

## Defining the Fenland: Tetrads and clear boundaries

### BACKGROUND (A and B) – other definitions of “Fenland”

#### **A) Area used by Mountford and Arnold (2005)**

- 10km squares searched were: TF06-07, TF10-16, TF20-25, TF30-35, TF40-46, TF50-52, TF55-56 and TF61; TL28-29, TL37-39, TL47-49, TL56-59 and TL 67-69.
- Marginal 10km squares holding fragments of Fenland and omitted from the search were: SK97; TF00, TF05, TF17, TF26, TF36 and TF60; TL18-19, TL36, TL46 and TL77-79.

#### KEY to FENLAND SOIL CODE NUMBERS & ASSOCIATIONS

(After Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983):

##### Man- made soils:

**92a:** Disturbed Soils

##### Lithomorphic soils – rendzinas:

**346:** Humic gleyic rendzinas *Reach soil association*

##### Brown calcareous earths:

**511i:** Typical brown calcareous earths *Badsey 2 soil association*

**532a:** Gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils *Blacktoft soil association*

##### Surface-water gley soils - stagnogleys:

**711r:** Typical stagnogley soils *Beccles 1 soil association*

**711s:** Typical stagnogley soils *Beccles 2 soil association*

##### Groundwater gley soils – alluvial gley soils:

**812b:** Calcareous alluvial gley soils *Wisbech soil association*

**813a:** Pelo-alluvial gley soils *Midelney soil association*

**813b:** Pelo-alluvial gley soils *Fladbury 1 soil association*

**813g:** Pelo-alluvial gley soils *Wallasea 2 soil association*

**815:** Sulphuric alluvial gley soils *Normoor soil association*

##### Groundwater gley soils – argillic gley soils:

**841d:** Typical argillic gley soils *Shabbington soil association*

##### Groundwater gley soils – humic-alluvial gley soils:

**851a:** Typical humic-alluvial gley soils *Downholland 1 soil association*

**851b:** Typical humic-alluvial gley soils *Downholland 2 soil association*

##### Groundwater gley soils – humic-sandy gley soils:

**861b:** Typical humic-sandy gley soils *Isleham 2 soil association*

##### Groundwater gley soils – humic gley soils:

**872a:** Calcareous humic gley soils *Peacock soil association*

**872b:** Calcareous humic gley soils *Clayhithe soil association*

**873:** Argillic humic gley soils *Ireton soil association*

##### Peat soils – earthy peat soils:

**1022a:** Earthy eu-fibrous peat soils *Altcar 1 soil association*

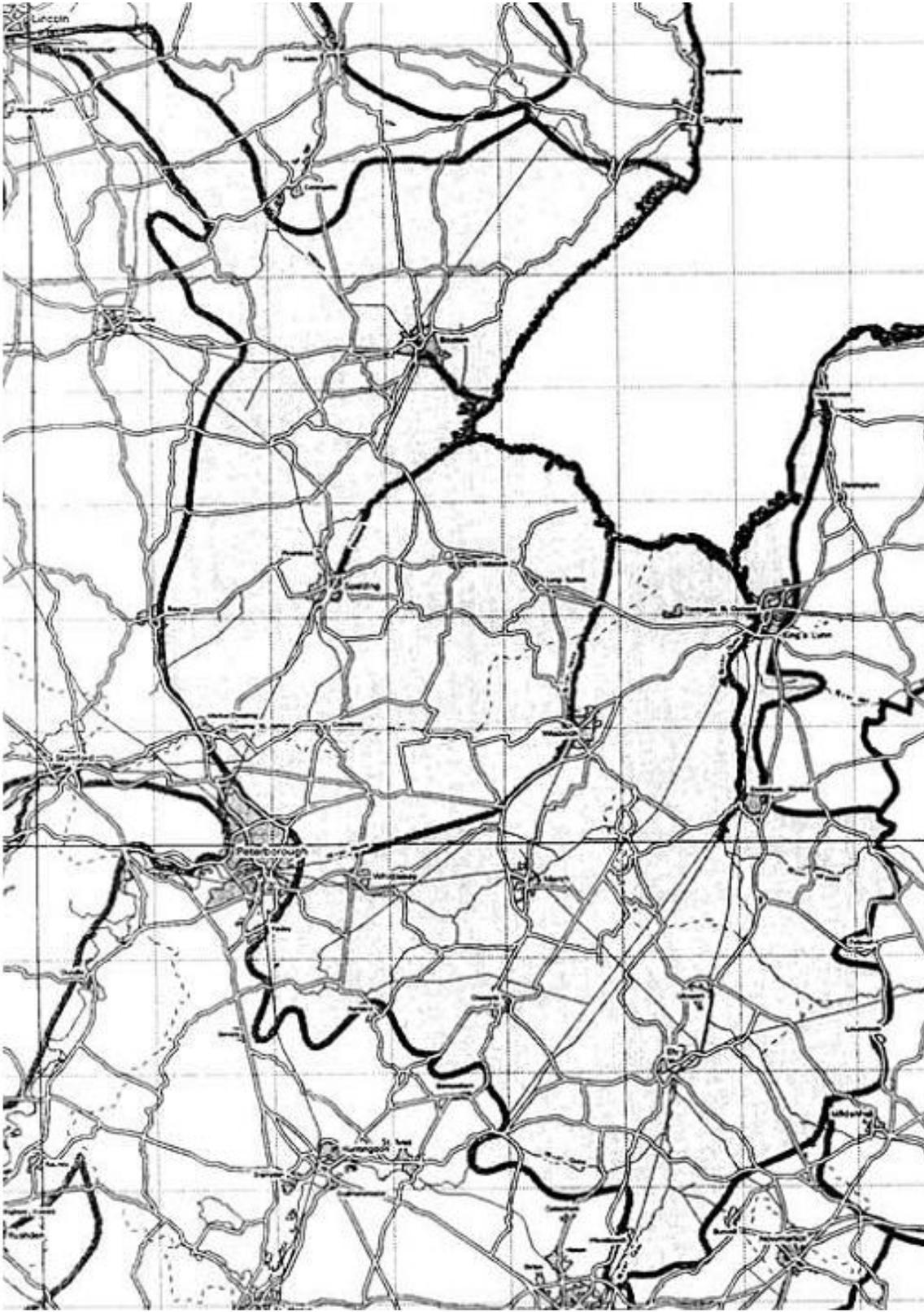
**1024a:** Earthy eutro-amorphous peat soils *Adventurers' 1 soil association*

**1024b:** Earthy eutro-amorphous peat soils *Adventurers' 2 soil association*

**\* Fen Islands (with different soil types) are part of the Fenland Flora area**

B) Map of The Fens National Character Area:

Fens NCA (other bold black lines outwith the Fens indicate boundaries between other NCAs)



## FENLAND FLORA BOUNDARY

C) Proposed boundary for Graham and Mountford Fenland Flora project:

### Guiding principles and notes:

- The Fenland Flora is primarily based upon the area of the basin on Groundwater Gleys and Peats, as well as both a) islands of Brown Soils and Stagnogleys that are surrounded by the flatlands of Groundwater Gleys and Peats, and b) areas of unripened gleys under the Wash salt-marshes.
- Where the Fenland boundary rises very gradually from the flatlands, the second guiding principle is to use the 5m AOD contour as the upper limit of Fenland. Note that no such altitude limit applies to wholly included islands, such as Ely, where all such islands are covered by the project.
- However, such boundary definition is by no means always simple and unambiguous and hence we have made a close examination of the actual combination of altitude and soil type around Fenland before arriving at the final boundary. In some instances, the decision has had to be essentially subjective, though we hope neither arbitrary nor indefensible. Thus, for example, there are instances where the boundary has adopted some readily identifiable feature (a road, a drain *etc*) for practicality, but where the “true” Fenland boundary is only <250m away and thus the loss of fenland or inclusion of upland is minimal.

For the detailed definition below, the line of the boundary is set referring to features that are apparent on the 1:25000 OS map. The boundary is described by each individual 10km square of the Fenland area. Where we define the coverage as “whole square”, that infers everywhere within the 10km square except portions clearly excluded because they are under the sea.

**SK97:** The only fenland area is the narrow strip of earthy peat along the Witham in SE Lincoln (Tetrad **SK97V**), most of which is under factories and Sewage Farms. The far western boundary of Fenland is set as the railway bridge over the Witham at SK984710. From there the southern boundary of the floodplain follows the 5m contour and the Sleaford railway line (whichever is northernmost) east to SK999706. The northern boundary of the floodplain follows the 5m contour from the railway bridge before heading along eastward under the power-lines to leave the tetrad at SK999712.

**[TF00:** Following discussion in December 2010, itself informed by field visits to the Welland Valley between Tallington and Maxey, the whole floodplain area of **TF00** was excluded from the Fenland Flora area].

**[TF05:** Although soils indicate that a tiny part of **TF05Z** could be Fenland, using the 5m contour excludes all humic-alluvial gley soils in **TF05** as too high-lying to be defined as Fenland. Two very small fragments of **TF05** lie below 5m (TF099526 and TF099531) but are on stagnogley soils contiguous with the uplands, and are thus excluded].

**TF06:** The Fenland boundary is fairly clear entering the 10km square at TF099624 along the Car Dyke from north of Metherringham Barff Farm west to a track that runs northwest to the 5m contour at TF092623. Follow the 5m contour north around

lower edge of Fen Head Farm and thence along the public footpath to the southeast corner of Nocton Wood. Here the boundary lies immediately below the road (then the track and then the road again) that runs along the east edge of Nocton Wood to past Wasps Nest until a (private) track leaves the road at TF076650. Follow this track to the eastern margin of Bottom Barff, and then the Car Dyke, past Woodside Farm (Potterhanworth) to meet the B1190 at TF074679 (Potterhanworth Booths). The boundary then corresponds exactly to the Bardney road as far as the 10km square boundary at TF052679.

Fenland tetrads are therefore: **TF06P** (far NE corner), **06S** (NE corner), **06T** (eastern border), **06U** (most of tetrad except SW corner), **06W** (most of eastern half), **06X** (all except woodland) and all of **06Y** and **06Z**.

**TF07:** Fenland includes the earthy peat soils of the Witham valley, as well as the lower reaches of the Barlings Eau floodplain (see similar approach in TF61 - Nar valley). From TF052700, the southern fen edge continues to along Bardney Road and then a track to a gravel-pit area NE of Common Square (TF047705). All this pit area seems to be included within the Fenland. Thence follow the marked earthworks of the Car Dyke west to TF026706, before adopting the 5m contour west along the north edge of Washingborough and then the old railway line to leave the 10km square at TF000706.

The northern boundary starts at TF000712 running at approximately 4m along what appears to be a line of water-filled ditches marking the floodplain edge via TF006712 to TF012713, then below Fen Farm (Cherry Willingham) to TF037718 and TF049717 to below Diamond House (Fiskerton) at TF059718. The boundary runs along the 5m contour below the Fiskerton-Stainfield road and apparently including the flooded pits near Wood End Farm (TF080720). From here, staying with the 5m contour to include the Short Ferry marina (but not the caravan park) at the confluence with Barlings Eau *i.e.* TF095714.

The Barlings Eau floodplain is included where it lies on loamy peats *i.e.* along the 5m contour from Short Ferry marina following the north edge of the Short Ferry Road and Long Wood to Long Wood Farm at TF077725. Most sensible from here to follow boundaries of fields entirely below 5m contour to TF071729. Thence the boundary runs below Fen Farm and follows the soak ditch around the upland, past TF079734 to the ditch junction at TF078736. Follow the bridleway west to the western edge of the scrubby ground on Fiskerton Moor (*i.e.* TF070736) before heading back east along parallel ditches past TF072737 to join the Reepham Brook at TF077738. From here the boundary has to be set more subjectively, and we have decided to follow the Brook northeast to Barlings Lane at TF082741, thence across the Barlings Eau to the soak ditch below Newball Common at TF085742, from which the boundary follows the contour south to the track junction at TF090736. East to include the linear pit up to TF095737 and along the 5m contour out of **TF07** at TF099736, this boundary would include the stagnogley island/peninsula of Barlings Abbey.

Fenland tetrads are therefore: **TF07A** (strip in centre), **07F** (as latter but wider), **07K** (wider still and most of tetrad), **07Q** (almost whole tetrad), **07V** (as latter) and **07W** (most). Fiskerton Moor *etc* (eastern part of **07R**) and a tiny part of **07X** (east of Barlings Hall) are also included.

**TF10:** The NE half of the 10km square is defined by the soils as Fenland, but with the area adjacent to Maxey Cut lying above the 5m contour excluded (resulting in a major revision since the first definition of the Fenland Flora area).

Boundary enters **TF10** by Norwood Farm at TF199035, following the 5m contour north of Gunthorpe Bridge (TF187033) and thence strictly with the Car Dyke to the 90° bend at TF168055. Here the Car Dyke lies slightly above the 5m contour, but we will still use the Dyke as the boundary to the railway at TF167060. Follow

the railway and then include the Wildfowl Trust grounds to the course of the Car Dyke until TF160066. Take the path up to near the junction of Mile Drove and North Fen Road at TF157070, then use the footpath to Paradise Lane and Pasture Lane before rejoining the route of the Car Dyke at TF156082, following this line until it meets the Welland at TF153093. Use the Welland eastward to where the 5m contour leaves the river running north to leave **TF10** close to the B1162 road at TF157999.

Fenland tetrads are now therefore: **TF10N** (strip E and SE of Northborough), **10P** (small area by Welland), **10S** (eastern part), **10T** (most except SW of Peakirk), **10U** (all), **10W** (north edge), **10P** (Northborough) and **10X-Z** (all).

**TF11:** The fen edge grades very gradually from humic-alluvial gley soils in the east via brown calcareous earths (with sands and gravels below exploited for aggregate etc) to unarguably non-Fenland soils west of the A15.

Fenland boundary: starts at TF157100 along the B1162, before turning west (left) along the A16 and meeting the 5m contour at TF154101<sup>1</sup>. Follow the contour north to SW of Sheepskin Hall at TF149111 and then to where it meets Towngate East at TF145113. Use the Car Dyke from TF138109 past Inglewood (TF133121), Langtoft Hall (TF127130) to Baston at TF117142. Stay with the Car Dyke just to east of Kate's Bridge (TF108151) and thence fairly due north along the Dyke (including Thurlby church at TF105168) to arrive at the A151 in southeast Bourne at TF103193. The Car Dyke runs slightly above the 5m contour for much of this area and on brown calcareous earths. In Bourne, the Car Dyke runs under the road at TF103196 to the Bourne Eau at TF104198, and then leaving latter again to leave **TF11** at TF106199.

Fenland tetrads are: The tetrads within Fenland include **TF11C** (mainly **TF11.15.**), **11D-E** (eastern 75%), **11F** (north), **11G** (NE half), **11H-J** (all), **11K** (north and east) and **11L-Z** (all).

**TF12:** As with **TF11**, there are discrepancies between soil map, Car Dyke and elevation. Soils & topography mark the boundary slightly west of the Dyke along 5m contour.

Fenland boundary: beginning in Bourne along the Car Dyke at TF106200 around the town to TF102202 and then up the Dyke/path to Wath Bridge in Dyke village itself at TF106224. Follow the Car Dyke north past Cardyke Farm (TF111244) to where the 5m contour leaves the Car Dyke at TF113251 (SE of Haconby). Thence follow the contour to the Dunsby road at TF115266 and up to Long Drove east of Rippingale at TF121282 and finally the gentler double-bend west of Old Decoy Farm at TF124297. Leave the 10km square on the west side of the small wood at TF124299.

Fenland tetrads include: **TF12A-D** (eastern parts) and **12F-Z** (all). Note that **TF12E** is NOT a Fenland tetrad.

**TF13:** The Car Dyke (though informed by the 5m contour and soils) is nonetheless the most defensible boundary for much of this square, although the slope up to B1394 and B1177 is very gentle, making the boundary of Fenland locally quite vague with brown soils (Badsey 2 association) forming an intermediate zone and areas of stagnogley (Beccles 3 association) also being important.

Fenland boundary: From the woodland at TF125300, follow the ditch east to the Car Dyke at TF130300 before using the Car Dyke past the moat at TF130329 to the meeting with the B1177 west of Bridge End at TF135361. The boundary goes

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 Suggested amendment to boundary on map inserted as appendix. Propose boundary follows course of Car Dyke from the s. of Deeping St James, crosses minor road and Welland (ca TF155093), follows the n. flood bank of the Welland e. to sharp bend on East Gate (TF17130817) where land rises notably and then follows the high ground (and housing) on the e. of the Deepings/Frognaal island to rejoin the Car Dyke in the north.

east to road junction at TF142362, rejoins the Car Dyke at TF140369 as far as the shelter belt at TF140380 and then up to South Drove at TF146392. From here, head north to leave **TF13** at TF143399 close to the 5m contour.

Fenland tetrads are: **TF13F-H** (eastern half), **13I** (SE corner) and **13K-Z**. **TF13J** is NOT a Fenland tetrad.

**TF14:** The boundary in this 10km square is quite irregular with less than half the 10km square being true Fenland.

Fenland boundary: starts at TF143400 follows the 5m contour to the B1394 bridge over the Helpringham Eau (TF141410) before returning along the contour and following embanked drains from TF149412 to the Fen Road (TF150415). Here both the Car Dyke and soils map indicate one should follow the former from Car Dyke Farm (TF159412) via Car Dyke Road and Sandlees Lane at TF171450. Here the boundary should cross Littleworth Drove and go as far as TF168461, before running west along the north edge of Star Fen Drove<sup>2</sup> to include only the floodplain of Heckington Eau (via TF154453 and Winkhill) as far west as Washdike Bridge (TF141450). Thence the boundary runs just below the 5m contour through Howell Fen (TF149469) NW to west edge Fox Covert (TF139481). There appears (elevation and field visit of April 2010) to be no direct connection between the Fenland island of the Kymes (stagnogley Beccles 2 association) and the gleyic brown calcareous earths (Ruskington Association) of Ewerby and Evedon, making the Kymes true Fenland. Thus from Fox Covert the boundary should run along the drain to the footpath south of the Sleas at TF132491 and use the 5m contour (*i.e.* including woods near the Claims, Cobbler's Lock and much of Haverholme Wood) until the Sleas crosses the 5m contour north of Haverholme Priory (TF108497). The fenland boundary (on humic-alluvial gleys of the Downholland 1 association) leaves **TF14** at TF 108499. A small area above the 5m contour on the north bank of the Sleas near Cobbler's Lock and south of The Harding (TF127498 *etc*) should probably be excluded from Fenland since it combines higher altitude with a usually atypical soil for Fenland (Ruskington Association).

Fenland tetrads: **TF14E** (Sleas strip), **14J** (NE part), **14K** (E half), **14M** (mostly N part), **14N** (most except SW), **14P**, **14Q**, **14R** (except NW corner), **14S** (E part and NW edge) and **14T-Z**.

**TF15:** The ridge from Billingham NW to Martin is not an island but a peninsula whose altitude is 13-18m, lying on various typical stagnogleys with an included area of sandy gley (Blackwood Association). Area is excluded from the Fenland Flora.

Fenland west boundary: Starts at TF108500 the boundary follows the 5m contour along the north edge of the Sleas strip, turning north on the west bank of the Catchwater Drain near The Harding (see **TF14**). Via Grange Farm, Anwick (TF117514), follow curved ditch north and west to Wong Farm (TF111520) and thence past Crossways Farm, along the Dorrington Dike (TF109542) and due north to TF109550. Boundary runs east of Rowston Grange and up the 5m contour to TF107569, then back along the contour just south of the New Cut to Barnidean (TF123562). The New Cut and parallel droves forms the boundary along the edge of the peninsula to Causeway Bridge at TF147537. Ring Moor is Fenland with a footpath, playing field and Billingham itself forming the boundary, which leaves the main drain at TF158550 and then follows the (quite sinuous) Car Dyke exactly around and excluding Martin Wood (not Fenland) and leaves the square at TF128599 on the east edge of Martin village.

Fenland east boundary: Though mainly Blackwood soils (sandy gley), the area east of the Witham may be Fenland on the basis of elevation and landscape, with

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<sup>2</sup> Star Fen and Littleworth Drovers ridge (13<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – Tetrad **TF14S**) is mainly not in the Fenland

the dismantled railway running from TF189599 to TF197585 and then east below the 5m contour to leave the square at TF199585.

Fenland tetrads: Includes parts of most tetrads *i.e.* **TF15A** (edges), **15B** (NE corner), **15C** (east), **15D** (SE corner), **15F-G** (most), **15H-J** (excluding ridge of Walcott, Timberland and Martin), **15K-Y** (excluding much of **15M** *i.e.* Billingham village ridge but including the Kymes) and **TF15Z** (excluding NE margin).

**TF16:** Here the boundaries are fairly well-defined in some parts, though the north-east boundary has to be set a basis that combines soil, altitude and topography, though it could be logical to follow the dismantled railway close by the Witham.

Fenland west boundary: enters square at TF128600 and exactly follows the Car Dyke to leave the 10km square west of Middle Fen Farm at TF100624.

Fenland east boundary: On the NE side of the Witham valley, the boundary follows the 5m contour from TF189600 to TF189608 before following ditches NNW to The Sewer at TF184620 and then 5m contour almost to Kirkstead Bridge. From TF177621 follow the 5m contour past Syke House to Viking Way, below Long Wood and Stixwoud Grange around to Reeds Beck and almost to Red Bridge at TF162650. Follow the floodplain of Catchwater Drain up as far as Duckpool Bridge (TF170664). Similarly follow the 5m contour up the floodplains of Bucknall Beck to TF162667 and Tupholme Beck to TF142675. Finally follow the dismantled railway from near Southrey at TF138663 to beginning of area with water-filled ditches (at TF121677), the boundary heads NE to Viking Way at TF128677. Finally follow the Viking Way NW to the 5m contour at TF117590, finishing by using the 5m contour west and north excluding Bardney village to leave the square in TF108699.

Fenland tetrads: **TF16A** (far NE corner), **16B** (most), **16C-D**, **16E** (apart from NE corner), **16F** (all east of Car Dyke), **16G-H**, **16I** (south and west parts), **16J** (SW corner only), **16K-L**, **16M** (all except NE corner), **16N** (lower parts of floodplains as above), **16Q**, **16R** (south and west parts), **16S** (mainly southwest), **16T** (below Duckpool Bridge), **16V** (west part) and **16W** (SW corner only).

**TF17:** Only the southwest corner of the 10km square on earthy peats was included.

Fenland boundary: enters square at TF108700, follows 5m contour around to east-west drove at TF111704 and then goes east on peats below 5m to B1202 junction with Stainfield road at TF125712. From here follow line marking upper edge of water-filled ditches to TF111710 and east end of straight Snakeholme Drain (TF112715). Follow 5m contour below The Hermitage and Top Farm to Short Ferry Road at TF102720. Boundary follows field edges closest to 5m contour from here to Manor House (TF106731), below Stainfield Grange and along the 5m contour to leave the square at TF100736.

Fenland tetrads: just three *i.e.* west and central part of **TF17A**, west margin of **17B** and far southwest corner of **17F**.

**TF20:** Most of the square is Fenland except higher lying and urban Peterborough

Fenland boundary: enters square at TF200035 by Hill Farm, follows Guntons Road south to Car Dyke at TF200032. From here (including some fragments above 5m contour) along the Car Dyke east to Whitepost Road at TF214030, the boundary then runs to Fell Farm and around Eye village on the 5m contour to a pit at TF240033 (Eye Green is an island) below and thus excluding Mill Hill Crossing, Hayne's Farm, Tunholt Farm and Eyebury Farm back into the south part of Eye village and west to the Car Dyke at TF219026. The Car Dyke forms the boundary south to the roundabout at TF213015 and along the newer road past the caravan park to leave the square at TF218000, making Oxney House a small island.

Fenland tetrads: All tetrads in the square but only a small part of **TF20A** (east and northeast), the northern part of **20B** and some parts of **20F** and **20G** excluded as on the Eye peninsula (despite its name, evidently not an island).

**TF21:** Whole square

**TF22:** Whole square

**TF23:** Whole square

**TF24:** Whole square

Note that two areas lie on typical stagnogleys and ought to be targeted for survey: a) TF24K near St Mary's Abbey, bounded by A52, Fenhouses Lane and Fenhouses Drove (Beccles 2 Association); and b) Old Amber Hill and Gravel Field plus Gravel Farm (part of TF24I).

**TF25:** This is amongst the most difficult areas in which to fix a boundary from the maps, though our field surveys have clarified the situation. There is a gentle gradient south of Tattershall and Coningsby making an objective line difficult to draw, and any attempt would include much sandy gley and stagnogley. The eventual line is a compromise taking into account soil, elevation and landscape, with access a consideration too in RAF Coningsby.

Fenland boundary: enters square at TF200585 and goes east to Oakdene Cottage near Cosmoor (TF204586). Following Lodge Road southeast, the boundary goes around the built-up parts of Tattershall, excluding the Castle, crossing the River Bain to follow the footpath ESE toward Coningsby cemetery. On reaching the 5m contour (TF217574), follow this elevation south and exclude the entire airfield, going via TF216561, Old Fen Farm (TF227557), Ivy House to reach the Langrick Road at Reedham (TF244562) and then Moor Side at TF254568. From here, it is most practical to use the minor road through Tumbly Woodside to Mareham Beck at TF274599.

Fenland tetrads: Fenland includes **TF25A-D**, **25E** (southwest corner only), **25F-H**, **25I** (southern edge only), **25K-M**, **25N** (southeast corner), **25Q-S**, **25T** (most), **25U** (eastern half) and **25V-Z**.

**TF26:** Fenland is here again defined principally in terms of altitude and topography (rather than the preferable tripartite definition from soils + altitude + topography). Fenland here includes plenty of sandy gley and stagnogley, as do several other squares along the northern Fenland edge.

Fenland boundary: enters at TF274600 and then heads north to the 5m contour below Mareham Le Fen (TF276606) to run parallel to and just N of the Catchwater Drain to leave the square at TF299606. The boundary should not go north of the A155 and will exclude most of the site of Revensby Abbey (the southern 20% would be defined as Fenland).

Fenland tetrads: Only the southern parts of **TF26Q** and **26V**.

**TF30:** Whole square

**TF31:** Whole square

**TF32:** Whole square

**TF33:** Whole square [Though **TF33Y** is almost entirely in the Wash]

**TF34:** Whole square

- TF35:** Field survey (March 2011) shows that Stickney is a wholly included fen island, thus greatly simplifying the boundary in this square, though the islands of Stickney and Sibsey do include much land on typical stagnogleys. Integrating soils, elevation and landscape, only a small area would be excluded from Fenland.  
Fenland boundary: Follow 5m contour from TF346599 south to The Poplars at TF348590 and back to leave the square at TF356599 (exclude Stickford).  
Fenland tetrads: ALL tetrads except small parts of **TF35P** and **35U**.
- TF36:** Similar comments apply here to those for TF26, including a strip of stagnogley (some of which is south of the East Fen Catchwater Drain). See also TF35.  
Fenland boundary: from TF300606 to the road south of Shirewood (TF305607), and following the 5m contour and latterly a footpath below both Middle Farm and Kirkby Fenside to TF333611. Boundary passes around the southern edge of the old Hagnaby airfield to Staunch Farm at TF343607. East to the 5m contour at TF345608, before following this contour to leave the square at TF356600. Boundary re-enters the square at TF361600, it runs parallel to and ca 100m north of the East Fen Catchwater Drain passing to the west of Keal Bridge to the 5m contour at TF370620 and east below (south of) Woolham Farm and just north of Toynton Fenside to New Lane at TF396622. New Lane is adopted as the boundary from here to where it leaves the square at ca TF399624.  
Fenland tetrads were: **TF36A** (south third), **36F** (south half), **36K** (SW corner), **36Q** (most except Keal Cotes), **36R** (tiny portion in S), **36V** (all) and **36W** (far SE corner). *N.b.* floodplain of the River Lymm in **TF36Y-Z** is connected (in soil terms) with true Fenland, but is excluded both on elevation (>15m) and landscape.
- TF40:** Whole square
- TF41:** Whole square
- TF42:** Whole square
- TF43:** Whole square [Though only 12 terrestrial tetrads – much of hectad in The Wash and with only tiny parts of **TF43M** and **TF43V** as “Fenland”]
- TF44:** Whole square [Though only 11 terrestrial tetrads – much of hectad in The Wash]
- TF45:** Whole square
- TF46:** Fenland boundary: Entering the square at TF400624 the Fenland follows New Lane east to its junction with the road from Toynton St Peter at TF405629. Eastward, it follows the first part of Ings Lane east to the 90° bend and thence uses the ditch along the north edge of Toynton Ings as far Ings Drove at TF415629. Along Ings Drove and thence the edge follows a public footpath into Halton Fenside at TF421632. From here again following public footpaths to TF426632 and then approximately northeast to meet the Steeping River 200m downstream of Mill Bridge at TF431639 (see part b). The boundary then runs just northeast of and parallel to the Steeping River, excluding Hall Farm and most of the village of Firsby *i.e.* meeting the village road at TF456626. This approach means that the village of Little Steeping is a wholly included fen island, which is confirmed by the soil map (stagnogley outcrop from the humic alluvial gley). The soil boundary and our recording area should then follow the public footpath to cross the railway at TF459630, then just south of Manor House following more irregular ditches to TF472633. The village of Irby in the Marsh and the ridge of the Wainfleet Road are excluded, with the boundary crossing the latter

immediately south of Lincoln Farm at TF473627. The edge of the humic alluvial gley (and Fenland Flora area) then runs north to the 90° bend of the minor road (Oxlands Lane) at TF477633, thence following Oxlands Lane north to the public footpath parallel to and north of Wongs Lane at TF477642. Follow the footpath east to the Cowcroft Drain at TF484642, the Fenland boundary then turns south running to Bratoft End at TF487639 at Klondyke Farm. The boundary then runs to TF491634, following the NE bank of the Cowcroft Drain (excluding Croft End) to 2 obvious meanders in the Drain at TF495628, thence running east to leave TF46 just south of The Hollies at TF499630. The boundary re-enters the square at TF499635 on Low Lane, following this road northwest to Country Acres at TF496640 and leaves the square again at Jockhedge (TF499643).

Fenland tetrads: **TF46A**, **46B** (most), **46F**, **46G** (most), **46K**, **46L** (most), **46Q**, **46R** (except village peninsula), **46S** (extreme southeast corner), **46V**, **46W** (except Croft End) and **46X** (SW and extreme SE corners only)

**TF50**: Whole square.

**TF51**: Whole square.

**TF52**: Whole square [Though only 19 terrestrial tetrads – 6 tetrads in The Wash]

**[TF53 and TF54**: All in the Wash]

**TF55**: Fenland boundary: Enters the square along the Cow Bank Drain at TF553600, following this drain south until its junction with the Wainfleet Haven at TF552585, following this channel to the sea

Fenland tetrads: All tetrads excluding NE part of **TF55N**, east part of **55P** and **55T-U** [Hence only 9 Fenland tetrads, several excluded as in The Wash]

**TF56**: Fenland boundary: Enters **TF56** near Jockhedge (TF500643) and then goes east to the meeting of Marsh Lane and the Catchwater at TF504644. From there, boundary goes south down Marsh Lane to TF505641, turning east along Billgate Lane to where the Common/Catchwater Drain (TF506541) crosses the road. Then go south along this drain to bend at TF507634, from where the drain (and the proposed boundary) runs ESE to A52 near Retreat Farm (TF539624). There is a slight dogleg at this point, and the boundary joins the Cow Bank Drain running ESE and then south to leave the square at TF553600.

Fenland tetrads: **TF56A**, **56B** (except NE corner), **56C** (SW corner only), **56F**, **56G** (Sn part only), **56K** (except east and NE) and **56L** (far SW corner only).

**TF60**: Only the far western edge of this square is in Fenland, and to some extent, the railway would form a practical eastern boundary, but the soils and altitude do diverge somewhat from this and a tighter definition is needed.

Fenland boundary: This enters the square at TF600027, joins the railway at the A1122 level crossing at TF601027, and then follows the railway to the sewage works at TF604042. Here the groundwater gleys extend a little eastward, and the Fenland edge runs just west of the 5m contour to TF611053, before turning back to TF607056 (excluding Whinclose Covert) and running parallel (and just east) of the railway up to Stow Bridge, where Fenland extends up the Causeway as far east as TF609069. Fenland includes the fields abutting the east side of the railway as far north as TF610078, and then widens to meet the road at South Farm (TF614082) before returning to the railway at TF608084 and following the line until it leaves the square at TF610099.

Fenland tetrads: would therefore be: **TF60B-D** (west fringe) and **60E** (west half).

- TF61:** The region around and especially to the west and north of King's Lynn (TF51) has considerable areas of apparent Fenland on brown soils of the Blacktoft association. Consequently, defining the eastern boundary depends rather more on topography, altitude and landscape, though soils are used wherever possible. There are also complications associated with the Nar valley and the extent to which this should be included in Fenland e.g. humic-sandy gleys of the Isleham 2 series are very extensive up to Castle Acre and Gayton but are largely omitted from our definition, and hence exclude TF71. There is an argument for excluding the Nar floodplain east of Setchey Bridge (TF636134) – see **TF00** and **TL36/37**].
- Fenland boundary – south part:* The eastern edge of Fenland enters the square at TF610100 and then runs from north to edge of Watlington at TF614106. The newer part of Watlington is in Fenland, with the eastern boundary of the Flora area being on the road junction at TF617112 (St Peter's & Station Roads). The boundary runs up to the west edge of Ballast Hole Plantation (TF619119) to Hatchet Plantation at TF621125<sup>3</sup>.
- Fenland boundary – Nar Floodplain:* The Flora boundary runs parallel to and ca 250m south of Polver Drain levels to near Oakwood House (TF638126) before bending southeast to include the ditched fields and Willow Holt at TF645119. Skirting the sewage works, the boundary goes SSE to the west end of Mow Fen (TF661105) and includes the whole of Mow Fen but excludes any part of Shouldham Warren except that north of the Black Drain i.e. boundary at TF669104, TF668110, TF673114 and TF685112. The boundary then follows Pentney Drove to join the River Nar just west of Abbey Farm (TF698120). From here follow the course of the Nar back west to ca TF689125 (when the flooded sand-pits begin), and north to TF689131 where a ditch (Country Drain) runs parallel to the SW edge of West Bilney Warren. Thereafter the boundary runs via Denton's Farm along the Country Drain to reach the road southwest of Blackborough Priory Fm (TF670140). The boundary is then located 100-200m south of 5m contour (ca TF662144, TF656143 & TF645145 (Setch Rd)) including all of Setchey Common (Geological SSSI) to TF641144 and coming down to where the Puny Drain goes under the A10 just south of Setchey (TF636135). This definition of the Fenland part of the Nar floodplain includes only small areas of humic-sandy gleys and means that Wormegay is a wholly included island.
- Fenland boundary north*<sup>4</sup>: From Setchey, follow the Puny Drain from TF633135 and then the public footpath across West Winch Common from TF6231140 (via TF625156) to TF627168. Thence follow the Puny Drain via TF626176 to its culvert under the Nar (TF621183). From here, use the Nar and then the Great Ouse as the east boundary of Fenland until it leaves the square at TF614199.
- Fenland tetrads:* **TF61A-E** (some areas on eastern edge outwith the Fens), **61G** (not Setchey and southern fringe), **61H-I** (just the western fringe), **61J** (only SW corner), **61K** (north edge), **61L**, **61M** (southern part), **61Q** (NW and north fringe), **61R**, **61S** (SW corner), **61V** (NE portion) and **61W** (most except the Warren).
- TF62:** Most of this square was recently added to the *Fenland Flora*. The main problem here lies in integrating soils, altitude and topographical information, although visits in 2011-2012 have clarified some points. [See TF61 for guidance on urban area]
- Fenland boundary:* Follow the Great Ouse from TF614200 north to TF613209 where the boundary follows the path on top of the floodbank as far as TF610215, where it turns east following a drain along the south side of the Riverside Industrial Estate to Estuary Road, joining the A1078 (Edward Benefer

<sup>3</sup> At this point the Nar floodplain joins the main basin, and definitions become somewhat more subjective but are based on inclusion of connected areas of alluvial gley and loamy peat.

<sup>4</sup> The absence of good soils information for the urban area of King's Lynn in TF61 and TF62 and the recent publication of Robin Stevenson's book on the flora there mean that (pragmatically) the Fenland Flora should omit most of this area.

Way) at TF620212. Use the A1078 as the boundary until a footpath crosses the road from the North Lynn Industrial Estate at TF626220. Use this path as the eastern boundary from the A1078 north to the Old East Sea Bank at TF627241, whence the Fenland edge runs northeast to near the Spinney at TF632247. The boundary then goes east to the west edge of the playing field at TF639248, where it joins the route of a dismantled railway heading north to TF644257. The Fenland includes the fields on both sides of the Babingley River east to Babingley Bridge *i.e.* the boundary goes via TF657256 to TF673255 and thence back westward to TF662260 and back to the old railway to TF650271. From here, the boundary goes north following the catch-water ditch just west of Marsh Farm, Wolferton (TF653286). Staying just below the 5m contour and skirting the village of Wolferton, the boundary runs to the edge of Whinhill Covert at TF660288 (excluding the Covert itself) and then north to TF661297. The lowest parts of the Boathouse Creek floodplain are included up to the parish boundary at TF669294, before turning north again to meet the PRoW by Gogg's Whins at TF672299 (the western portion of the Whins might be Fenland).

**Fenland tetrads:** **TF62A** (except urban Lynn), **62B-E**, **62F** (fragment N of A1078), **62G** (western part), **62H** (all except SE corner), **62I-J**, **62M** (northwest corner), **62N** (west), **62P** (except Wolferton village *etc*), **62S** (north edge), **62T** (tiny fragment in SW) and **62U** (northwest part).

**TF63:** This square has also been added to the *Fenland Flora* after the first edition, follows the NCA to a large extent and has the same caveats as TL62.

**Fenland boundary:** Enters the square at TF672300, and should probably follow the edges of woodland to TF677309 (though the western margins of the woods might just be included). The boundary runs parallel and *ca* 150m west of the A149 north to farm buildings at TF677320. Keeping just below (west and south) of the 5m contour, the Fen boundary runs through TF671327 to the drain south of Locke Farm at TF667332. Thence it runs NW to cross the Beach Road at TF657336. The boundary then runs immediately east of the ditches to the bushy area at TF660345, again keeping just below (west of) the 5m contour to a marshy projection into the Ken Hill Wood complex at TF665350. The Fenland is then defined by a boundary ditch as far as a sewage works at TF666361, from where it goes north to where an old sea bank (and path) meet South Beach Road (Heacham) at TF662368. Back east along the Road, before turning north on a footpath between caravan parks as far as Jubilee Road (TF666374), before following the outer edge of Marram Way to TF670378. North from here (including pools) to TF673386, the boundary then follows the track between Heacham Manor and Searles Golf Course to arrive at the coast at TF667394 – excluding all urban Hunstanton and finishing at the end of South Beach Road, Hunstanton.

**Fenland tetrads:** **TF63F**, **63K-N** (last a tiny area), **63Q**, **63R** (not northeast) and **63S-U** (western parts).

**TL18:** Fenland includes the peaty areas west of the East Coast Main Line, as well as part of Holme Fen NNR.

**Fenland boundary:** enters the square at TL199830, the boundary runs southwest to include the site of Sawtry Abbey before passing through Sawtry Roughs to the west end of Red Drove at TL178833. It follows the drain on the 5m contour to TL180841 and then around Bruce's Castle (excluded) crossing Crease Road at TL186844. Fenland includes Duckpit Fen and High Fen (northern limit TL189851) and the boundary runs through Ivy Farm to road junction at TL191859, along the minor road to the railway at TL199861 and then along the road on the west side of the railway itself to the Pump House at TL195873. The boundary runs west of the *Admiral Wells* PH before going northwest through Holmewood Hall to TL190882, and including most of The Holt west to TL178881. From here the boundary turns

northwest to Caldecote Dyke Farm (TL175887), before going NNW via Fen Lane to leave the square at TL169899.

Fenland tetrads: **TL18R** (sliver of Sawtry Fen within (just E) of the Middle Level Catchment Drain, **18U** (east edge), **18W** (most), **18X** (except northwest), **18Y** (eastern edge) and **18Z** (most except southwest edge).

**TL19:** Fenland comprises the southeast corner of the square below Yaxley.

Fenland boundary: Along the fen-edge footpath from TL169900 to Yard's End Dike at TL172905, the boundary follows this dike to TL188921 (above the end of Yaxley Lode), and then along the fen-edge footpath above the Pig Water to leave the square at TL199933.

Fenland tetrads: **TL19Q** (SE part), **19V** (except urban NW corner) and **19W** (SE corner only)

**TL28:** A complex boundary to Fenland but generally well-defined.

Fenland boundary: From TL200830 along the drove east and under the railway by Five Arch Bridge, the boundary runs ESE to Manor Farm, Church End (TL210828) before following ditches parallel to and south of the Middle Level Catchwater Drain to TL220820, before heading to the north of Keeler Farm at TL227817. [Middle Farm, Higney Wood, Higney Grange and railway north of Five Arches lie on a wholly enclosed island]. The boundary can be followed along the footpaths east to junctions at TL237820, then beyond the Red House and turning north between Lady's Wood and Raveley Fen Road to Turf Fen Road at TL 246832. From here the Fenland boundary is somewhat sinuous but runs approximately north to Heights Drove Road at TL245847 and then the Catch Water east to bottom of Ugg Mere Court Road at TL251847. Thence SE to the end of Bury Lane (TL257844), which forms the boundary of the Fenland to near Bury Green Farm at TL268851, the route continues parallel to and SE of School Farm Drove to beyond School Farm at TL259857. Ramsey town is (almost) entirely above the Fenland, so the boundary runs ESE to recreation ground by Mill Lane (TL289854) before following the footpath by Stocking Fen as far as TL294863. The boundary then runs NW to the double bend at TL290868 before turning NE to the end of the Bodsey peninsula at TL295875. From Bodsey Cottages the boundary runs along the south edge of the new irrigation reservoirs to leave the square at TL299876. A smaller area of Fenland lies to the SE of Ramsey town - this begins along the south side of Hollow Lane at TL299846 before going west to TL291846 including Bury Fen and Bury Lug Fen and then south to TL295834 essentially following the course of a dismantled railway. Finally, the boundary runs south toward Wistow Wood as far as TL295825 before running east just below the 5m contour to TL299823.

Fenland tetrads: **TL28B** (except southwest portion), **28C-E**, **28F** (far north edge), **28G-J**, **28L** (west portion), **28M** (west and north parts), **28N-P**, **28S** (northwest part), **28T-U**, **28W** (east part), **28X** (SE corner and north part), **28Y** (excluding Bodsey and Muchwood Lane) and **28Z**.

**TL29:** Mostly Fenland but with the boundary somewhat complicated because of the urban sprawl of Peterborough.

Fenland boundary: Well defined near Farcet, following the Fen edge path from TL200933 northeast to the lower part of Farcet at TL206945. The boundary then runs north, following ditches to the new route of the A605 at TL209953. This new road could form the boundary as far as the roundabout with the B1092 at Horsey (TL219960); however, the borrow pits along the north side of the A605 may be included in Fenland as they are below 5m altitude and on groundwater gley. From the roundabout, the boundary runs north to TL220964 where it follows a channel that joins the Back Water by Toll Gate (TL208973). New development

(Belton Road & Framlingham Road etc) in Stanground is within Fenland, but most of the built-up area is on the uplands. Back Water meets the Nene at TL200978, which may be considered the upstream limit of Fenland along the River Nene (*i.e.* Fenland does not enter **TL19Y** etc). The boundary then stays quite close to the north bank of the Nene before following the power lines to TL211982, along the north edge of a disused tip to follow the Cat's Water to TL220990. The boundary then runs to the west end of Storey's Bar Road at TL218995, before following Edgerley Drain Road to leave the square at TL218999 (see also TF20).

Fenland tetrads: **TL29A-B**, **29C** (SE half), **29D** (NE half), **29E** (south and east edges) and **29F-Z**.

**TL36:** The extent to which the Great Ouse valley is included is discussed under TL37, and if the soil boundary between Over and Overcote were adopted, that would exclude TL36 entirely from the *Fenland Flora*. The outline here assumes we retain the Swavesey Fens on Middelney soils.

Fenland boundary: Follows the path on the east side of Swavesey Drain from TL366699 almost to the east end of Cow Fen (TL379863). The boundary then goes south to TL377675, bends back (short of Ramper Road) to the NW end of Cow Fen Road (TL366689), before crossing the High Causeway at TL366697. The boundary is then well marked, following the south side of Mare Fen, New Dock (TL360695) and along the Navigation Drain to leave TL36 at TL352699.

Fenland tetrads: Parts of **TL36P** and **36U** as defined [**36Z** excluded]

**TL37:** Varying extents of the Great Ouse valley might be included in the *Fenland Flora* area from Holywell Fen downstream including Middle Fen, Ouse Fen, Bluntisham Fen and Berry Fen. The Fens NCA boundary includes Ouse Fen and Low Grounds in the area between Over and Earith, and all definitions include the SW end of the Ouse Washes as well the area east of Earith and Somersham. This definition of Fenland confirms earlier usage in the Fenland Flora planning.

Fenland boundary: Enters square at TL399705, following the Dockerel to Albany Farm at TL381710 and then goes via Hawcrofts at TL374711. The boundary goes round Over below the 5m contour to meet and then follow Swavesey Drain, leaving the square at TL366700. Fenland re-enters the square at TL352700, crosses the Great Ouse at TL352701 and then heads NE along the river bank to the *Pike & Eel* PH (TL359713). The boundary uses Overcote Lane to TL350718. Fenland would include the sand and gravel pits of West Fen and Bluntisham Fen *i.e.* within the points TL351728, TL363731 and the pumping station at TL368732. The boundary then uses Wadsby's Folly drain south of and parallel to the A1123 to include Earith Marina and the river frontage to the east end of the village at TL388748. The boundary then runs parallel to the Old Bedford River to TL392755, whence it follows Meadow Drove (footpath) between The Meadow and Earith Fen north to Ring Farm (TL389767). The fen edge continues around the Holme to *ca* TL385770, before going up Rhee Lake Drove and around the northeast edge of the Colne Fen sand/gravel pits to the B1050 at TL377786. From here the boundary follows the B1050 to TL378787, before using Long Drove as far as TL375798, before turning west to leave the square at TL366799. Fenland re-enters TL37 at TL361799, and the boundary runs SW to TL355789, and then goes NW through Lakeside Lodge Gold Course south of Sidings Fm at TL339795, continuing to Fenton Drove at TL330799, near where it leaves TL37.

Fenland tetrads: **TL37J** (north edge), **37K** (south & NE parts), **37L** (southeast part), **37P** (north half), **37Q** (north half), **37R** (most except NW part), **37S** (SE corner), **37U** (east and north edges), **37V** (north half), **37W**, **37X** (excluding Earith village in NW), **37Y** (except SW corner) and **37Z**.

- TL38:** Mainly Fenland, but with the upland edge in the southwest and a peninsula (Ramsey) connected to the upland in the northwest.  
Fenland boundary: Enters the square from Bodsey at TL300876 and runs up the edge of the built-up area at Ramsey Forty Foot to TL306879, skirting this peninsula to return down the southeast side to Waypost Farm at TL302870. Another peninsula (with a Fenland inlet to the north) leads to Worlicks Farm from TL301866 to TL315866. The boundary returns west to Park Farm at TL300858 (a tiny area of Fenland may occur west of the farm into TL28) and then yet again goes east to TL307853, before bending back to the next inlet south of Hollow Lane past to leave the square at TL300846 (into the Bury Fen & Bury Lug Fen area). The Fenland boundary comes back into this square at TL300823, running between the drove at Parkside and the 5m contour (Warboys Wood) east to join the old railway at TL309820 (but not into the cutting). Beyond here the boundary joins Fenside Road east to TL339817 (almost to junction with A141), goes south between Heath Farm and Chapel Head Farm and along the south side of Warboys Heath to TL325805 before bending SE to leave the square at TL330800. The area around Rowey Farm is a wholly included island. Fenland re-enters the square at TL361800, skirting Edwards Farm and Bird's Nest Farm to leave the square finally at TL366800.  
Fenland tetrads: **TL38A** (NE corner only), **38B**, **38C** (all except peninsula between Hollow Lane & Park Farm), **38D** (excluding Ramsey Forty Foot and other peninsula to south), **38E**, **38F** (lower-lying surround to Rowey Farm and north of Fenside Road), **38G-J**, **38K** (tiny marginal exclusions), **38L-P**, **38Q** (except far south) and **38R-Z**.
- TL39:** Whole square
- TL46:** Fenland here includes areas north of Cottenham and Landbeach, as well as the Cam floodplain. In parts the upland grades almost imperceptibly into Fenland, and soils information is then much the best way to define the study area.  
Fenland boundary: Starting near Iram Farm at TL436699, the Fenland follows Smithey Fen Engine Drain (excluding Farther Irams) down the New Cut at TL437683. The Fenland boundary then runs just south of the New Cut and its continuation as Cottenham Lode east to Lodge Farm on the B1049 at TL469695. The boundary turns south along the Car Dyke as far as Long Drove (TL476687), thence NE on the Drove to TL481691 before turning east along the north side of the sand and gravel pits to cross the A10 at TL490690. A tiny area of Fenland lies SE of the A10 between Denny Lodge and Denny Abbey, and the surroundings of Chittering are outwith Fenland. From ca TL494690, the boundary runs north to leave the square at TL491699. Fenland re-enters, associated with the Cam, at Bannold Lodge (TL499690) and forms a thin margin of flatland south to the New Buildings (TL499675) where it leaves the square again. Further south along the Cam, Fenland re-enters TL46 by Waterbeach Station at TL499650 and essentially follows the railway to the 5m contour beyond Fen Road, Milton (TL483620). The boundary uses the contour southward along Fen Road, Chesterton to cross the Long Reach of the Cam north of Fen Ditton at TL480608 (marking the upstream boundary of the Flora area). Returning north, the edge of the target area follows the 5m contour to leave the square SW of Clayhithe at TL499641 *i.e.* including just the immediate corridor of the Cam.  
Fenland tetrads: **TL46J** (east edge), **46P** (except Cottenham itself), **46U** (north & east edges), **46V-X** (river corridor only), **46Y** (far eastern margin) and **46Z** (excluding Top Moor, Denny Abbey, Denny Lodge & Chittering).
- TL47:** Almost all the square is included in the Fenland Flora area, although considerable parts are on islands (*i.e.* Sutton to Witchford & Aldreth/Haddenham to Wilburton).

The only upland areas connected to the mainland are in the far southwest and southeast corners of TL47.

Fenland boundary: Enters the square on the footpath at TL400705, the boundary then turns north to the Earith Road at TL406715 before turning back south to Sponge Drove at TL411712, and just north of Meadow Drove at TL414710. The boundary joins Meadow Drove at TL418708, going east and then south to Hemsal Farm at TL428704 and leaves the square at TL436700. A tiny area of upland includes the immediate environs of Fruit Farm, Orchard Farm and old settlement at Chittering (*i.e.* TL495700 to 497703 and 499702)

Fenland tetrads: **All tetrads** except southern part of **TL47A**, southwest corner of **47F** and southeast corner of **47V**.

**TL48:** Whole square

**TL49:** Whole square

**TL56:** Emerging from the Cam floodplain with a small upland area in the northwest, the boundary with the Gault and chalk uplands is mainly quite well marked on the ground. However, the area of Stow cum Quy Fen *etc* is on disturbed soils (essentially unclassifiable and exploited for coprolites). In this area (SW of Bottisham Lode and thence along the upland margin), the *Fenland Flora* area is defined by altitude, topography and landscape.

Fenland boundary: The Fens do include the southwest end of Upper Mill Drain at TL501699 but the west edge of the Cam floodplain starts properly at TL507699 running southwest below Varsity Farm to Bannold Lodge at TL500690 (leaving square) and then re-entering east of the New Buildings at TL500675. The boundary runs almost due south to cross Bannold Road, Waterbeach, at TL502648 (following Bannold Drove in the southern part) and running just west of the railway to Waterbeach Station at TL500649 (leaving the square). The Fenland boundary re-enters TL56 SW of Clayhithe (TL500641) and runs just SE of the Cam to just NW of Northfields Farm at TL511652. Then, it skirts the 5m contour and runs parallel to and just NE of the civil parish boundary all the way to the Low Fen Drove Way near Snout Corner at TL501617, stopping short of the 5m contour. Remaining just below the 5m contour and east of the Low Fen Drove Way as far as the old railway at TL505610, the boundary then turns north to the Black Ditch at TL507615 and the drove near Allicky Farm at TL510622. From here the edge of the Fenland runs to TL519620 (north of the Drove Way) and follows the old railway from here to where it crosses Bottisham Lode at TL531630. This line may be retained as the boundary north of The Grange (TL542634) to Cow Bridge over Swaffham Bulbeck Lode (TL553634) and then along Crow Hill Plantation to Whiteway Drove at TL561645. Following the old railway again almost to the 5m contour beyond Driest Drove, at which point the boundary turns north to join Barston Drove at TL560654 and skirts Reach on public footpaths to The Bungalow (TL570663). Here the boundary runs just north of Burwell Road until Weirs Drove (TL579663), which forms the Fenland edge along the west side of Burwell until Hythe Bridge (TL583673) after which it uses the Catch Water Drain all the way to leaving TL56 near Third Drove, The Broads *i.e.* TL599694.

Fenland tetrads: **TL56A** (near Black Ditch only), **56B** (east part), **56C** (SE corner & Cam floodplain), **56D-E** (except much of the western margin), **56G** (NW half), **56H-J**, **56L** (NW part), **56M-P**, **56S** (area in central west), **56T** (except upland of Reach along south edge), **56U**, **56Y** (west margin) and **56Z** (except SE corner).

**TL57:** Though most of this square is obviously Fenland, two ridges are connected to the surrounding upland and should be excluded from the *Fenland Flora* area *i.e.* from Upware through Wicken village to Soham, as well as the Soham ridge itself.

These areas are included within the Fens for the NCA to produce a convenient boundary but for consistency should be excluded from the Flora area. The square also contains the fen islands of Stuntney, Ely, Little Thetford and Stretham, all of which are part of the *Fenland Flora* area.

*Fenland boundary*: The edge of the upland ridges begins near Westside Farm at TL599709 and then runs west below the 5m contour to TL581701 and thence north of the Weights and along Breed Fen Drove to TL559711. The boundary continues this route, excluding Spinney Abbey, to just east of the Upware Road at TL549720. Here the boundary turns south through Westmere Farm (TL541704) to skirt the hamlet of Upware at TL537700. Without really entering TL56, the boundary returns north along the footpath east of the Cam to follow Fodderfen Drove to TL541719. Here the boundary diverges northwest to the A1123 at TL541722 and though the Corallian limestone quarry is excluded, the Kingfishers Bridge site (and Upware North Pit) lies within Fenland – the boundary running past TL542725 to join Shaw's Drove to its junction with Padney Drove at TL554734. Padney Drove and Lower Drove (Wicken) form the boundary to TL571710, whence it runs to the footpath at TL573709 and on to TL580707. The fen edge runs just south of Horsefen Drove and across to Callow Baulk at TL590710, and follows the latter to include most of Ash Closes (east to TL597720). Moat Closes are also included, after which the boundary meets the railway at TL588726, following this line north to the level crossing at TL574748. Then the boundary follows the public road up to the Ely Lane track (TL573751) which runs along the edge of the upland to the A142 at TL576760 before returning again down Redland (or Rosefield) Lane to TL576750. Shade Common is Fenland SE to TL583747 and the boundary runs parallel to (and SW of) the A10 back to the junction with Barcham Road (TL582753). Follow Barcham Rd to Barcham Corner (TL584759) whence the boundary runs ca 100-200m south of and parallel to Horse Fen Drove round to Northfield Farm (TL592765). Similarly, the boundary lays ca 200m south or west of Broadhill Drove and its continuation as Sayer's Lake Drove to the A142 Soham bypass at TL592748. The boundary runs along the A142, but includes that part of Qua Fen Common to the east of Bushel Lane *i.e.* south to TL595741 and leaving the square at TL599740.

*Fen tetrads*: **TL57A-E, 57F** (excluding far southeast corner), **57G-J, 57K** (but not the ridges that support the Upware Road and Stretham Road), **57L** (excluding the central south part), **57M-P, 57Q** (except the ridge of Wicken village), **57R, 57S** (excluding Redland Field and Soham Cotes), **57T-U, 57V** (not the ridge with the A1123), **57W** (SW non-urban half), **57X** (mainly upland but with Fenland in NE, far north and central west), **57Y** (except around Crow Hall Farm) and **57Z**.

**TL58:** Whole square

**TL59:** Whole square

**TL66:** The vast majority of this square lies on non-Fenland soils and/or at altitudes well over 5m. Consequently, Chippenham Fen NNR, although on Adventurers' 1 loamy peats and undoubtedly supporting fen vegetation, is not part of Fenland *per se*. The Fenland boundary does enter this square on humic gleyic rendzinas, but much of that area (*e.g.* West Fen, Fordham) is above 5m altitude.

*Fenland boundary*: Enters the far northwest of the square at TL600694 and runs just below the 5m contour to TL605699, before turning south to include the narrow corridor of the New River as far south as (and including part of) the small woodland at TL611690. The boundary then returns due north just below the 5m contour to leave the square at TL610699.

*Fenland tetrads*: **TL66E** (northern edge as indicated).

- TL67:** Fenland includes most of the northern half of this square, and (partly informed by recent field surveys) the boundary is generally clear.  
Fenland boundary: The Wicken/Burwell part of Fenland extends toward Fordham. This boundary enters near Block Farm at TL600709 and then runs ESE below the 5m contour to a small woodland block by the railway at TL610702. From here the boundary runs due south to leave the square at TL610700. The main body of Fenland in the hectad begins at TL600740 but runs down the 60 easting to beyond Soham Lode at TL600730 (thus including East Fen Common). Then the boundary runs eastward parallel to and south of the Lode to include Wet Horse Fen and Horse Fen (bounded by TL607725, TL610723 & TL618728). The north end of the River Snail floodplain is included as far south as TL622725, whence the boundary runs east to New Farm (TL626725), then to the Crooked Ditch (TL631724) before turning NW to the disused pit (excluded) at TL624734. The boundary crosses Common Gate Drove at TL624740 and continues NE to the junction of Knaves Acre Drove with the B1104 at TL638751 (see survey of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012). The boundary skirts the village of Isleham via Waterside (TL648751) to East Fen Road at TL653747. From here eastward to TL77, the *Fenland Flora* area comprises the floodplain (mainly peaty) of the River Lark and a few tributaries. Running just north (below) the 5m contour on the north side of East Fen Drove as far as TL661747, the boundary does include a small part of the Lee Brook corridor as far south as TL661740. The Fen (TL667748 *etc*) is included with the boundary continuing east below the 5m contour to TL670745 and thence to just south of Jude's Ferry Bridge (TL677747). A zone about 100m wide on the south side of the Lark is Fenland east to where the river emerges from TL77 at TL699741 near Wamil Hall. Similarly, there is a ca 100m wide floodplain zone on the north side back westward to TL671749. The boundary is then less well marked but runs approximately northwest to Chairfen Drove at TL661762. Follow this drove NE to Chair Hall Farm (TL664765) and then Cow and Sheep Drove around the Thistley Green upland to TL673771. Crossing Hurdle Drove, follow the Catchwater Drain till it meets a road in Stock Corner at TL681777 and then east along A1101 (Shippea Hill Road) before following Rookery Drove north and then northeast to TL688783. The Fenland boundary then runs just north of the 5m contour to leave the square near the Wilde Street Estate at TL699786.  
Fenland tetrads: **TL67A** (just SW part), **67B** (most except west and south edges), **67C-E**, **67G** (strips in west and north), **67H** (except SE corner), **67I-J**, **67M** (north half), **67N-P**, **67S** (mainly Lark corridor), **67T** (NW half), **67U**, **67W-X** (floodplain of Lark only), **67Y** (far NW corner) and **67Z** (most except SE corner).
- TL68:** Overwhelmingly Fenland and including a minor island at Undley (in TL6981), but with some upland beyond the Cutoff Channel in the northeast.  
Fenland boundary: Both in soil/altitude/landscape terms and for convenience, the boundary should follow the north/east bank of the Cutoff Channel entering the square at TL699881 and leaving it again at TL695899.  
Fenland tetrads: **All tetrads** except for eastern part of **TL68Z**.
- TL69:** Again almost entirely Fenland, though with significant islands for Hilgay and Southery, as well as minor ones at Stubb's Hill *etc*. As with TL68, the Cutoff Channel forms a logical boundary.  
Fenland boundary: Follows the east/north bank of the Cutoff Channel, entering the square at TL696900, running along the 70 easting and leaving TL69 again at TL699939. The boundary re-enters the square at TL699986 and runs approximately west to leave the square at TL600998.  
Fenland tetrads: **All tetrads** except for northern edges of **TL69E**, **69J**, **69P** and **69U**, **69V** (far SE corner), **69W** (NE part) and **69Z** (north half).

- TL77:** Includes small areas of humic sandy gleys and peats on the border between Fenland into Breckland *i.e.* the floodplain of the Lark and a transitional area between Beck Row and the Cutoff Channel  
Fenland boundary: First area enters the square near Wamil Hall at TL700741, and Fenland occupies a peaty corridor *ca* 200m wide (100m + on both banks) east to where the river crosses the 5m contour near the B1102 bridge by south side of Mildenhall at TL709742. This may be taken as the upper limit of Fenland in the Lark valley. The second area begins near Wilde Street Estate at TL700786 and then follows Wildmere Lane to TL707780, where the gleys cross the 5m contour. On that basis, it would be consistent to follow the public footpath (on a private road) between Wildmere and Woodlands Farms to meet the Eriswell Road at TL712781. Then follow the Eriswell Road north and round to the bridge over the Cutoff Channel (TL716787), from which the boundary follows the east bank of the Channel to leave the square at TL717799.  
Fenland tetrads: **TL77C** (floodplain corridor only) and **77E** (most but excluding SW corner and strip east of the Cutoff Channel).
- TL78:** Most of the Fenland area is defined by the Cutoff Channel, but there are clear extensions eastward to include Wangford Fen and the floodplain of the Little Ouse east to where it crosses the 5m contour near Santon Downham.  
Fenland boundary: Entering hectad near High Fen (TL717800), boundary follows the east bank of the Cutoff Channel past Lakenheath to Whitefen Farm at TL718872. Here the boundary leaves the Channel, running along the SW side of Whitefen Farm across the B1112 (TL721838) and then uses the track along the south side of North Fen as far as TL733784. The Fenland boundary follows the 5m contour around an area with a network of ditches on the N side of Lakenheath Airfield (*i.e.* via TL738831) including The Carr, then uses an embanked ditch NE across a minor road (TL748838) along the west side of Sayer's Carr to the Wangford Drain at TL750844. From here the boundary runs parallel to and *ca* 100m north of the Wangford Drain until the south end of Hiss Wood (TL733853). The boundary makes a small detour to include most of Fenhouse Heath (east to TL735858) before returning to the Cutoff Channel at TL730859. Following the east bank of the Channel, the boundary goes north to the Hereward Way (TL731863), where the Little Ouse floodplain section begins. The boundary follows the route of the Hereward Way east to near the pumping house at TL755867. From here the southern boundary of the Fenland runs just below the 5m contour to join another footpath by Small Fen at TL759869, using this path east to TL768869, where the route turns south to include most of Smallfen Lane (to TL772864). Going back north of the sewage works, the boundary runs back to the bank of the River under the A1065 in Brandon, before diverting south again along the Lode to join Gashouse Drove at TL784866. The Fenland boundary follows this drove (the Hereward Way) east to TL799869, where it leaves the square (fragments of land >5m AOD are included). The northern boundary of the Little Ouse floodplain enters TL78 at TL799874, staying close to the river bank before diverging into the plantation following rides (via TL795872 to TL790871). All but the northern edge of the woodland block between the river and the railway (and E. of Riverside Way) are within Fenland – north limit TL789872. The corridor under the A1065 is very narrow, but widens westward, running up and across the railway at TL773871 following the ditch to TL765874. Here the route loops back to include all the Osier Carr (eastern limit at TL771871), before returning west to include the southern part of Weeting Heath NNR (unit 5 – northern edge at TL756874). This field edge is followed until it becomes Eastfen Drove at TL744875, and then follows the track to Lode House (TL734876), and then Moor Drove to meet the Cutoff Channel at TL729873. The Fenland boundary then follows the north bank of the Cutoff Channel to leave the square at TL700881.

Fenland tetrads: **TL78A** (except east strip), **78B** (except Lakenheath east of Channel), **78C** (except SE corner), **78D**, **78E** (southern edge only), **78G** (north edge), **78H** (all except NE corner), **78I** (except SE corner and northern edge), **78L** (NW corner), **78M** (SW corner), **78N** (Little Ouse floodplain), **78T** (Little Ouse floodplain) and **78Y** (Little Ouse Floodplain).

**TL79:** Fenland here is largely defined by the Cutoff Channel, with an extension north-eastward to include Cottage Fen, Stoke Ferry. We propose to extend "Fenland" east along the Wissey to Northwold (TL760973).

Fenland Boundary: Entering the square at TL700939 along the southeast bank of the Cutoff Channel, this feature forms the boundary all the way to by the factory at TL710980. The boundary doubles back on the track along the south side of Cottage Fen to TL717980 and then following field boundaries SE to TL723979, before taking the drove along the NE side of Cottage Fen to the Bridge Road over the River Wissey (TL708994). Then via the east side of Home Covert (TL701991) down to the north bank of the Cutoff Channel, leaving the square at TL700986.

Fenland tetrads: **TL79C** (NW half), **79D** (except east edge), **79E** (except Stoke Ferry village), **79J** (tiny area at east end of Cottage Fen) and **79N**, **79P** and **79T** [Last 3 all on Wissey floodplain as far as Riverside and Highmoor drove]

**TL88:** Fenland includes a short length of the Little Ouse floodplain by Santon Downham.

Fenland boundary: Boundary enters on the Hereward Way at TL800869, following the path to TL806876, and then diverging NE to the end of the woodland at TL809878, before crossing the Little Ouse at TL809881. The boundary returns using a series of ditches in the woodland to meet the railway at TL802878, and then leaves the square near the riverside path at TL800874.

Fenland tetrads: **TL88D**, **88E** and **88I** (both Little Ouse floodplain only).

**Appendix 1:** Amended fenland boundary in Market Deeping area

