

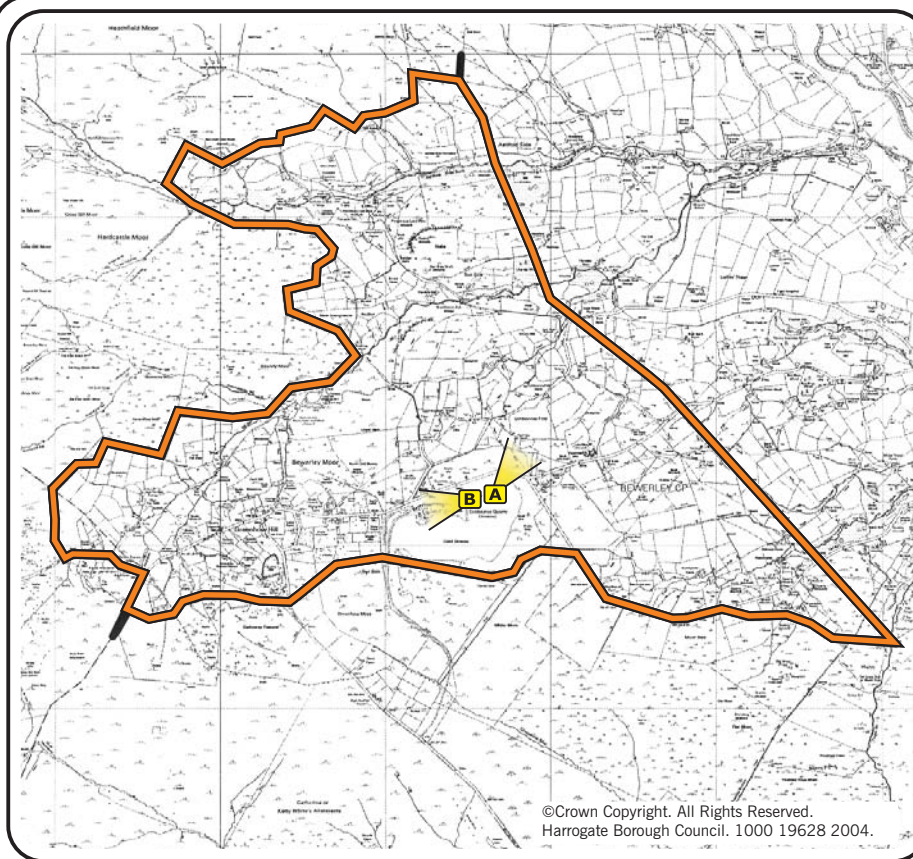
AREA 5

Approved
Feb 2004

A From Coldstones viewing platform looking east towards Pateley Bridge.

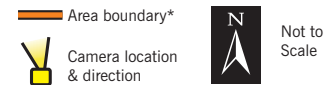


Bewerley Moor Grassland and historic industrial area



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HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



*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 upland area on the edge of the Nidderdale Gritstone Moor is a transitional landscape between the open moorland and the Nidd valley at Pateley Bridge. The Character Area covers 7.5km² and extends from Greenhow in the west to the western edge of the Nidderdale valley above Pateley Bridge in the east and encompasses the upland valleys of Gill Beck and Ashfold Side Beck. Landform is undulating, gradually falling eastwards towards the Nidd valley and incised by the narrow upland valleys of Gill Beck and Ashfold Side Beck. Rock outcrops are present throughout the area.

Landscape pattern is diverse due to varied historic land use, field size and pattern, the presence of disused lead mines and quarries, Toft Gate Lime Kiln, various tracks and footpaths and the Greenhow Quarry. Despite being exposed and relatively remote there is a lot going on in this area, which has many features of historic interest. This is a landscape heavily influenced by man dating back to Roman times and beyond.

As well as having historic importance the area is in the designated Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, contains diverse grassland communities and is valued for its wildlife habitats.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology.
- Stagnohumic gley soil, acidic slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey upland soils with a peaty surface horizon.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Undulating landform with rock outcrops, incised by small valleys. Hummocky in areas around disused mine shafts.
- The upper reaches of Gill Beck (becoming Brandstone Gill Beck) and Ashfold Side Beck pass through this area on their journey east to meet the River Nidd.
- Many springs in the area feeding the becks.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Rough grazing and semi-improved grassland. Grassland becomes increasingly improved down slope.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- ▶ Drystone wall boundaries to a mix of early enclosure and parliamentary enclosure fields of various size and pattern. The drystone wall boundaries vary in condition.
- ▶ Coldstones quarry at Greenhow has resulted in a man-made hill which owes its vegetation character to limestone resulting in a lighter green appearance among the dark tops of the gritstone moors.
- ▶ There are very few trees in this open exposed landscape. Where trees are present they tend to be associated with gills and sheltered areas.
- ▶ The area includes part of the Nidderdale Moors SSSI and is a Special Area of Conservation.
- ▶ The area is important for its grassland communities and contains three Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation at:
 - Cockhill and Sunny side Mines (Calcareous grassland);
 - Coldstones Quarry (Calcareous grassland);
 - Lily Green (Neutral grassland).

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ Greenhow village consists of scattered gritstone houses and farmsteads.
- ▶ The B6265 Pateley Bridge to Grassington Road passes through the area. There are several tracks crossing the area providing access to remote farmsteads and houses.
- ▶ There are several Scheduled Ancient Monuments associated with past industry.
- ▶ Communications mast on Greenhow Hill Top punctuates the skyline.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ The capacity of the area to accept additional development is limited due to its exposed nature and the potential loss or change to important characteristics.
- ▶ Pressure for large scale commercial quarrying at Coldstones Quarry has resulted in a man-made hill that may expand in the future.
- ▶ Old permissions, (for quarrying), are still in effect and may be detrimental to archaeology and habitats.
- ▶ Vernacular buildings and drystone walls are susceptible to neglect.
- ▶ Access tracks can be highly visible on slopes. There is pressure for improved access arrangements to remote buildings.
- ▶ Neglect of historic features in the landscape may result in the loss of their contribution to landscape character.
- ▶ Pressures on wildlife habitats in the area as a result of changing land management practices.

Guidelines

Aim: To maintain and manage historical and archaeological characteristics.

- ▶ Promote research of archaeological features in consultation with local community.
- ▶ Increase awareness of the industrial heritage of this landscape, which possibly dates back to Roman times, through interpretation such as that at Toft Gate Kiln.
- ▶ Link tourism with the history of the landscape and ensure that facilities and information respect the unique character of the area using appropriate materials and low-key design.
- ▶ Vernacular buildings require protection and repair.

Aim: To preserve and enhance the wildlife value of the area and contribute to the diverse mosaic of the landscape pattern.

- ▶ Work with landowners to conserve important features whilst recognising the practical needs of smallholders.
- ▶ Promote repair and restoration of field boundaries, particularly close to the hamlet of Greenhow and around scattered farmsteads.
- ▶ Maintain and enhance diversity of grassland to provide moorland fringe habitats appropriate to character in association with the Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan which highlights the importance of calcareous grassland associated with quarrying and mining spoil amongst the acidic soils associated with millstone grit geology.

Aim: Protect the valued open and remote character of this historic landscape

- ▶ Should planning permission be given, the expansion of the man-made hill at Coldstones Quarry would impact on the landscape particularly in the short term during construction, as this is a highly visible site in the Nidderdale AONB.
- ▶ Where new access arrangements are required they should respect landform and use appropriate materials and avoid being highly visible along the valley sides and skylines.
- ▶ New development should be resisted. Where allowed, design and location must respect vernacular and the sparse scattered settlement pattern and landform of the undulating slopes.



B From Coldstones viewing platform looking West into the quarry.