

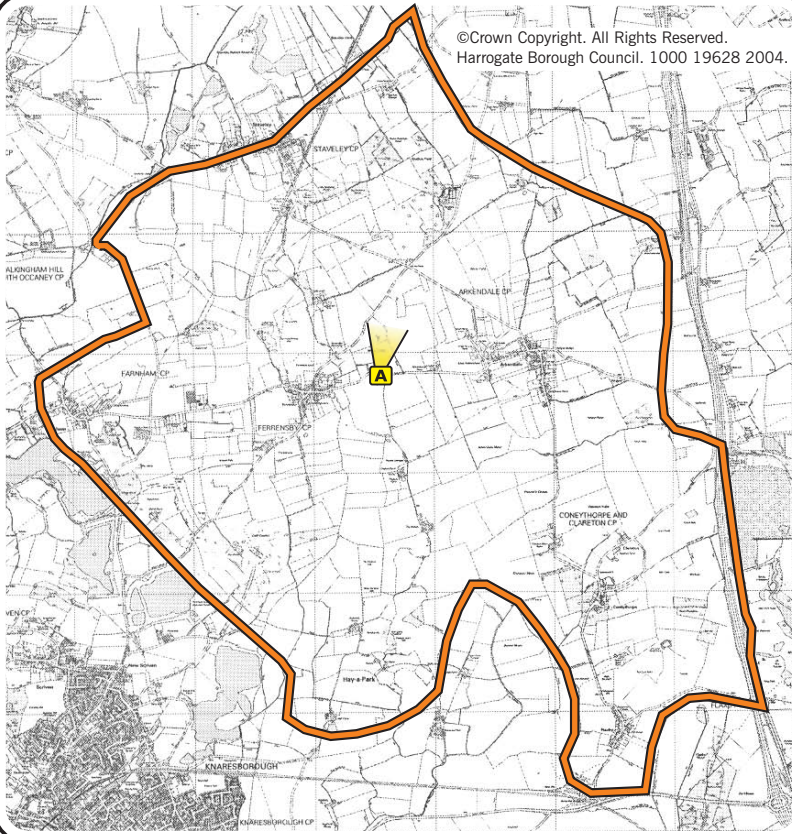
AREA
69

Approved
Feb 2004

A From Ferrensby towards Boroughbridge.



East Knaresborough Arable Farmland



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*

! Camera location
& direction



Not to
Scale

*NB Due to the nature of landform, surface treatment and soil/geology composition Character area boundaries cannot be delineated precisely and should be considered "transitional".



Description

This is a moderate to large-scale area with undulating and sloping landform covering 22km² of arable land east of Knaresborough. Tree cover is moderate and patchy partially enclosing the landscape in places and maintaining extensive views elsewhere.

Landscape pattern between settlements is organised with medium to large fields bound by hedgerows. Field size and scale becomes smaller close to settlement and land use tends to be grassland for livestock and horses. Hedgerows are managed to various heights and bushiness and have considerable impact, compensating for the lack of tree cover.

The simplicity of the muted green fields is counter-balanced with few elements of discord beyond the sound of intermittent traffic noise in this easily accessible landscape.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Magnesian limestone solid geology overlain by Sherwood sandstone along the eastern edge of the area.

- Sandy till and till drift geology.
- Largely slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged surface water gley, with patches of ground water gley and deep, well-drained, coarse loamy brown soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Undulating landform between 30m and 67m AOD.
- Several scattered small ponds plus Wye Carr Dike and North Kills gutter draining the lower lying, flat land between Ferrensby and Arkendale.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Mixed land use of predominantly arable fields with grassland fields around villages.
- Field pattern appears random, particularly away from villages where early enclosure fields have been amalgamated.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Average field size is medium. Boundaries are tall, bushy hedges with a little post and wire fencing where needed for stock control.
- New and established deciduous woodland blocks and clumps mainly associated with villages and large farmsteads with sparse areas in between.
- A few individual trees grow along field boundaries plus isolated patches of parkland trees at Spellow Hill and Loftus Hill.
- Hay-a-Park meadow is neutral grassland SINC next to the golf course.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements are Arkendale, Coneythorpe, Clareton, Flaxby, Staveley, Farnham and Ferrensby.
- Coneythorpe, Farnham and Staveley have village Conservation Areas.
- Probably the oldest settlement in the area is Farnham, thought to have existed in the 6th Century and mentioned in the Domesday. The oldest existing part of Farnham Church dates from circa 1180.
- Individual houses and farmsteads are scattered throughout between villages including small businesses such as glasshouses.
- Building materials include limestone and stone slate, red brick and pantiles.
- Knaresborough Golf course is in the area.
- Historically the area was in the Hay-a-Park medieval deer park although little sign remains.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- This diverse landscape has been heavily influenced by modern agriculture but there are remnants of history to be found. Neglect of these features will result in further landscape change and possible loss of interest.
- The settings of the villages are important to the diversity of the landscape and are sensitive to change resulting from domestication of village fields or enlargement of fields.
- The field pattern close to villages often provides an intimate setting amidst intensive arable land. Changes to garden extent and garden boundaries will impact upon this setting.
- Field pattern is important and sensitive to change as a result of decline and fragmentation of hedgerows and the lack of hedgerow trees in some areas.

- Large-scale visually intrusive farm buildings detract from character if inappropriately located and designed.
- The A1(M) is close to the eastern boundary of the Character Area and is a constant source of noise.
- Lack of habitat diversity resulting in few opportunities for wildlife.

Guidelines

Aim: Preserve and enhance the rural pastoral and historic setting of villages.

- Promote the maintenance and management of hedgerows and the planting of hedgerow trees, particularly close to villages.
- Changes of land use must respect local landscape pattern. Changing of use of paddocks around the village edges should be avoided unless proved not to harm the character of the setting. Refer to Conservation Area Statements where relevant.
- Built development within the vicinity of villages that would detract from their character should be avoided. Development may be acceptable where it is of appropriate scale and design and respects the settlement pattern of the village concerned and its historic origins.

Aim: To preserve and enhance the diverse landscape pattern.

- Encourage the maintenance and restoration of field hedges and hedgerow trees.
- Encourage the management of parkland and replacement of parkland trees.
- The area would benefit from additional tree planting in the east to link in with planting along the A1(M) and reduce the linear appearance of motorway planting.
- Explore opportunities for habitat diversity through changing management practices in line with the Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Ensure that new farm buildings are appropriate in scale, design and location and relate to existing built form and settlement pattern.
- Historic elements of landscape pattern including hedgerows, woodland, settlement and rights of way and lanes and tracks should be protected from development.