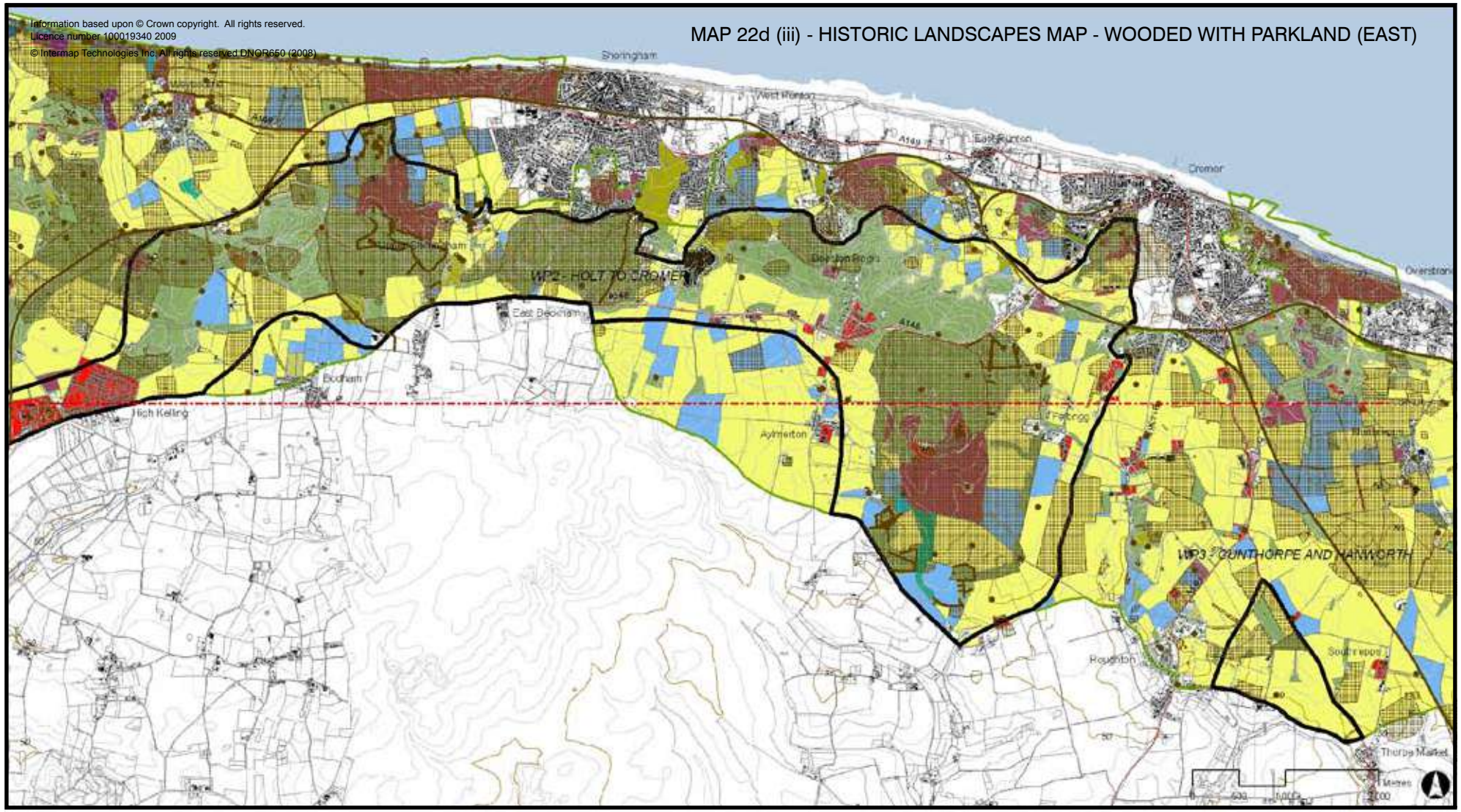
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MAP 22d (iii) - HISTORIC LANDSCAPES MAP - WOODED WITH PARKLAND (EAST)
WP2 - HOLT TO CROMER
WP3 - CONTHORPE AND HANWORTH
Sheringham
Cromer
Overstrand
Aylmerton
Roughton
Thorpe Market
18th-19th Century Enclosure
20th Century Agriculture
Built up Areas - Historic
Built up Areas - Modern
Coastal - Drainage Enclosure
Coastal - Managed Wetland
Commons, Wastes, Heaths
Communications
Historic Earthwork
Horticulture
Industry
Inland - Managed Wetland
Marginal
Military
Mineral
Miscellaneous
Parks, Gardens, Recreation
Pre- 18th Century Enclosure
Water Features
Woodland
HER data
HER 'point'
HER 'line'
HER 'area'
'A' Road
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