



# HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

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T P Richards Dip T&RP, MRTPI, Head of Planning Services

**PLANNING DIVISION**

Department of Technical Services, Knapping Mount, West Grove Road, Harrogate HG1 2AE.

[www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning)

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# Summary

The Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment provides a detailed breakdown of the District into 106 smaller Character Areas, each with their own distinct character and sense of place. These areas are described in detail with regard to geology, landform, drainage, land use, vegetation, wildlife, built form and communications. Sensitivities and pressures for change are also described, along with guideline strategies for addressing them. The information to produce this document has been drawn from a wide variety of sources and has undergone a broad consultation process.

This level of local detail has been provided so that future development may be accommodated with the least possible harm to the highly valued character of the District and, furthermore, to enable development to enhance and benefit the landscape and environment. This document has Supplementary Planning Guidance status and as such its content will influence the formulation of planning policy, guide the assessment of planning applications and help land managers make better informed decisions.

Finally, the landscape is continually changing due to natural processes and humanity's needs. It is anticipated that this document will need to evolve along with the landscape in order to keep pace with it and to remain a relevant and accurate source of information. The future undoubtedly holds many changes that will affect the use and nature of our landscape, such as the threat of global warming and changes of land use due to economic pressures. Harrogate Borough Council hopes that, through the use of this document, these challenges may be faced and the quality of our landscape and the built and natural environment be both preserved and enhanced for future generations to enjoy.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document identifies and describes areas of distinct landscape character in Harrogate District and makes judgements about each character area resulting in guidelines to help manage landscape change.
- 1.1.2 The information in this document will be used in the following ways:
- To assist policy planners making decisions about landscape policy in relation to the forthcoming Local Development Framework (LDF) and act as Supplementary Planning Guidance;
  - To assist day to day development control decisions relating to landscape implications of development proposals and appeals; and
  - To provide guidance to those responsible for or influential in making land management decisions e.g. Harrogate Borough Council, Parish and Town Councils, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), DEFRA in relation to Stewardship Schemes, the Forestry Commission, etc. as well as private landowners.
- 1.1.3 Generic guidelines, as well as area-specific landscape guidelines, have been developed in recognition that many pressures resulting in landscape change are District-wide.
- 1.1.4 Landscape Character Assessment is used to identify and describe areas of distinct character with their own “sense of place”. This is done by looking for unique combinations of landscape characteristics and features that make a place distinct from its neighbours. Often there is a transition zone at the boundary between two neighbouring character areas. In these circumstances the areas close to the boundaries may share some characteristics with their neighbours as well as with the area they are in.
- 1.1.5 In 1993 the first District-wide Landscape Appraisal<sup>1</sup> was completed and became Supplementary Planning Guidance. Prior to that assessments were carried out for areas around Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough, which resulted in the designation of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), and the Nidderdale AONB.
- 1.1.6 In 1998, at the Local Plan Inquiry, Policy C9: Special Landscape Areas was looked at by the Inspector. Section 2.13.1 of the Inspector’s report states that “significant areas of land, now included in SLAs should in fact be excluded. In view of this and of national policy in PPG7 the Council will wish to undertake a rigorous review of its SLAs. Furthermore, in light of national policy, the Council will wish to satisfy itself that a separate policy C9 is necessary, bearing in mind the existence of policies C2 and C15.” As a result in May 2002 the outline of the Project for the Review of the 1993 Landscape Appraisal of Harrogate District and SLAs was discussed with the Cabinet Member for Planning. The project required a Landscape Character Assessment of Harrogate District following current guidelines. The project outline and study method are contained in Appendix 2.
- 1.1.7 The objectives of this Landscape Character Assessment are to identify areas of distinct landscape character and to develop guidelines for the management of landscape change in consultation with key stakeholders and local communities.
- 1.1.8 This document will be used when reviewing landscape policy as part of the forthcoming LDF, with particular regard to the need for SLAs, their use and the extent of their designation related to landscape “quality”. This assessment has not gone so far as to identify the need for local landscape designations in the District. This should be done in light of emerging Government guidance in the form of draft PPS7 as well as the recommendations made by the Planning Inspector at the 1998 Local Plan Inquiry.
- 1.1.9 The Method used to conduct the assessment is based on current guidance from the Countryside Agency and Scottish

<sup>1</sup> Woolerton Truscott (1993), Landscape Appraisal of Harrogate District

<sup>2</sup> Swanwick, C., Land Use Consultants (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland.

Natural Heritage<sup>2</sup> and is outlined in Appendix 2 of this document.

- 1.1.10 There have been opportunities throughout the project for local community input. A website with a feedback form was developed and has been updated to inform interested parties of progress. Several activities have taken place throughout the year including three "Walkie Talkie" events in the Nidderdale AONB with staff from the AONB Office and four area evening workshops during May 2003. Appendix 3 contains a summary of the results of community involvement activities.
- 1.1.11 An internal steering group was set up at the beginning of the project and met three times during 2003. There was an attempt to set up an external steering group involving Stakeholder Organisations but this was not successful due to lack of interest and time. Two meetings inviting stakeholder organisations to contribute were held.
- 1.1.12 There is one aspect of the assessment, which it has not been possible to explore in full. The Historic Character Assessment of North Yorkshire has not yet begun. It is now programmed to begin in early 2004. Information from such a study would have been helpful in gathering and analysing information for the historic layer of the assessment. The historic element of this assessment requires ongoing research. This is apparent in the guidelines for the areas. Where it has been possible to identify or hint at landscape characteristics and patterns of historic interest and their origins we have done so and recommended further research. It is envisaged that a landscape strategy, incorporating both the findings of the *Historic Character Assessment* and of this document, will be developed concurrently with the Council's LDF.
- 1.1.13 The extent of community participation has been limited due to time and resources. However, there has been opportunity throughout for comments from all stakeholders and there has been some very informative feedback. Appendix 3 summarises the results of a series of meetings/workshops held in May 2003 to tell parishes and interested parties about the progress being made and invite them to contribute to the assessment. Continued input into more detailed local

landscape character assessments linked to projects such as Parish Plans should use this assessment as a starting point with any results used to update this document.

- 1.1.14 This Landscape Character Assessment will benefit from continued review and monitoring to assess landscape change. Guidelines will require updating as pressures change. This document continues the work that has been done in the past to conserve and enhance the landscape of Harrogate District and is proposed as the basis for current and emerging policies and future research.

## Planning Context

- 1.1.15 As indicated earlier, an important function of this document is to provide Supplementary Planning Guidance to the policies of the Harrogate District Local Plan (and, eventually, the Local Development Framework which, under the Government's new planning system, will replace this Local Plan). The Landscape Character Assessment will be used in conjunction with Harrogate District Local Plan policies in considering planning applications for development within the District that may affect its landscape.
- 1.1.16 The Local Plan policies which the Landscape Character Assessment has particular relevance to are as follows:
- Policy C1** which seeks specifically to conserve the landscape of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This Landscape Character Assessment will be one of the tools used to assess the appropriateness of development proposals in the Nidderdale AONB.
- Policy C2** which states: "*Development should protect existing landscape character. In locations where restoration of the landscape is necessary or desirable, opportunities should be taken for the design and landscaping of development proposals to repair or reintroduce landscape features, to the extent that this is justified by the effects of the proposal.*"

The 1993 Landscape Appraisal of Harrogate District is used in the justification of this policy. This Landscape Character Assessment replaces the 1993 Landscape Appraisal and will be used to implement policy C2. The landscape guidelines (both

generic and specific) in this assessment will be considered when making judgements about development proposals in relation to policy C2.

**Policy C3** which seeks to protect the landscape character and amenity of river and stream corridors. This assessment has identified river and stream corridors as distinct character areas in many cases and will help in conserving their individual valued characteristics.

**Policy C5** which protects woodland and trees from development. The Landscape Character Assessment has identified the contribution that woodland and trees make

to the character of each area and will help to make judgements when implementing this policy.

**Policy 5A** which protects important hedges from removal. The Landscape Character Assessment has identified areas where hedgerows are important to character and where there may be hedgerows that are considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations (1997) criteria.

1.1.17 The Local Plan also contains policies that address issues such as nature conservation, heritage and design and recreation which may influence the use of the landscape and, therefore, affect its character.

1.1.18 North Yorkshire County Council policies E1 and E2 seek to protect designated landscapes and landscape character outside designations respectively. This document will help to implement these policies.

# 2. Overview of District Landscape Character

## 2.1 National and Regional Context

2.1.1 Landscape Character Assessment has been conducted on a country-wide scale for England by the Countryside Agency (formerly the Countryside Commission). In 1998 Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber was published.

2.1.2 There are four main National Countryside Character Areas, which cover Harrogate District (See Fig. 1, page 7):  
*Character Area 21: Yorkshire Dales.* This character area is situated to the west of the District and also covers the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The part of this area in Harrogate District is also in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

*Character Area 22: Pennine Dales Fringe.* This linear character area extends from Barnard Castle in the north to Huby in the south and marks the transition from the upland of the Yorkshire Dales in the west to the low-lying farmland of the Vale of York in the east. In Harrogate District the area runs from Fearby and Masham in the north to Huby in the south and includes the town of Harrogate.

*Character area 30: Southern Magnesian Limestone.* This area extends from Bedale in the north to Hucknall, north of Nottingham, in the south. It is made up of two escarpments of upper and lower magnesian limestone. In Harrogate District the area includes North Stainley and Ripon in the north and Knaresborough to the south.

*Character Area 28: The Vale of York.* This large generally flat area covers the eastern part of the District including the villages of Nun Monkton and Tockwith. The character area extends east beyond the District boundary to encompass the city of York and beyond.

2.1.3 Two other character areas have a minor influence in the District. Firstly *Character Area 36: Southern Pennines* includes the

River Wharfe Corridor to the southern boundary of the District and *Character Area 24: Vale of Mowbray* includes the northeast corner of the District around the village of Rainton.

2.1.4 The Countryside Agency has also identified *Draft Regional Character Types* for the Country. These landscape character types have been identified on the basis of three attributes; physical make up, soils and cultural pattern. Ten draft regional character types have been identified from the high hills with impoverished soils and open land of the Nidderdale moor to the lowlands with clay/gley soils over soft rock and nucleated settlement along the Ouse corridor in the Vale of York.

2.1.5 Ideally character areas and types at different scales should nest within each other, as the survey scale gets larger. However, due to the different levels of detail for the information used at different scales this does not always happen.

## 2.2 Physical Characteristics

### Geology

2.2.1 Harrogate District has a varied geology of different origins from the Millstone Grit geology of the uplands, to the band of Magnesian Limestone running through the middle of the District in a north south orientation and the Sherwood sandstone of the east of the District (See Fig. 2, page 8).

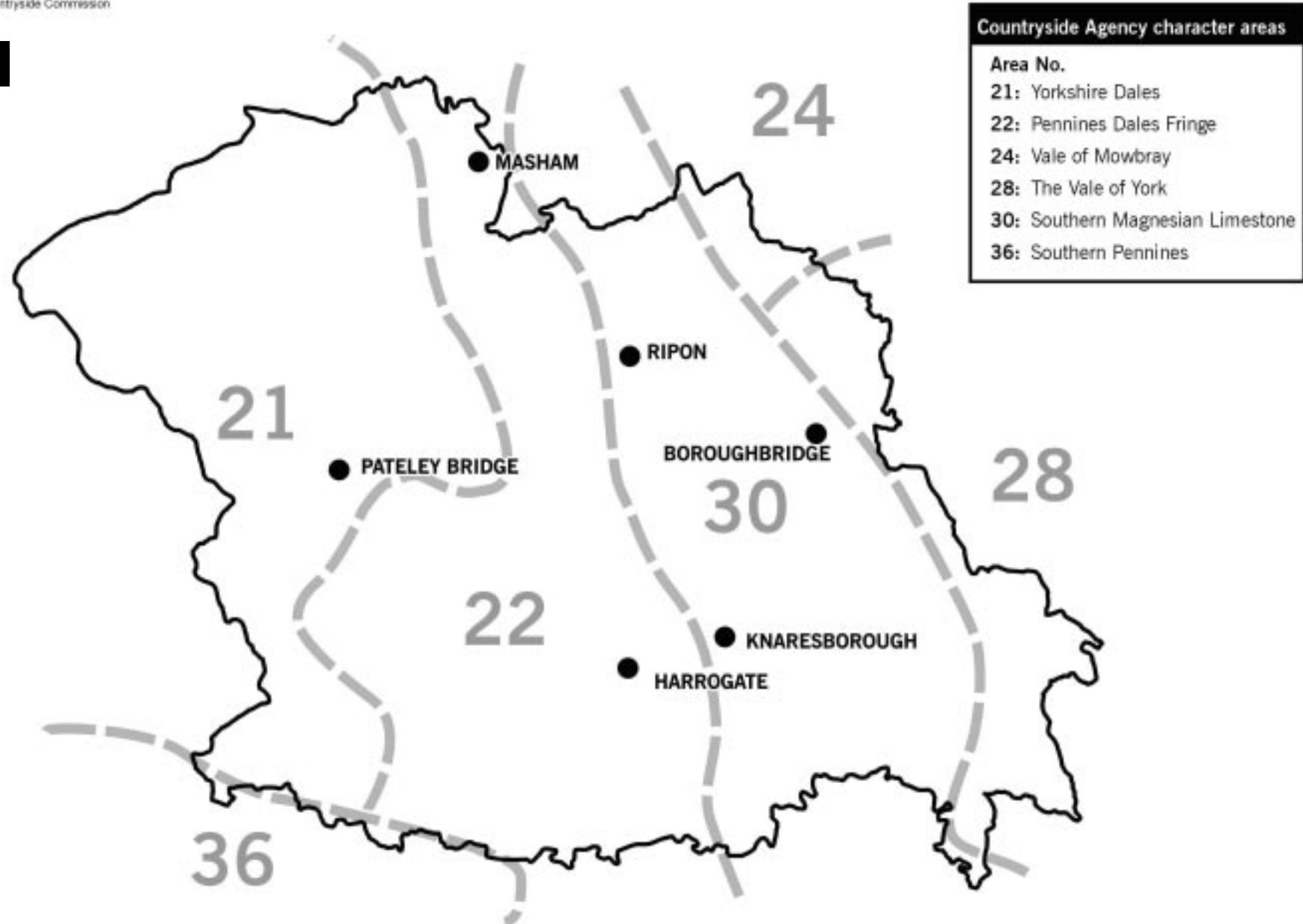
2.2.2 The publications used to explain the origins of the geology of the District are listed in the bibliography of this document at Appendix 1.

2.2.3 The Millstone Grit that covers the western part of the District was formed during the Upper Carboniferous period some 320 million years ago. A large river carried grit and sand eroded from granite mountains by tropical rainstorms and deposited it in layers at the river delta where it formed the

# Countryside Agency\* character areas in Harrogate District

Formerly The Countryside Commission

**Fig. 1**

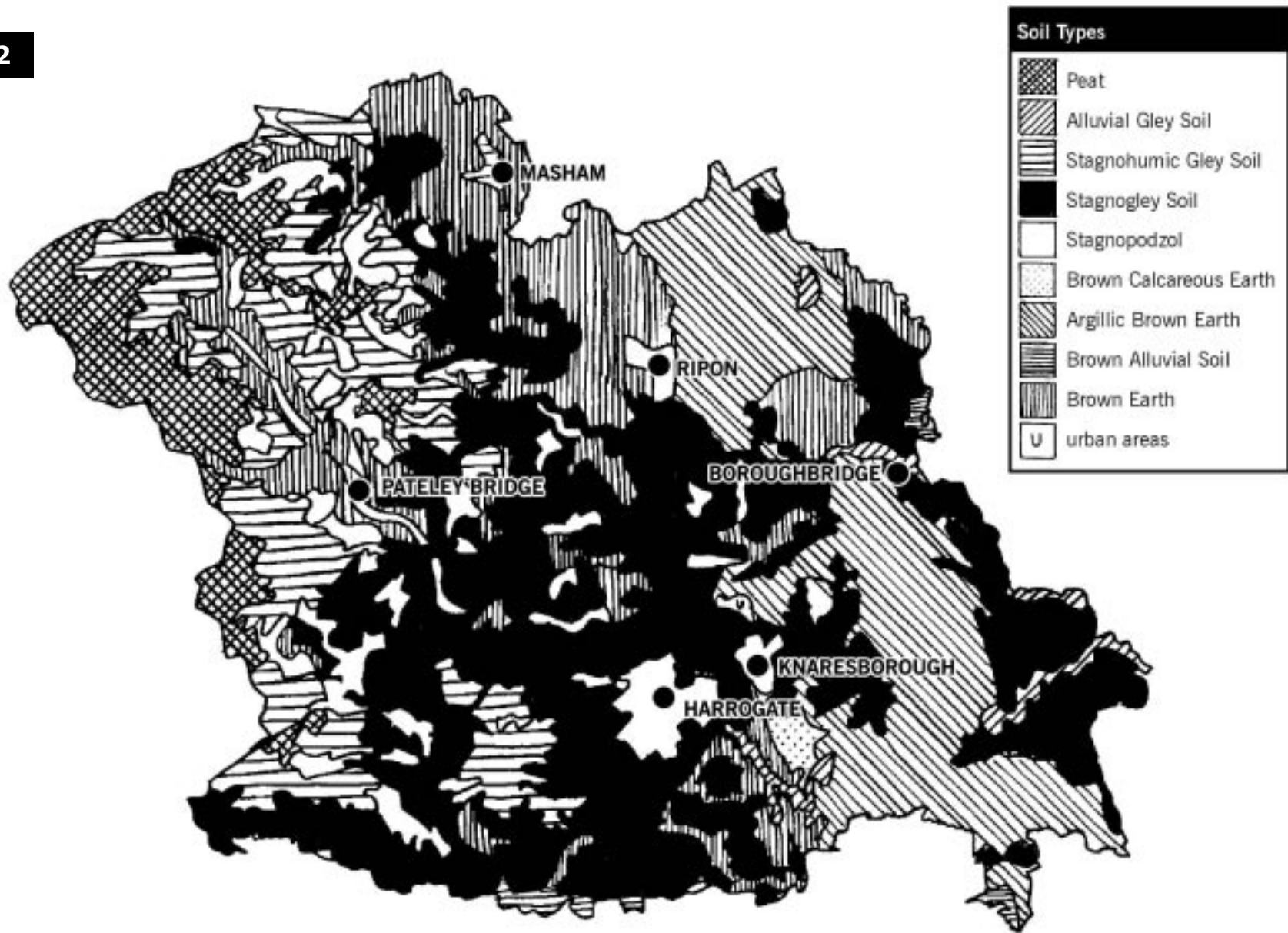


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Source: Countryside Agency (formerly the Countryside Commission)

# Harrogate District Soil Types

**Fig. 2**



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tough sandstone known as Millstone Grit. Although the Millstone Grit is tough there are lines of weakness. When weaker layers of shale deposits are eroded this results in distinctive rock outcrops as can be seen at Brimham Rocks and Almscliffe Crag.

- 2.2.4 Magnesian Limestone was formed during the Permian period some 290 - 245 million years ago along the shore of a large lake that covered the eastern half of the District. As the sea dried up gypsum formed at the shore. The sea flooded and evaporated in four major cycles. The layers of rock formed during this period are exposed in places, most notably on the river Ure at Ripon Parks.
- 2.2.5 During the Triassic period 245 - 210 million years ago the Sherwood Sandstone to the east of the District formed. The area was desert and a flash flood washed debris into the basin. Lakes and salt pans formed in the desert basin then as the landmass broke up a shallow sea extended across the desert.
- 2.2.6 Drift geology from the Quaternary period, which began 2 million years ago, covers 85% of the District. During the Devensian glaciation (last ice age) 18,000 years ago ice covered most of the District except for the tops of the gritstone moor.

## Soils

- 2.2.7 Soil type varies across the District and is influenced by climate, topography, vegetation, land use and underlying parent material that can be bed rock or bed rock blanketed in glacial till. For the purposes of this assessment soils have been split into the following categories: surface water gley, ground water gley, brown, podzolic and peat. Within each of these categories are more detailed differentiations between the soils depending on the factors listed above. Appendix 6 looks in more detail at the different soil types found in the District.
- 2.2.8 Agricultural Land Classification across the District varies with geology, topography, landform and soils. As a general rule the western half of the District is Grade 5 and grade 4 agricultural land on the upland and higher slopes becoming grade 3 as the elevation decreases and in the east on the flatter areas much of the land is Grade 2.

## Landform and Topography

- 2.2.9 Landform and topography are inextricably linked to the geology of the District. The Millstone Grit to the west gives rise to high ground incised by valleys formed by water-courses and in the case of the Nidd valley, by glaciation. Moving east across the District the landform becomes more undulating and gently rolling with lower elevations over the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. The land continues to fall eastwards and is low lying and flat over the Sherwood Sandstone geology in the Vale of York (see fig. 3, page 10).

## Hydrology

- 2.2.10 The area drains eastwards via three main river systems, The Nidd, The Ure and the Wharfe. The Burn Valley to the northwest is a tributary of the Ure and the Washburn to the south is a tributary of the Wharfe. The Swale, the Ouse, the Ure and the Wharfe all form part of the District boundary so as well as having a physical influence they have an administrative influence that can impact upon character.
- 2.2.11 The Millstone Grit geology of Nidderdale gives rise to numerous springs feeding the small becks that incise the valley sides of the main rivers they feed into. The majority of water bodies in the area are man-made rather than natural. In particular the reservoirs along the valleys of the Nidd, the Washburn and the Burn are prominent feature in the landscape.

## Climate

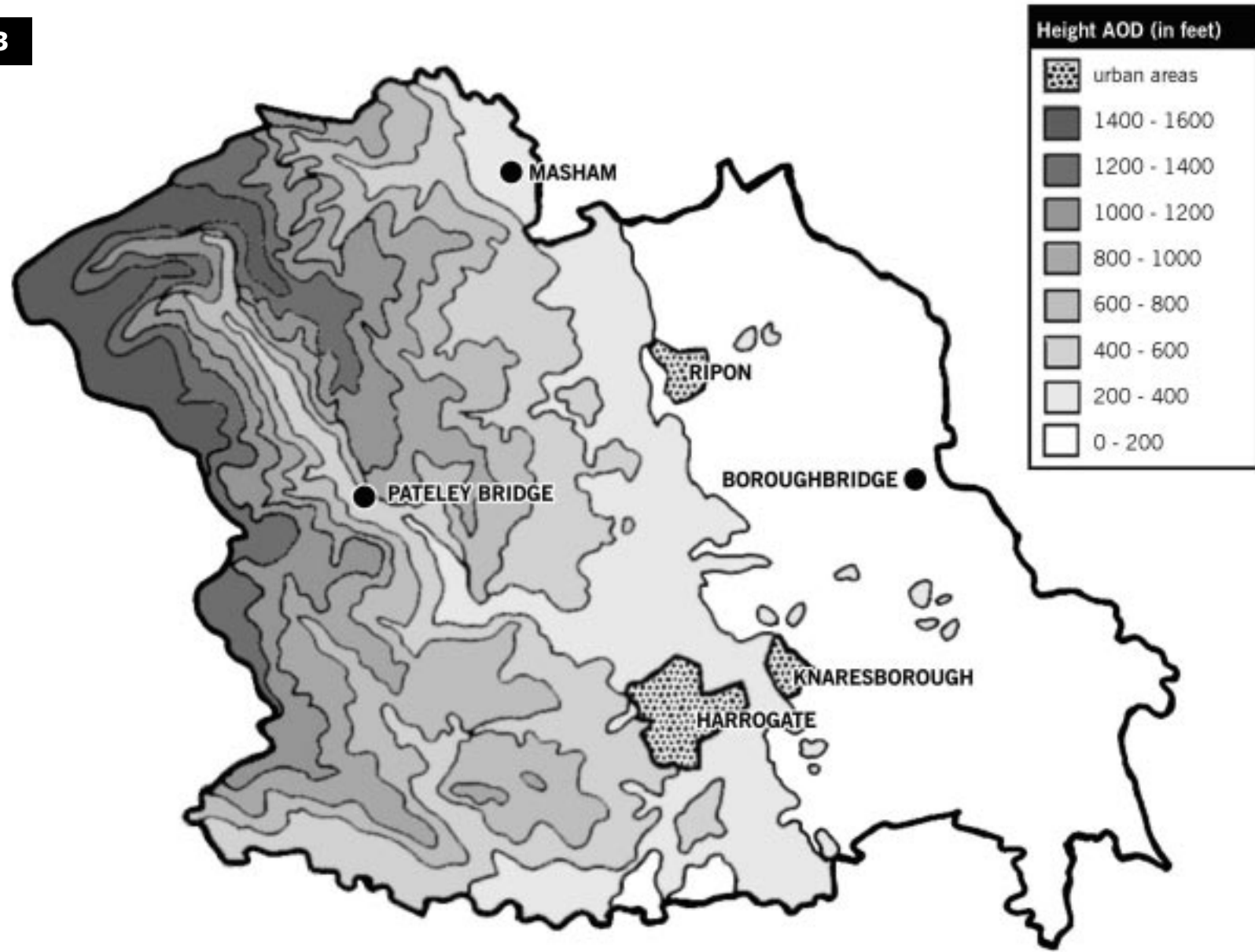
- 2.2.12 The UK is within the Temperate Oceanic Climatic zone and is characterised by its generally cool summers, mild winters and small annual temperature range. Information from the met Office website indicates that average temperatures are gradually rising and winter rainfall increasing. Climatic change is a process that is on going and has influenced the appearance of the Yorkshire landscape over the millennia.

## Vegetation

- 2.2.13 Man's management of the land has influenced vegetation cover. There is no completely natural habitat left, uninfluenced by man. However, there are semi-natural habitats in the District, some of them quite extensive and protected by designations. For example, the Nidderdale Moors area semi-

# Harrogate District Topography

**Fig. 3**



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Source: Countryside Agency (formerly the Countryside Commission)

natural and designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. However, such extensive areas are rare among the farmed and forested landscape of the District.

- 2.2.14 English Nature has identified four main natural areas in Harrogate District following the boundaries of the Countryside Agency's Countryside Character Areas. For each of these natural areas typical 'natural' plant communities have been identified using the National Vegetation Classification.
- 2.2.15 Appendix 4 gives an overview of the biodiversity and landscape in the District.

## 2.3 Human Influences

- 2.3.1 The physical environment has influenced human activities on the landscape over the centuries resulting in the landscape we see today. Geology, soils and land drainage pattern have determined the economic uses of the land. For example, quarrying can only take place where the mineral resource is present. Understanding the origin of human activities provides us with information about the development of the landscape as we see it today and helps to maintain connections with the past as we look to the future.

### Land Use Pattern

- 2.3.2 The District covers a large area with a diverse mix of land quality at different elevations resulting in an equally diverse mix of land uses. To the west the peat of the gritstone moor has little agricultural value. The open moor is utilised for grouse shooting and recreation. The boundary of the moor is marked by stonewalls that ensure low grazing densities needed to maintain the heather vegetation.
- 2.3.3 The upland fringe consists of generally poorly drained soils suitable only for growing grass. These upland areas at the edge of the moor were open land until the time of parliamentary enclosure, which began, in the mid 1700s. Now the land use is grass, largely improved, in rectilinear fields bound by dry-stone walls. Large-scale conifer plantations also exist near to the upland edge and in upland valleys and their shape conforms to the pattern of the fields but conflicts with the gradually undulating landform.

- 2.3.4 Lower down the valley sides and towards Harrogate grassland cover still predominates due to the poor agricultural quality of the soil.

### Settlement and Infrastructure

- 2.3.5 The settlement pattern of today is influenced by activities of the past and present. Roman roads, pack-horse routes and rivers served as important communications routes in the past.
- 2.3.6 Harrogate, the largest town, is relatively new having been developed as a Victorian Spa. The spa waters come to the surface as a result of the geology at the Valley Gardens (a registered Historic Park and Garden). Ripon and Knaresborough are much older settlements. Knaresborough is an important crossing point on the Nidd and Ripon developed just downstream of the confluence between the Skell and the Laver.
- 2.3.7 Many of the villages and settlements in the District were mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 although this does not necessarily mean they were established as villages then. Some of the medieval villages of that time have shrunk or been deserted altogether but their influence is often still felt on the landscape in the form of earthworks and ridge and furrow cultivations in grass fields.
- 2.3.8 Settlement density has been assessed. The most densely settled area of open countryside is the Nidd valley between Pateley Bridge and northwest Harrogate. This area is heavily populated with individual houses and hamlets that outnumber the farmsteads. The open moor of Nidderdale is the least densely settled area although there are areas of hardly any settlement to the east in the vast arable landscape in the Vale of York.
- 2.3.9 Building style also makes an important contribution to landscape character and the distinctiveness of character areas. Appendix 5 gives a brief overview of the range of traditional buildings found in the District.

### Heritage, Culture and Worship

- 2.3.10 Harrogate District has a rich and varied history, much of which remains evident in the landscape we see today. Cultural

Heritage has had an influence in its contribution to landscape character and the perception of landscape. The importance of culture is highlighted in the Cultural Strategy, prepared by Harrogate Borough Council Department of Leisure and Amenity Services.

- 2.3.11 The District has a diverse range of approximately 150 Scheduled Ancient Monuments that date back from pre-history. However, this is just the beginning of the historic elements of the landscape. Many features are not scheduled such as old field systems, ancient routes and some earthworks. Detailed research is being carried out on various projects throughout the District. North Yorkshire County Council will be conducting a Historic Character Assessment in collaboration with English Heritage, the Districts and the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks of Yorkshire. This assessment will focus on looking at the original field systems and identify historic character from different ages. The information will be a useful supplement to this assessment.
- 2.3.12 There is little visible evidence of Mesolithic activity in the District. Most has been lost through changing land management. Research has been carried out on a site in the moorland north of Scar House Dam in Upper Nidderdale.
- 2.3.13 Neolithic activity is also not very evident. The henges east of the River Ure may date back to Neolithic times and it is thought that their use continued into the Bronze Age. Similarly, cup and ring marks, found on gritstone outcrops, are thought to date from the Bronze Age. Nobody is sure of the origin of the Devil's Arrows at Boroughbridge but it is suggested that they are linked with an ancient route along the Ure that linked Cumbria with the Yorkshire Wolds. The area was very important during the Bronze Age with evidence of burial mounds as well as the henges and settlement.
- 2.3.14 The Roman period (AD45 - AD410) has left its legacy on the landscape. One of the most notable sites is the Roman town of Aldborough. The remains of a Roman villa exist just south of North Stainley on the south side of the Lightwater valley. It is thought that lead mining began in the Greenhow area during the Roman period.
- 2.3.15 Church sites and crosses are the most evident features from the Saxon period (c. mid 5th century - 1066). The tower of the church at Kirk Hammerton is Saxon as is the crypt at Ripon Cathedral. There is also a Saxon cross at Masham. The distribution of Saxon features is scattered and those that are known are protected by designations.
- 2.3.16 There is a lot of evidence of medieval activity in the District including the archaeological remains of deserted villages, motte and bailey defence structures, field patterns, strip lynchets and ridge and furrow earthworks. Several medieval hunting grounds were within the District and one of the most obvious is at Haverah Park where the parish boundary is the boundary of the former deer park. Park walls, fences and ditches remain in places, particularly close to Fountains Abbey. The Abbey had a huge influence, being in control of much of the area with outlying Granges, linked to the Abbey, managing the land. Pockets of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland throughout the District may date back to this time. The Royal Forest of Knaresborough covered a large area of the land to the west of Knaresborough and was an important hunting ground. Its boundary stones are still evident.
- 2.3.17 Parliamentary Enclosure Acts in the middle of the 18th century enclosed the remaining open land in the area, which would have been a mosaic of land uses and settlements during medieval times. Post medieval monuments include remnants of a thriving mining industry that exploited the lead-rich reserves stretching into the upland moor. Structures predominantly date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Designed historic parks and gardens of the post-medieval period are also important parkland associated with country houses is particularly characteristic through the centre of the District. The origins of these date back to the 17th century in some cases.
- 2.3.18 A wealth of cultural heritage has contributed to the appreciation of the landscape. Literature and poetry are important sources of historic information, as is art. Many traditional cultural practices have lapsed and new ones taken their place.
- 2.3.19 Further research into the cultural heritage of the District is needed looking at events such as local markets, festivals and agricultural shows as well as arts, crafts, literature folklore, tradition and song.

# 3 District-Wide Landscape Guidelines

## 3.1 Context

- 3.1.1 Landscape character is constantly changing as a result of physical processes and man's activities. Social and political change over centuries has resulted in the development of various land ownership and management regimes, which have evolved to deal with factors such as population growth, industrialisation and globalisation. The 20th century saw that pace of change accelerate. It is likely that this will continue in the 21st century.
- 3.1.2 This section of the landscape character assessment sets out general landscape guidelines to manage landscape change related to the pressures which are District-wide. The guidelines will support planning policy and help to manage landscape change when used in conjunction with the area specific guidelines contained in section 4 of this document.
- 3.1.3 Landscape change in Harrogate District has occurred in both rural and urban areas as a result of physical processes, development and changes in land management. Government and European policy have influenced land management changes and development considerably since the end of the Second World War. The emphasis has been on increased production. Now the focus is changing towards the environment, wildlife and biodiversity.
- 3.1.4 The Rural White Paper (2000) sets out the Government's vision for the Countryside with the aim of sustaining and enhancing "the distinctive environment, economy and social fabric of the English Countryside for the benefit of all." It details the focus of the Government's efforts related to communities, rural business, services, wildlife and landscape and will influence landscape change.
- 3.1.5 Population growth and changing dynamic has resulted in changes to housing requirements as well as changes in traditions and loss of some cultural practices.



Recent affordable housing development at Fewston in Nidderdale AONB.

- 3.1.6 Development and change cannot (and should not) be stopped but sensitive management is needed to ensure that any changes are not detrimental. The forces for change are varied and often inter-related. This chapter looks at these forces and sets out generic guidelines for their management.
- 3.1.7 The social, economic and environmental changes likely to impact on landscape character are difficult to predict in the long run. In the short term trends can be identified and guidelines agreed to deal with predicted impacts on landscape character and landscape change.
- 3.1.8 With the advent of the new Local Development Framework and the content of the draft PPS7, the need for an up to date District-wide landscape character assessment (following the latest guidance and overcoming the problems of the 1993 Landscape Appraisal) has become more urgent to ensure that the landscape characteristics, which make Harrogate District distinct, are conserved.

## 3.2 Built Development

3.2.1 The Harrogate District Local Plan was adopted in February 2001 and contains the policies related to built development in the District. Those policies related to landscape are outlined earlier in this document.

### Residential development

3.2.2 There is considerable demand for housing in the District resulting in development pressure for new housing. Harrogate and the southern part of the District in particular are popular areas with commuters due to the proximity of Leeds. Rising house prices have resulted in an increase in need for affordable housing in the countryside as many locals are priced out of the market.

3.2.3 Trends in employment are also impacting on housing demand. Improved communications have made it easier for people to work from home. Rural housing in open countryside is a common feature in parts of the District and continued new development and conversion of farm buildings in these areas may result in the loss of distinctiveness between town and country.

3.2.4 Building styles contribute to character and distinctiveness between areas. A profusion of varied styles will impact on distinctiveness and landscape character. Modern buildings in rural villages and open countryside can appear incongruous.

### Guidelines (see also *HBC Residential Design Guide*)

- Housing location, design and layout should respect local character. Location should relate well to settlement pattern and avoid coalescence between settlements where this would be detrimental to landscape character.
- Settlements often have a distinct identity as a result of their historic origins and physical constraints. Development should seek to maintain the identity of existing settlements taking account of landscape setting.
- New development should avoid breaching the well-defined settlement edges where this would be detrimental to settlement character. Appropriate boundary planting can be effective in defining settlement limits and restricting the sprawl of settlements



Recent development at Hornbeam Business Park in Harrogate.

- Early landscape works are strongly recommended for new development sites, in particular greenfield sites allocated in the Local Plan, and can be used to provide structure which will help to integrate the development with its setting before building work begins.
- Building design as well as location and layout must respect local distinctiveness and landscape characteristics.
- Barn conversions should only be allowed where domestication of the barn and change of character to residence does not impact upon the contribution the barn makes to the character of the countryside. Restricting domestic curtilage to retain the character is often not an appropriate solution and the barn would be better left undeveloped.
- Domestic curtilage extension into the countryside can impact on landscape character particularly related to the setting of settlements and buildings in the countryside. Villages in some character areas depend upon the surrounding field pattern and boundary treatment for their distinctiveness.

### Industry, Business and Retail Parks

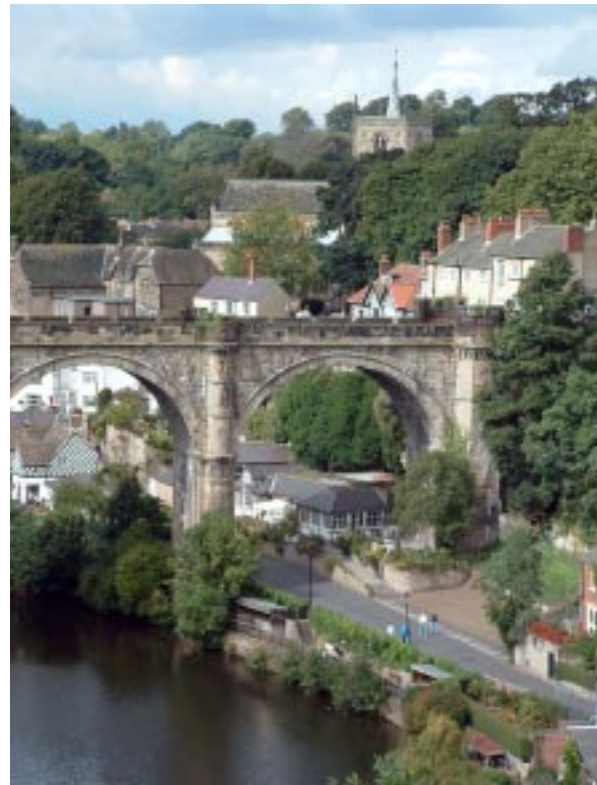
3.2.5 Development pressures resulting from a need for employment opportunities within the District (and for improvements to transportation links to make sites more accessible) are likely to continue as the District's population grows. Out-of-town shopping centres with free car parking and easier access are increasing in popularity. In the Harrogate District there are several

retail parks and industrial estates in both rural and urban edge locations.

- 3.2.6 Noise, traffic and lighting as a result of development impacts on landscape character and people's experience of the landscape. Continued expansion of sites on the urban edge and in rural locations also has a significant affect on landscape character.

### Guidelines

- All proposals for business, retail and industrial use must consider the landscape implications at the outset and a landscape scheme must be submitted with the planning application. The Harrogate District Landscape Design Guide LDG2.1 outlines the process which should be undertaken.
- Proposals to expand existing development that will result in cumulative detrimental impact on landscape character should be avoided.
- Landscapes with a diverse mix of uses that respect landscape pattern and have a strong established landscape structure that contributes to landscape character as a general rule can better accommodate change than simple landscapes with an open structure.
- Where sites are allocated in the Local Plan the implementation of a landscape scheme prior to development will help integrate development with its landscape setting in the long run.
- Wherever possible proposals must protect the settings of settlements and key views e.g. views of the church in Knaresborough and views of Ripon Cathedral.
- Adequate space to ensure the integration of development with the landscape is required. All too often a site is packed with buildings and there is no space left to integrate those buildings with the surrounding landscape. This is not acceptable in landscape terms.
- Screen planting should only be considered where it is appropriate to the local landscape pattern. This should be assessed for each site using the character area descriptions and guidelines as a starting point.



The classic view from Knaresborough Castle.

- New industrial and business premises should respect the Character Area within which they are proposed, particularly if it is of a rural character.

### Lighting

- 3.2.7 Lighting in the countryside has been highlighted as a particular concern by several stakeholders. It can impact considerably on landscape character and peoples experience of the landscape.

### Guidelines

- Lighting required must be assessed and considered when dealing with planning applications. Lighting in the countryside can be extremely disruptive. Limiting lit hours, using down lights and minimising wattage should all be considered as part of a landscape scheme for development. Development requiring high levels of lighting may not be acceptable in some places. Harrogate District Landscape Design Guide LDG4.1 gives more detailed guidance on this.
- Guidance has been produced resulting from the concern related to light pollution and this should be adhered to.

## 3.3 Infrastructure

### Transport

- 3.3.1 The Local Transport Plan, prepared by North Yorkshire County Council and adopted in July 2000, is an integrated transport strategy for North Yorkshire looking at accessibility, road safety, public transport, sustainable distribution, travel awareness, transport and the environment, demand management and the planning and management of the highway network. As such the Plan will direct initiatives related to transport for example road improvements, public transport, the reopening of railway lines, creation of cycleways, park and ride and road safety improvements. Projects that result will influence landscape character and change.
- 3.3.2 Several roads in the District have been upgraded over the years resulting in impact on landscape character. In particular the A1(M) corridor passes through the District on the eastern edge of the magnesian limestone ridge that runs through the centre of the District. Much of the A1(M) follows an ancient route from north to south and its continued development over the centuries has impacted upon the character of the surrounding landscape.
- 3.3.3 Recent road developments that have had an effect on landscape character are the Harrogate Southern by pass and the Ripon by pass. Both roads have improved access to land that was previously undeveloped and as a result development pressure has increased. Modern roads tend to cut across the landscape creating linear features, which do not integrate well with landscape character. Furthermore, roadside planting can increase the alien appearance of roads in the landscape.
- 3.3.4 As well as the continued upgrade of the A1(M), the North Yorkshire County Council Local Transport Plan includes several other highway proposals for the District that could impact on landscape character

#### Guidelines

- New roads should adhere to existing landscape character taking account of patterns and topography. Grading of embankments and cuttings should integrate with surrounding landform.
- Improved safety along roads is important but can result in the loss of characteristics such as hedges, trees and walls. In these cases provision should

be made for replacement that fits with the landscape pattern.

- Roads and railway lines are linear features often contrasting with landscape pattern. Linear mounds and planting often highlight this. Landscape works associated with transport routes should seek to integrate with the surrounding landscape.

### Communications Masts and Pylons

(ref: Harrogate District Telecommunications Strategy SPG December 1999)

- 3.3.5 Electricity power lines and substations are prominent features in parts of the District. In particular there are two main power lines crossing the District east of Harrogate that are prominent features impacting upon landscape character. Telecommunications masts are also prominent features in the landscape and tend to be located on high ground. The largest mast in the District on Stainburn Moor can be seen for miles around. Telecommunications masts are much smaller but there are many more of them and the cumulative effect of their presence in the countryside has an impact on character. The Harrogate District telecommunications Strategy gives detailed guidance related to the location and design of new masts.

#### Guidelines

- Integration of pylons in the landscape is difficult to achieve. Detailed assessment to find the least detrimental route for new supply lines is required. As a general rule, flatter, large-scale landscapes can better accommodate this type of development.
- Where the landscape is well-treed views of masts can be filtered. Screening needs to look at planting close to receptors rather than the structures themselves.
- Mobile telephone mast proposals should seek to use existing structures to support the aerials.

### Renewable Energy

- 3.3.6 Government targets for the supply of power from renewable sources have increased demand for schemes. The first type of renewable energy source to influence the landscape of this District was biomass

production. Several fields in the grassland areas of the south west of the District were turned over to willow coppice in the late 1990s for biomass. This changed the texture of the green fields in the landscape and has had some impact upon landscape pattern. There is no planning control for these schemes and so far they have been restricted due to the economics of production. In the future it is possible that demand for biomass production may increase again.

- 3.3.7 Due to the constraints of military and civil air space, and the designation of the Nidderdale AONB, pressure for wind farm development is unlikely to be a District-wide issue. However, taking the constraints into account, the few sites that may be appropriate are likely to be highly visible within the District and beyond the District boundary. There are no wind farms in the District at present, but here have been several proposals for small singular turbines in the Nidderdale AONB and two have been built. The issues regarding singular domestic scale turbines in landscape terms need to be considered rigorously when assessing planning applications.
- 3.3.8 Small-scale hydro-electric schemes are a possible source of renewable energy in the District. There are many watercourses and several large water bodies that may contribute in the future although pressure is limited at present. However, continued demand for renewable energy sources, as well as Government incentives, may increase the appeal of hydro-electric and solar schemes in the future.

### Guidelines

- Advise DEFRA and landowners on the potential impacts of conversion of grass fields to short rotation coppice. Develop a strategy for planting appropriate to landscape character in consultation with landowners and the Forestry Commission.
- Short rotation coppice may result in acceptable change in landscape character in certain areas e.g. where linked with existing woodlands and woodland pattern, or located in valleys.
- Wind turbines, by their nature, can be highly visible within the landscape. A strategy for their integration into the landscape is required related to those

areas in the District most likely to come under pressure from development.

- Wind farms on the upland edge will be highly visible and in remote areas will impact upon the feeling of isolation. When seen in the context of other development it may be easier to assimilate the turbines with the landscape pattern.
- Wind turbines can introduce a sculptural element to the landscape.
- A strategy is needed in relation to small scale renewable energy schemes and associated potential landscape impact to guide development proposals e.g. domestic scale wind turbines, small scale hydro-electric schemes and solar systems.
- Guidance is being produced by the Countryside Agency regarding the Assessment of potential impacts that result from wind farms and should be utilised.

## 3.4 Tourism, recreation and amenity

- 3.4.1 The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an important draw for tourists, as are the Cathedral City of Ripon, Knaresborough Market Town and Harrogate Victorian Spa Town. Tourism makes an important contribution to the economy of the District.
- 3.4.2 There are fewer tourist attractions and recreation facilities to the east of the District where the large-scale arable landscape does not attract the same interest as Nidderdale. However, there are attractions here that do draw tourists in smaller numbers such as the rural villages, historic buildings, parks and gardens and archaeological features.

### Attractions and facilities

- 3.4.3 The Nidderdale AONB attracts thousands of visitors each year. Most of these visitors arrive by car and visit the villages along the valleys. Pateley Bridge is a particular "honey pot" in the middle of the AONB.
- 3.4.4 There are several Historic Parks and Gardens and houses open to the public that also attract visitors. The World Heritage site at Fountains Abbey and

Studley Royal draws a great number of visitors each year. Newby Hall, Norton Conyers and Ripley Castle are other important attractions. The Ripon Canal is an important feature and Ripon is the most northerly point on England's inland waterway network.

- 3.4.5 Holiday accommodation and facilities throughout the District are important to visitors and locals and the local economy. Caravan parks are present throughout and can be detrimental to landscape character through the introduction of structures not sympathetic to rural settings, increasing traffic levels on country roads and often inappropriate ornamental planting./gardens.

### Activities

- 3.4.6 Sporting activities that are pursued in the countryside are wide ranging. Those that are most influential on landscape character are mentioned here. Shooting and fishing are important countryside pursuits in the District. Grouse shooting has resulted in the management of the heather moorland landscape to give it the character we see today. Pheasant shooting in the valleys and low-lying areas has resulted in the planting and management of woodland to support the birds. This, in turn, has influenced landscape character of the wooded states and farmlands across the District.
- 3.4.7 Fishing in the rivers continues and the demand for fishing lakes has increased in recent years, which in turn has impacted on landscape character.
- 3.4.8 Golf courses have made their mark. There are many in the District located on the edge of urban areas and in the countryside. They have a widespread impact due to their size and 'designed' nature which often does not integrate well with the surrounding landscape.

### Access

- 3.4.9 There are several walkers' routes following public and permissive rights of way, permissive rights of way. One of the most notable is the Nidderdale Way, a circular route round the Nidd Valley from the river's source just east of Great Whernside to the model village of Ripley (two miles north of Harrogate) and back taking in both sides of the valley.

- 3.4.10 The Dales Link is another major route following the Oak Beck Valley from Harrogate westwards to link with the Dales Way in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Smaller circular walks exist around Ripon, Knaresborough and Harrogate. Well-used routes tend to be concentrated around towns and to the west of the District.

- 3.4.11 The creation of new cycle paths and recognised cycling routes is an aim of the North Yorkshire County Council Transport Plan. The network, although currently limited, is likely to improve in the future.

### Guidelines

- Design of proposals for caravan and campsites need to consider landscape character. Appropriate location and an integrated landscape scheme will help to integrate the site with the surrounding landscape.
- The scale of camping, caravan and chalet parks needs to be restricted to limit impact on landscape character.
- Often tourist and recreation facilities use ornamental planting. This may be acceptable on the urban edge where there is a transition between the countryside and urban area. Planting proposals must integrate the development with the surrounding countryside.
- Golf course design should seek to integrate the development with the surrounding landscape pattern. In particular respect existing landform. In intensively farmed areas the creation of a new golf course may be an opportunity to reintroduce appropriate native planting. and rural diversification.
- All proposals for tourist and recreation facilities need to take account of the impact of increased visitor numbers and traffic, possibly resulting in a requirement to upgrade access and road safety.
- Public rights of way are an important part of our heritage and landscape, many resulting from the continued use of ancient routes. Promotion of the use of footpaths will help maintain their presence in the landscape.

## 3.5 Quarrying and mineral extraction

3.5.1 There are currently eight working quarries in the District. They are:

Carboniferous limestone:

- Coldstones Quarry (Nidderdale AONB Character Area 5)

Magnesian limestone:

- Gebdykes Quarry (2.5km north of Masham - outside District but on boundary of Character Area 41)
- Potgate Quarry (near Lightwater Character Area 77)

Sand and gravel:

- Allerton Park (Character Area 91)
- Asenby Quarry (Character Area 84)
- Marfield Quarry (north of Masham Character Area 41)
- Ripon Race course (Character Area 75)
- Ure Valley Quarry (2.5km south east of West Tanfield Character Area 78)

Industrial and silica sand:

- Blubberhouse Quarry (currently “mothballed” due to market conditions) Glass recycling has impacted on demand.

3.5.2 The North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan was adopted in December 1997 and recognises that the demand for aggregates will increase in the short term. Therefore the strategy of this plan is “To achieve a balance between satisfying the need for minerals and the need to protect the environment, which maximises the sustainability of both.” (Paragraph 2.2.6, Page 6)

3.5.3 The Minerals Local Plan has identified preferred areas for the expansion of sand and gravel quarrying in the District: Marfield Quarry, Ure Valley Quarry, and Allerton Park Quarry. There are no preferred areas for the expansion of crushed rock quarrying in the District but there is a shortfall in this area for this county and an Area of Search has been identified north of Ripon and another area just outside the District north of West Tanfield.

3.5.4 Borrow pits have been excavated in the District and supply material solely in connection with a specific construction project e.g. A1(M) upgrade borrow pits planned on Wetherby - Walshford stretch. Borrow pits have already been utilised east of Knaresborough and for Ripon By pass construction. Use of borrow pits can be advantageous but requires appropriate management and restoration. There should be no adverse impact on acknowledged features of importance or archaeology and environmental safeguards need to be in place. There can be over-riding environmental reasons for using borrow pits when compared with obtaining material from existing sources. For example, it could minimise or avoid use of public roads.

3.5.5 Building stone supply is limited in the county and most is imported. “Subject to local impact the County Council will support the production of building stone in the interests of ensuring the proper maintenance of the traditional built environment.” (Para 8.2.4, Page 59)

3.5.6 Quarrying in the District is set to continue and expansion required is outlined in the Minerals Local Plan. Quarries impact upon landscape character in both the long and short term. Restoration is vital: many restoration schemes involve the creation of water bodies as with the sand and gravel quarries at Mar Field and Ripon Racecourse.

3.5.7 The quarried landscape along the river Ure corridor is distinctive.

### Guidelines

- Large-scale quarrying and extraction activities are detractors in the landscape. Where need is over-riding a full Landscape and visual impact assessment is required with appropriate restoration plan to respect landscape character choosing the least visually intrusive locations.
- Proposals for new quarries must avoid historic sites and their setting and the loss of features and key characteristics important to their setting.
- The use of borrow pits for major construction sites with planning permission may be less damaging than importing material. Appropriate design and restoration is needed where borrow pits are to be considered.

- Quarrying activities should only be allowed where current infrastructure such as roads and power, are already in place.
- Opportunities for the creation of habitats and a mosaic of appropriate uses to restore and enhance landscape character in the long run should be integral to proposals e.g. recreation, wildlife, farming.
- Current sites require a rigorous monitoring regime to ensure that agreed mitigation measures are fully implemented - this is a County Council responsibility.
- Screen planting is not always the best approach to mitigation particularly where it does not respect landscape character.
- The implementation of landscape work and structure planting should begin before the development to ensure integration with the surrounding landscape.

## 3.6 Agriculture

- 3.6.1 Farming is the dominant land use in the District and contributes to the contrasting and diverse landscapes valued by locals and visitors. Changing agricultural policy over the years has led to changes in landscape character. Since WWII incentives to increase output have resulted in the intensification of farming practices. Fields have become bigger to accommodate large machinery, wetland has been drained to increase the amount of productive land, and large buildings have been built to accommodate increasing yields and numbers of livestock. All this has had an impact on landscape character, particularly related to the more productive land in the east of the District where arable production dominates the landscape.
- 3.6.2 In contrast the west of the District is intensively farmed for livestock production due to the different climatic conditions at higher elevations, topography and soil fertility. The pressures that come to bear in this part of the District are very different and the differences were highlighted during the Foot and Mouth epidemic of 2001 when restrictions on livestock movements and public access impacted upon the landscape as well as the economy of the area. The maintenance of field boundaries is much more important for livestock control and field systems tend to be more intact in livestock areas.
- 3.6.3 The focus of agricultural policy is changing. Food production is still a priority but incentives now exist to encourage less intensive systems and more sustainable organic farming. Promoting conservation is a focus of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and several farmers have entered into the scheme. At present the incentives are more appealing to livestock farmers and the majority of those entering into the scheme are in the western and central part of the District. DEFRA is currently reviewing its agri-environment schemes and changes are likely to impact on agricultural practices in the future.

### Guidelines

- The varied land management regimes across the District from east to west that are influenced by the physical environment as well as market forces are important to the diverse land cover and landscape patterns and should be maintained and enhanced.
- The stark contrast between the moorland edge and improved intensively grazed grassland in the Nidderdale AONB is characteristic. However, it highlights the lack of diversity of habitats between the moorland edge and the improved grass fields. The less intensive management of fields would benefit biodiversity as well as the diversity of landscape textures across the District.
- Access tracks and farm buildings impact upon landscape character. Tracks should relate to landform and field pattern. New buildings must be designed to integrate with landscape considering factors such as materials and colouring.
- Intensive cultivations and other modern farming activities can be damaging to historic features and archaeology. Incentives to protect these features from damage will help preserve landscape history.
- Strong and varied field patterns resulting from various stages of enclosure

and differing historic field management systems are important to distinctiveness and should be maintained and restored.

## 3.7 Forestry and woodland

- 3.7.1 Much of the woodland that once covered the District was cleared by medieval times for the construction of buildings and the clearance of land for farming. Several pockets of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland over 2 hectares exist but these are mainly concentrated in Nidderdale. Areas that are less than 2 hectares have not been mapped. Woodland cover for the District is about 6% which is below the national average of approximately 8%. In total about 76km<sup>2</sup> of the District is covered by woodlands over 2 hectares.
- 3.7.2 The management of woodlands for sporting activities and amenity is an important objective on many wooded farms and estates, whilst timber production is more important on the larger estates.
- 3.7.3 In 1999 the Government published a Forestry Strategy for England which set out their priorities and programmes for forestry. The two main aims of the Strategy being:
- the sustainable management of our existing woods and forests; and
  - a continued steady expansion of our woodland area to provide more benefits for society and our environment.
- 3.7.4 As a result programmes were outlined in the Strategy to look at forestry's contribution to the rural economy, land use planning, recreation, access and tourism and the environment and conservation.
- 3.7.5 Overall future change is likely to result

from changing management of existing plantations and woods and the continued planting of woodland to meet targets for woodland cover. The Woodland Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme administered by DEFRA offer incentives for woodland planting.

- 3.7.6 The economics of timber production will be influential in determining the objectives of forestry and woodland management and planting in the future.

### Guidelines

- Rectilinear conifer plantations are prominent features in the landscape that often contrast with, and detract from, natural landform and landscape pattern. Incentives to encourage diversification of the edges of conifer plantations to improve integration with landscape character will help to enhance their appearance.
- New planting should respect historic and archaeological features and their settings.
- New woodland planting should respect areas where openness is a valued characteristic.
- Diversity within woodlands to sustain their health requires appropriate management regimes.
- Guidance on the design of woodlands and forestry and their management is produced by the Forestry Commission and should be used.
- Landscape Design Guide Sheets LDG8.1.1, LDG8.1.2, LDG8.1.3 and LDG8.1.4 give guidance on woodland planting for natural areas across the District and should be used.



A bridleway through woodland in the Crimple Valley.

# 4. Harrogate District Landscape Character Areas

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section identifies and describes areas of distinct character within the District. Landscape sensitivities and pressures for landscape change have been identified for each area and a set of guidelines has been drawn up. These should be used to help ensure that where change does occur it is made sensitively and with minimum landscape impact.

4.1.2 When looking at the boundaries of these areas it should be recognised that the change between adjacent character areas

is often gradual and that for many areas there will be a transitional zone that may vary in extent along the boundaries. For sites close to boundaries the description of the neighbouring area should also be taken into account.

4.1.3 Registered Parks and Gardens are looked at first (at section 4.2) as a group to take account of the fact that the guidelines to conserve their character apply to all.

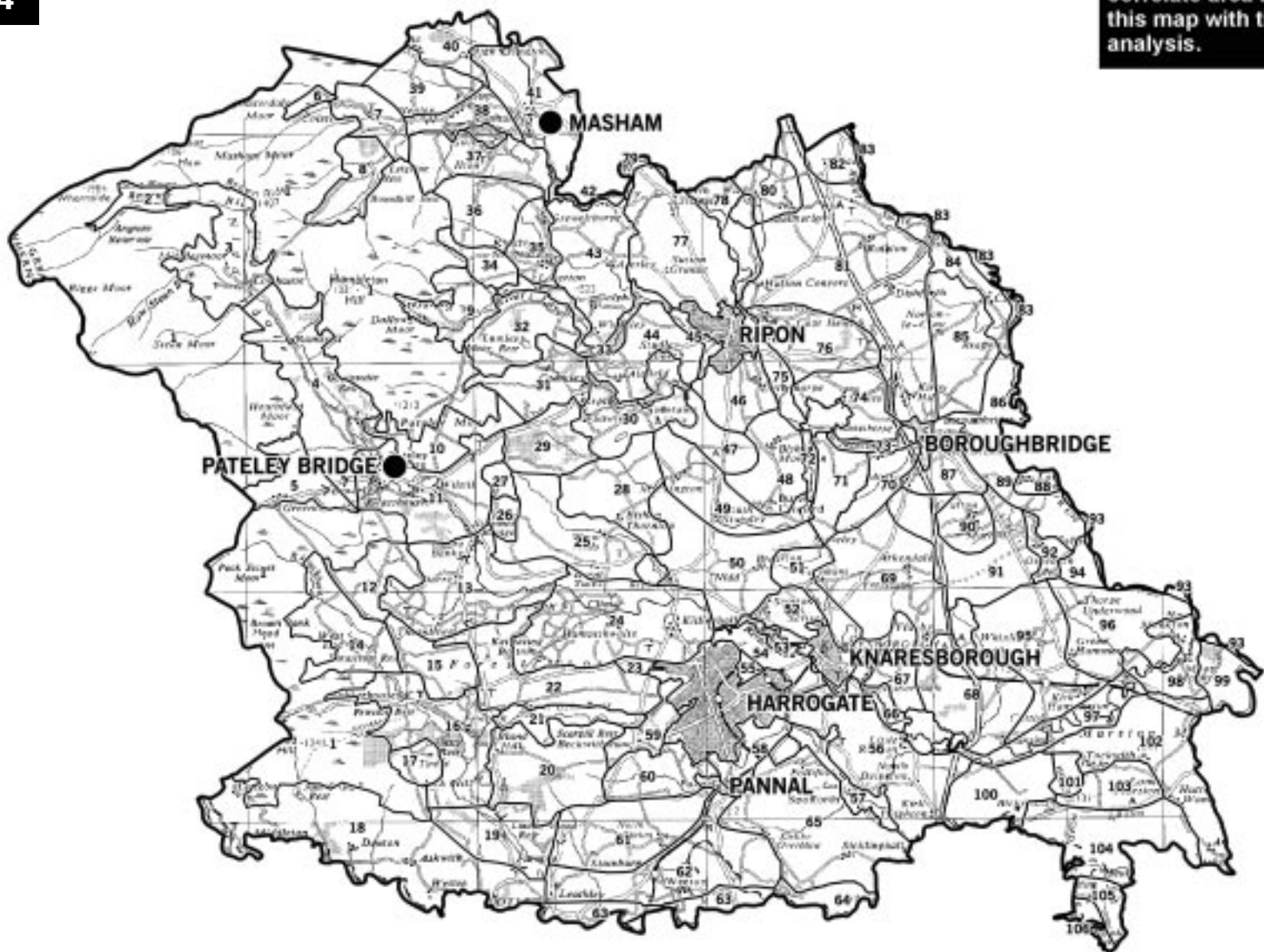


A view towards Dallowgill from Brimham Rocks showing field pattern.

# Harrogate District Landscape Character Areas

**Fig. 4**

See Character Areas Index to correlate area numbers on this map with title and full analysis.



## 4.2 Historic Parks and Gardens

4.2.1 Historic Parks and Gardens make an important contribution to landscape character and cultural heritage. In Harrogate District there are more than thirty designed parkland and garden landscapes. They are characterised by formal designed groupings of architectural and environmental elements that vary according to location and origin, and require high levels of maintenance. Twelve of these are Registered Historic Parks and Gardens due to the importance of their historic layout, features and architectural monuments. Each Registered Historic Park and Garden has been considered as one separate Character Area and has not been included in the list of Character Areas with the exception of Hackfall, The Long Walk at Knaresborough and Plumpton Rocks. These three parks and gardens are also in designated Conservation

Areas and are within separate Character Areas. Reference is made to the individual Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in their neighbouring Character Areas with particular regard to the protection of their setting. The remaining unregistered parks and gardens are mentioned in the key characteristics of their respective Character Areas and their contribution to character is recognised in the guidelines. Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal is a designated World Heritage Site and every effort should be made to conserve the landscape and historic setting of this area.

4.2.2 All the Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (except Swinton Castle) are located in the rolling lowlands running through the centre of the District. Most of the non-registered parks and gardens are similarly located although several of them are in the Vale of York.

4.2.3 Below is the list of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Harrogate District:

Name	Grade	Description
A Hackfall	1	Pleasure grounds laid out c1749 by owner William Aislabie. Important early example of design, using wild, natural scenery for its own sake. In Character Area 25.
B Studley Royal	1	A park of Late 17th century with probably earlier origins, a water garden and pleasure grounds of c 1718-30 laid out by owner John Aislabie which were extended to the ruins of Fountains Abbey from 1768 onwards by his son. Much of the area is also designated a World Heritage Site.
C Newby Hall	2*	Park probably with 17th century origins which was laid out in the late 18th century to a partially executed design by Thomas White. Gardens 1920-1970 incorporating a 19th century rock garden.
D Plumpton Rocks	2*	Mid 18th century pleasure grounds laid out with advice from John Carr as the grounds for a country house built within a pre existing park of early 16th century origin. The grounds are in Character Area 61.
E Swinton Park	2*	Gardens and extensive pleasure grounds laid out from 1796 to c 1820. The park has 17th century or earlier origins.
F Allerton Park	2	Mid 19th century terraced gardens provide the setting for the country house, surrounded by parkland which was enlarged in the 1720s.
G The Long Walk, Knaresborough	2	A town walk, laid out in the mid 18th century, on a site used as a promenade prior to this date. Within Knaresborough Conservation Area and in Character Area 49.
H Norton Conyers	2	Pleasure grounds with elements possibly from the 16th and 17th centuries. A water garden and a park probably created in the early 18th century.
I Ribston Hall	2	Park with 17th century origins, pleasure grounds probably of the late 18th century with 19th century additions and an 18th century kitchen garden.
J Ripley Castle	2	Gardens and pleasure grounds of the late 18th and early 19th century. Park of early to mid 19th century includes veteran trees that were within a medieval deer park.
K Rudding Park House	2	Early 19th century park forming the setting for a new country house with mid 20th century gardens. The park was originally part of the Forest of Knaresborough and some of the ancient oaks are retained in the parkland.
L Valley Gardens	2	A public park with early to mid 19th century origins which was laid out in the 1880s. The site originated as open land with natural sulphur and chalybeate springs which an Act of Parliament of 1770 protected from enclosure.

Reference: English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England, North Yorkshire.

Detailed descriptions of each of the Registered Historic Parks and Gardens are contained in the English Heritage Register.

## Sensitivities and Pressures

- 4.2.4 Historic designed landscapes are susceptible to neglect and sensitive to changes in management that would result in a change to their layout.
- 4.2.5 Loss of trees and woodland cover would change the distinctive character of parkland landscapes.
- 4.2.6 Lack of age variation among the individual parkland and avenue trees may lead to a loss of character should trees die out together over a short timescale.
- 4.2.7 Limited opportunities for public access to some of the registered parks and gardens. Conversely tourist facilities at other parks and gardens may compromise the parkland setting and historic design.
- 4.2.8 Parks and gardens rely not only on their design for their distinctiveness but also on their setting within the landscape. Changes to the character in neighbouring Character Areas may impact upon the distinctiveness and historic setting of the registered site.

## Generic Guidelines for Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

**Aim: To conserve and enhance the unique features and characteristics of the designed landscape that contribute to distinctiveness.**

- Encourage the maintenance and construction of traditional estate walling and fencing where enclosure is characteristic, particularly important is the maintenance and reinstatement of traditional park boundaries.
- Encourage the continuous replanting of parkland trees over time. This is particularly important at sites where age structure of parkland trees lacks diversity.
- Discourage development that will compromise the parkland setting and character of the parks and gardens. In particular, recreation facilities and holiday accommodation should respect the historic importance of the designed landscape.
- Support the preparation of management plans for each of the Registered Historic Parks and Gardens that aim to conserve them.

**Aim: Raise awareness of the importance of historic parks and gardens to the distinct and varied landscape character of the District.**

- Encourage events that will raise awareness of the Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in the District.
- Support initiatives to improve public access to, and enjoyment of, parks and gardens particularly those that currently have limited access.
- Promote the use of the Registered Historic Parks and Gardens leaflet prepared by Harrogate Borough Council.

**Aim: To protect and enhance the setting of Historic Parks and Gardens**

- Proposals in neighbouring Character Areas must consider the impact they will have upon the setting of the Registered Historic Park and Garden.
- Where proposals would impact adversely upon the setting they should be discouraged.
- Key views out of and into the designed landscape should not be adversely affected by proposals in neighbouring Character Areas.
- Changes in land use can have an adverse impact upon a setting when alien features and characteristics are introduced and key characteristics lost.
- Promote tree and woodland planting to respect and enhance the setting of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and link in with existing woodland and trees.



Fountains Abbey, set in the Studley Royal & Fountains Park and Garden.

## 4.3 List of Character Areas

### No. Area Name

1	Gritstone Moor (Nidderdale & Washburn)	34	Kirkby Malzeard Parliamentary Enclosure
2	Upper Nidderdale Valley Reservoirs	35	Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe
3	Upper Nidderdale Valley	36	Grewelthorpe Moor Grassland
4	Nidderdale Valley (Low Sikes to Pateley Bridge)	37	Ilton to Nutwith Wooded Upland Fringe Grassland
5	Bewerley Moor Grassland and Historic Industrial Area.	38	River Burn Valley Farmland
6	Upper Colsterdale Valley	39	Ellingstring and Fearby Upland Fringe Grassland
7	Upper River Burn to Pott Beck Confluence	40	Ellingstring to Low Ellington Upland Fringe
8	Upper Pott Beck Valley Reservoirs	41	River Ure Corridor (Charlcot to Aldburgh Hall)
9	Laverton Upland Fringe	42	Ure corridor (Hackfall to Mickley Reach)
10	Bishopside Upland Fringe Farmland	43	Vale Fringe Valley Farmland (Kirkby Malzeard to Azerley)
11	Nidderdale Valley (Pateley Bridge to Summerbridge)	44	Aldfield to Studley Vale Fringe Farmland
12	Padside Beck Valley and Undulating Grassland	45	West Ripon Rivers Laver and Skell confluence
13	Nidderdale Valley (Summerbridge to New Bridge, Birstwith)	46	South Ripon Farmland
14	Upper Washburn Valley	47	Bishop Monkton Moor and Ingerthorpe Moor Farmland
15	Forest Moor Undulating Grassland Plateau	48	Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton Undulating Farmland
16	Middle Washburn Valley	49	Stainley Beck Corridor
17	Timble Gill Beck Upland Fringe Grassland	50	Brearton and Nidd Arable Farmland
18	Wharfedale South Facing Valley Side	51	Knaresborough Reclaimed Gravel Pits
19	Lower Washburn Valley	52	North Knaresborough Improved Grassland
20	Stainburn Moor, Lindley Moor and Sandwith Moor	53	Nidd Gorge
21	Oak Beck and Reservoirs	54	Harrogate - Knaresborough Corridor
22	Menwith and Penny Pot Grassland	55	Bilton Triangle
23	Saltergate Valley Grassland	56	Plompton and South Knaresborough Arable Land
24	Lower Nidderdale Valley North West of Harrogate	57	Crimple and Park Beck Corridor
25	Thornton Beck Vale Fringe Grassland	58	Middle Crimble Valley
26	Hartwith Moor Grassland Plateau	59	Harlow Hill
27	Brimham Rocks	60	Upper Crimble Valley
28	Bishop Thornton Vale Fringe Farmland	61	South West Harrogate Upland Fringe Undulating Farmland
29	Sawley Moor Grassland and Forestry	62	Wharfe Valley Side Farmland
30	Vale Fringe south of Skell and Skell Corridor	63	River Wharfe Flat Valley Bottom (Washburn to Netherby Reach)
31	Upper River Skell Valley	64	River Wharfe Corridor (Netherby to Woodhall including Carlston Hill)
32	Skelding, Galphay and Lumley Moors Upland Fringe Farmland		
33	River Laver Corridor		

## No. Area Name

65	South East Harrogate Farmland	89	Aldorought Moor and Great Ouseburn Low Lying Farmland
66	Nidd Corridor at Goldsborough	90	Marton cum Grafton Undulating Farmland
67	Goldsborough and Ribston Park	91	Marton Rolling Arable Farmland
68	Hunsingore and Hopperton Wooded Farmland	92	Ouseburn village and Vale Farmland
69	East Knaresborough Arable Farmland	93	River Ure/Ouse Corridor
70	River Tutt Low Lying Arable Farmland	94	Kirby Hall Park and Farmland
71	Hardriggs and Roecliffe Moor Farmland	95	Whixley Arable Farmland
72	Holbeck Valley Bottom	96	Green Hammerton Low Lying Farmland
73	River Ure Corridor (Newby Hall to Boroughbridge Reach)	97	Nidd Corridor (Ribston Park to Skip Bridge Reach)
74	Skelton on Ure Rolling Farmland	98	Lower Nidd Grassland (Skip Bridge to River Ouse Reach)
75	Ure Corridor Recreation Area (Ripon to Newby Reach)	99	Scagglethorpe Moor Mixed Farmland
76	East of Ripon Farmland	100	Kirk Deighton to Tockwith Arable Farmland
77	North of Ripon Farmland	101	Tockwith Airfield
78	River Ure Corridor (Slensingford Water Mill to Ripon Reach)	102	Marston Moor Drained Farmland
79	River Ure at West Tanfield Farmland	103	Marston Sloping Arable Farmland
80	Wath Farmland with Parkland	104	Bilton in Ainsty Rolling Farmland
81	Dishforth and Surrounding Farmland	105	Wighill Ridge Farmland
82	Baldersby and Surrounding Farmland	106	River Wharfe Floodplain Farmland (Thorp Arch to Tadcaster Reach)
83	River Swale Corridor (Skipton on Swale to Brafferton Reach)		
84	Cundall/Asenby Low Lying Ridge Farmland		
85	Thornton Bridge Drained, Low Lying Arable Farmland		
86	Swale/Ure corridor (Boroughbridge to Treble Sykes Farm)		
87	South Boroughbridge Farmland		
88	Lower Dunsforth Riverside Farmland		

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