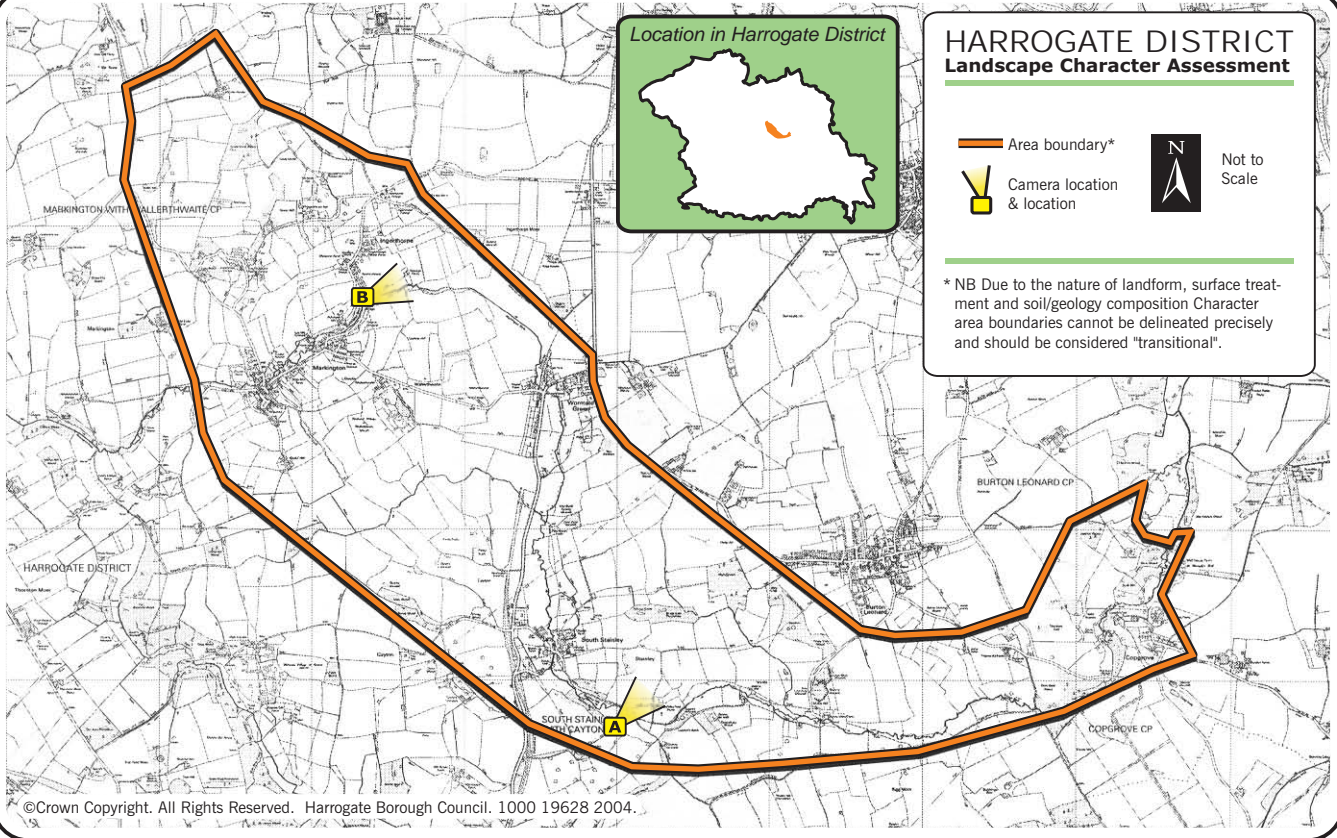
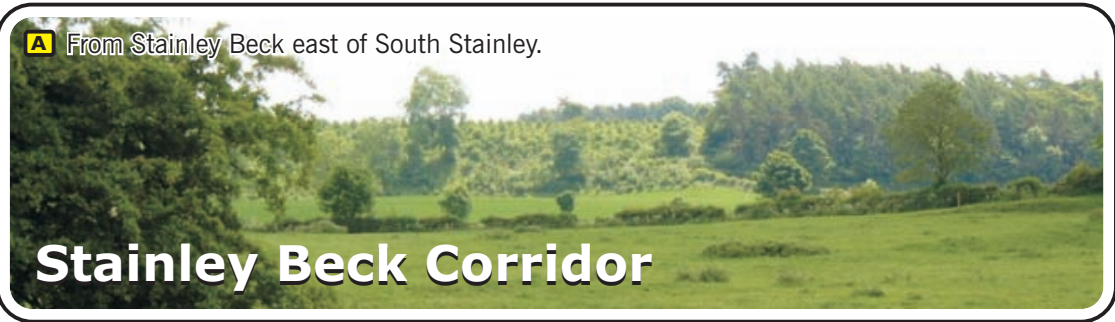


AREA
49

Approved
Feb 2004

A From Stainley Beck east of South Stainley.

Stainley Beck Corridor



Description

This small-scale landscape covers 12.7km² and follows the course of Stainley Beck from Markington to Copgrove generally in a southeasterly direction. The rolling landform gradually slopes down towards the Beck and eastwards. The Beck is well wooded enclosing views and providing an intimate setting that becomes more open as the land rises from the valley floor.

Land use is simple with irregular shaped fields managed for permanent pasture plus the occasional field given over to cereal crops. The fields are bound by bushy hedges that add to the rural character, yet are fragmented in places and reinforced with (less attractive) fencing.

The shallow valley landscape's harmony and remoteness is marred by constant traffic noise from the A61 that cuts through the Character Area to the west of South Stainley. There is evidence of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age activity in the area with a round barrow situated on undulating land south of Markington Village and a deserted medieval village with a small area of ridge and furrow at Wallerthwaite south east of Markington.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Magnesian limestone with a small area of Millstone grit at South Stainley.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, reddish, fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Small scale and broad valley of Stainley Beck set in a rolling landscape rising from 60m AOD to over 100m AOD.
- Stainley Beck is the major water feature plus a few springs and wells.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Land managed for grass and arable production in medium-sized random fields with fragmented hedge boundaries overgrown in places.
- Few coniferous plantations.
- Ancient Semi-Natural woodland at Aden Wood and Hincks Wood around Copgrove.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Individual trees grow along field boundaries and along Stainley Beck.
- Various boundaries include walls with buildings, fragmented and bushy hedges reinforced with post and rail fencing.
- Burton Leonard Lime Quarry is an SSSI.
- There is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation at Robert Beck Pasture.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- Main settlements are South Stainley and Markington plus individual farmsteads, some with barns.
- Wormald Green is a modern settlement located where the A61 and the now dismantled Ripon to Harrogate railway cross Stainley Beck. Many of the buildings here do not fit with vernacular or landscape character.
- Traditional building materials include Magnesian limestone and grey slate.
- Ripon Rowel public bridlepath connects South Stainley and Markington.
- A Bronze Age barrow and the deserted medieval village of Wallerthwaite point to a long settlement history and the church at Copgrove has 12th century medieval origins.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- This rural stream course corridor has limited capacity for change if the rural character is to be maintained. The area is sensitive to development and the A61 corridor and associated development already has a considerable detrimental impact on the Character Area.
- Pressure for further development along the A61 corridor and this could increase due to the accessibility it provides.



B Markington Beck from Low Bridge

- There is pressure to convert farmsteads and barns to residential use.
- Neglect of woodland and trees may result in change in character.
- Neglect of the watercourse will impact upon water quality and character.
- Historic and archaeological features have been unaffected by modern farming methods.

Guidelines

Aim: To the rural character and traditional settlement pattern of the stream corridor.

- Resist development that would impact adversely on rural landscape character in this area. There is limited capacity for appropriately designed small-scale rural development. Larger scale development would be detrimental.
- The rural character of settlements and their setting requires protection from inappropriate development. Approaches to villages and farmsteads are important to local character.
- Provision of recreational facilities for visitors and locals e.g. play areas and caravan sites, should be resisted where they are visible in the landscape and do not respect settlement, pattern or vernacular.

Aim: To conserve the diversity of land cover and history.

- Promote woodland management and appropriate tree planting in partnership with the Forestry Commission. In particular, planting could help to better integrate Wormald Green with the surrounding landscape.
- Research archaeological and historic features important to the explanation of this Character Area. Neolithic and medieval features are evident. Quarries and Lime Kiln place names indicate a more recent industrial past. Parkland at Cayton Hall west of South Stainley and at Stainley Hall to the east as well as at Copgrove indicates purposeful past design of landscapes.
- Promote the maintenance of parkland areas and encourage replacement tree planting to maintain parkland characteristics.

Aim: To enhance the prominence and setting of archaeological features.

- The remains of medieval villages are interesting and informative features in the landscape. Their setting should be retained and enhanced through the use of buffer zones and sensitive landscape design where appropriate.
- Provision of public access to scheduled monuments will encourage understanding and promote conservation.