

Introduction to the Landscape Design Guide

The Purpose of Landscape Guidance

The design guidance sheets for landscape provide supplementary guidance to the Harrogate District Local Plan (adopted in February 2001) and are intended:

- to clarify landscape requirements for granting planning permission;
- to illustrate and encourage good practice;
- to encourage an integrated approach to landscape conservation and development.
- to help planners and developers implement planning policy

The guidance should be seen as a helpful starting point rather than a substitute for original thought.

The Importance of Landscape

Our landscape is a complex combination of physical and cultural elements which have evolved through a long process of people working with the land to create places with identity. The landscape is continually changing, but often may be fragile or vulnerable to damage through neglect or inappropriate development.



Nidderdale AONB in winter



Knaresborough House

The problem

Our environment is subject to conflicting demands for housing, industry and commerce, transport, water, energy and food production; yet we value it for its wildlife, scenic beauty and historic interest.



Woodland above Pateley Bridge



Haymaking at Middlesmoor

Important landscapes in Harrogate District

The high quality landscape of Harrogate District includes landscapes of local, national and international importance such as: Studley Royal/Fountains Abbey (World Heritage Site); the nationally recognised Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Registered Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest including the Valley Gardens in Harrogate and Newby Hall near Ripon; natural landscape features such as Almscliffe Crag and Brimham Rocks; strong local landscape characteristics such as the river gorge setting of Knaresborough and the medieval streetscape of Ripon.

Landscape patterns within town and countryside are made up of individual components and features of interest. Plants and animals share this landscape, enriching our inheritance.

Harrogate Borough Council is committed to a strategy for the protection and enhancement of the special character and environment of Harrogate District.



Queens Court - a recent office/residential development retaining mature trees.

Our solution

We strive to create an attitude to development that conserves what is valued, enhances the environment and encourages good design, addressing needs rather than demands.

The use of professional agents is strongly recommended. Harrogate Borough Council can provide addresses of arboriculturalists and horticulturalists. Design Guidance Sheet 1.2 explains the landscape profession, and contains a list of registered landscape practices in Yorkshire and Humberside.

National Guidance

Guidance on landscape assessment and design is published by the Countryside Commission, The Forestry Authority and the Landscape Institute amongst others. A bibliography sheet for further reading is available from The Conservation and Design Section of the Council's Technical Services Department.

Landscape Design Guidance

This advice has been developed through consultation with the public and is available as Supplementary Planning Guidance, to be read in conjunction with the Harrogate District Local Plan.



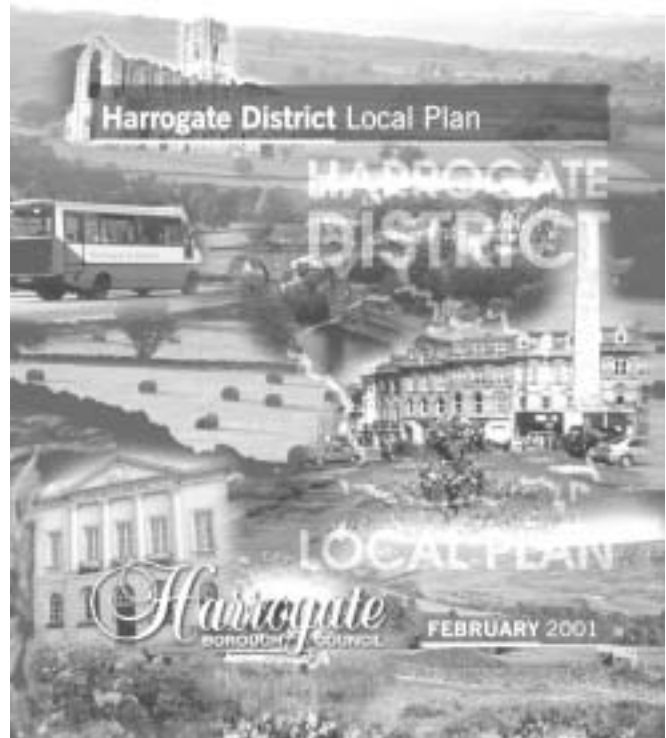
A suburban street with mature tree mix

Designations (ref: LDG 1.4)

Specific areas and sites are protected through designations at local, national and international levels, for example Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, World Heritage Sites and Registered Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Other Publications

Harrogate Borough Council publishes the Countryside Schedule and Heritage Schedule, which list sites and areas of value within the District. Leaflets describing each Conservation Area and giving advice on Listed Buildings, Parks & Gardens, Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas within the District are also available.



Harrogate District Local Plan

The Local Plan was adopted in February 2001. Policies relevant to landscape conservation and development are found throughout the Plan, since landscape matters are integrated into all aspects. (For planning policy see Sheet LDG 1.3)



Nidderdale AONB in winter



Brimham Rocks gritstone outcrops

Harrogate Borough Council guidance on other issues includes:

- Residential Design
- Energy and Sustainability
- Biodiversity
- Shopfronts
- Rural Reuse

In certain cases these are linked or complementary.

Further advice

Further advice on Local Plan policies, any of the issues raised in this guidance note, Planning Application forms and other related matters may be obtained from Planning Enquiries, Department of Technical Services.