

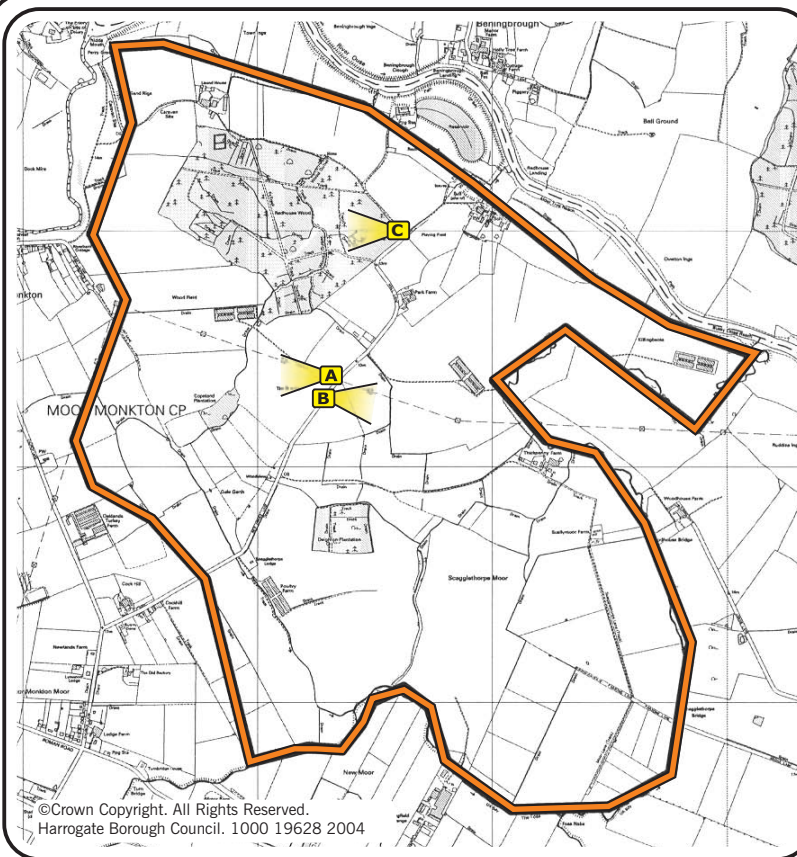
AREA 99

Approved
Feb 2004

A Looking west with Copeland Plantation in the middle distance.



Scagglethorpe Moor mixed farmland



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

The most easterly area in Harrogate District, covering around 5.5km² and situated north west of York, this is a fairly uniform large-scale landscape with some features of interest.

Land use is a mix of improved grass and arable land intensively managed for grazing, cereal production and several poultry units. Fields are large and bound by stockproof fencing which is gradually replacing or reinforcing surviving fragments of hedgerow (and which looks discordant in an otherwise simple landscape).

Individual trees are rare occurring most frequently around areas of grassland as mature trees or small outgrown hedge remnants. Woodland cover is also sparse but for a large wood to the north between the Nidd and the Ouse and few small blocks of woodland on the horizon. As such the landscape remains open with extensive views. Electricity pylons are highly visible and mar the area's attractiveness.



There are several large-scale farmsteads and poultry sheds scattered across the area. Some of these are well assimilated into the landscape particularly where they are not prominent against the skyline or where they are associated with trees. Other large-scale buildings, although relatively low, are prominent due to the open nature of the landscape.



B Pylons are highly visible discordant features.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

-  Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology.
-  Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, stoneless, clayey and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat landform below 15m AOD.
- The River Foss forms the eastern boundary of the Character Area (and of the District). Several minor tributaries and associated ditches along field boundaries are characteristic.
- A large proportion of the area is in floodplain.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Grade 4 agricultural land intensively managed for arable and livestock production including several large scale poultry units.
- Medium sized fields bound by hedges, post and wire and post and rail fencing.
- Large mixed plantation called Red House Wood plus a few small deciduous plantations.
- Red House Wood is Ancient Semi-Natural woodland.
- Few individual trees and hedgerow remnants associated with areas of grassland and built form.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- No major settlement, large scale scattered farmsteads including poultry sheds.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The openness of the area makes detractors (e.g. electricity pylons) more prominent. However, large-scale woodland cover helps around Red House Wood.
- Modern houses and large-scale buildings detract from character particularly where prominent and where ornamental conifer hedges have been used to mark garden boundaries.
- Neglect of hedges has resulted in their fragmentation and the loss of hedgerow trees. This contributes to the openness of the area.
- Woodlands susceptible to neglect and decline.

Guidelines

Aim: To enhance the diversity of this uniform landscape.

- Gain consensus on what is important in this Character Area and what development could be accommodated without detriment to character.
- Promote hedgerow management and planting of gaps in the hedgerow.
- Promote and encourage woodland management in consultation with the Forestry Commission. In particular conserve a mix of species and resist conifer domination to help maintain a balanced woodland structure.
- Consult Harrogate Council's Landscape Design Guide: LDG8.1.4 when choosing a planting mix for woodland here.

Aim: To integrate farmsteads and related buildings.

- Native tree and woodland planting to link with existing trees and planting should be used to soften the appearance of large-scale buildings in the landscape.
- New development should respect landscape pattern and relate to existing groups of buildings. However, care is required to ensure single groups of buildings in this landscape do not become so large as to be disproportionate in the landscape.



 Bluebells in Redhouse Wood